

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son or daughter has expressed a desire to participate in the Athletic Program in the Whitehouse ISD. It is the belief of the coaching staff that athletics can do more for your child than teach him/her to play the sport he/she has chosen.

We believe athletics instills the desire to win, attain personal goals ensuring maximum team effort, builds strength of body, and strength of character. The latter of these qualities determines the success of the first three.

It is our belief that strength of character is the foundation upon which to build the well-developed, well-polished individual. Athletics, as people in any specialized field, have a unique role to play. Athletes are constantly being monitored by their peers, teachers, and the community. By constantly being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and be constantly aware of the role they have assumed. They must be certain they present to their peers, teachers, and community respect, sincerity, and honesty expected of a young lady or gentleman.

We believe very strongly that our athletes should possess these qualities. Because of this belief, we have established the following set of guidelines to be followed by all athletes in the Whitehouse ISD.

ALL ATHLETES, REGARDLESS OF the SPORT, MUST:

- Abide by all University Interscholastic League (UIL) rule specifications, and abide by local athletic policy.
- Attend every practice session and athletic contest unless ill or emergency situations. (Parents or athletes must call in if the athlete is not attending a practice session.)
- At all times, respond to every situation as young ladies and gentlemen.
- Abide by all Whitehouse ISD, Athletic Department, and campus guidelines and policies.
- Maintain academic intensity to achieve success in the classroom.

Violation of these policies will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken against the student and could result in his/her removal from the athletic program in the Whitehouse ISD. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in motivating your son or daughter to observe these rules so that he or she will receive the maximum benefit from the program.

The following is an information packet for Whitehouse ISD Athletics, which includes guidelines and policies for the student-athletes. We will discuss these rules with your son and daughter. Please read them, and discuss them again with your son or daughter.

Sincerely,

Whitehouse Athletic Department

Whitehouse Junior High Athletic Policy and Information 2020-2021

Introduction

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Whitehouse Junior High Athletic Program. Thank you for choosing to be a part of something special. Athletics and other extracurricular activities can greatly enrich a student's overall school experience. As an athletic program, we would like to continue the process of developing young bodies and minds in preparation for high school and life. Athletics provides a unique opportunity for the student-athlete to be involved in a safe team atmosphere that is seldom found in other areas. Functioning as one team, learning to be responsible, following rules, getting along with others, helping others, and developing integrity are just a few of the benefits provided through athletics. Our goal is to help these young men and women take the "next step." Through improving their physical skills, as well as their mental skills, the next step leads to higher achievement in the athletic realm as well as the realm of life. Instilling a winning attitude is the fruit of our program. We thank you for your dedication and commitment, and appreciate the opportunity you have given us (as coaches and educators) to influence your children.

This policy contains general guidelines and information that will help us to develop a successful program. It is important to understand and adhere to these policies to participate in athletics. ***Remember, involvement in school athletics is a "privilege" not a right.***

REQUIRED PAPERWORK:

All required athletic paperwork should be submitted before the school year begins.

Student-athletes cannot tryout, practice, or compete without all required paperwork on file with the school athletic trainers. Student-athletes will be given two weeks after the beginning of the school year to complete required paperwork. After the two week period, class schedules will be changed, removing the student from the athletic program.

Extracurricular Activities

The term "extracurricular activities" means any non-curricular event and/or membership or participation in groups, clubs, and organizations recognized by the school district and sponsored by the district or a campus. All University Interscholastic League (UIL) and non-UIL activities and student organizations, such as student council and National Honor

Society are extracurricular. Extracurricular activities also include, but not limited to, public performances, contests, and club events. All extracurricular activity participants, including elected and appointed officers of all campus organizations, are subject to the provisions of this ***Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct***.

Jurisdiction

Student participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged. Whitehouse ISD makes extracurricular activities available as an extension of the regular school program, with this important difference: participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, ***while participation in the extracurricular program is a privilege that carries additional expectations for acceptable conduct***. Students engaging in extracurricular activities represent not only themselves, but also other students and the school district when performing, competing, or participating in extracurricular activities and while wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies students to the community or public in any setting as Whitehouse ISD students. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total Whitehouse ISD student body at all times and places.

Important goals of the extracurricular program are to give students direction in developing self-discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority, and healthy living habits.

Because participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, Whitehouse ISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants of extracurricular activities than it would for those students who choose not to participate in these activities. Therefore, this *Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct* extends beyond the *Whitehouse ISD Student Code of Conduct* not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. This *Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct* will be enforced with all students participating in extracurricular activities:

- regardless of whether school is in session:
- regardless of whether the offense occurs on or off school property or at a school-related event;
- regardless of whether the student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;
- regardless of whether the extracurricular activity is in-season; and
- regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the Whitehouse ISD Student Code of Conduct will incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his or her coach or sponsor for the same particular violation. It is also possible that a student participating in extracurricular activities could violate the *Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct* and be subject to discipline by a coach or sponsor without having violated the *Whitehouse ISD Student Code of Conduct*.

Conduct Expectations

The following conduct is expected of all participants. Failure to meet these expectations can result in disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor:

- Student commitment to a team or organization is expected for the entire season or activity. Students are encouraged to participate in more than one extracurricular activity; however students may not quit one sport or organization in order to participate in another while the sport or club that he or she quit is still active.
- Students who participate in extracurricular activities that involve competition among schools and school districts will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. This includes behavior toward visiting teams or hosting teams as well as the opponent's fans. Praise your opponents and play beyond your ability.
- Students who cannot be present for a practice (including workouts), meetings, or event shall contact the coach, sponsor, or director as soon as they are aware that they will be absent. Missed practices, meetings, or workouts will be made-up; however, participants that are absent more than two times in a semester will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Injured or ill students, who are unable to participate, but are able to attend practices (including workouts), meetings, or events are required to dress appropriately and sit or stand with the rest of the group.
- Students are required to show respect at all times to coaches and sponsors.
- Students shall refrain from wearing hairstyles or hair colors that draw attention to themselves.
- Students shall follow the rules promulgated in the Whitehouse ISD Student Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will result in additional disciplinary measures related to the student's participation in extracurricular activities as determined by the coach or sponsor.

Procedures

The coach and/or sponsor will determine whether an Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct violation has occurred.

Upon determination of an *Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct* violation, the following individuals will be notified:

- the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s);
- Athletic Director, School Band Director, or UIL Academic Coordinator and/or an appropriate administrator; and/or
- the appropriate school counselor to provide counseling, support, and guidance in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs, mood-altering chemicals, and other prohibited activities.

Nothing in this *Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct* limits the authority of a coach or sponsor to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for students who breach team or organization conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

Prohibited Conduct

Whitehouse ISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited at all times from:

- Any action(s) listed in the general conduct violations contained in the *Whitehouse ISD Student Code of Conduct*.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION: Coaches and sponsors will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches and sponsors will strive for consistency in administering punishment for *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion. Violation of any of the prohibited conduct rules by a student participating in extracurricular activities will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- Prohibited conduct consequences include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Parent/student/sponsor conference
 - Corporal punishment

- Suspension from an event
- Suspension from a team or organization for a specific time
- Expulsion from a team or organization for a specific time
- Removal from office in the case of a student office holder who commits an offense.

The principal will not ordinarily interfere in a coach or sponsor's judgment regarding appropriate discipline, but has the authority to increase or decrease the punishment based on his or her assessment of the situation.

Expellable Conduct

Whitehouse ISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited at all times from:

- Engaging in any misconduct that may result in mandatory or discretionary placement in a DAEP or any misconduct that requires expulsion according to the *Whitehouse ISD Student Code of Conduct*.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION: Coaches and sponsors will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches and sponsors will strive for consistency in administering punishment for *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion.

Violation of any of the expellable conduct rules by a student participating in extracurricular activities will be subject to immediate removal from all extracurricular activities for a designated time period.

The principal will not ordinarily interfere in a coach or sponsor's judgment regarding appropriate discipline, but has the authority to increase or decrease the punishment based on his or her assessment of the situation.

Acknowledgement

A condition to participating in any extracurricular activity is to sign an acknowledgement that the student has read and understands the *Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct*. The student's parent or guardian must also sign an acknowledgement. The acknowledgement states that the signing party understands the consequences for engaging in prohibited and/or expellable conduct.

ATHLETIC PERIOD

The athletic period is considered a class period and will be treated as such. All students must attend their respective athletic period each day. Please make sure every effort to schedule appointments outside of the practice time or athletic period so that the student-athlete will not miss any class/practice periods.

DRESS CODE FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The principal, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate dress and grooming standards established for such an activity may be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the principal or sponsor and may be subject to other disciplinary action, as specified in the *Student Code of Conduct*. **WISD School Board Policy FNCA (Local)**

DUAL PARTICIPATION-SCHOOL SANCTIONED PARTICIPATION/CLUB SPORTS

All athletes participating in Whitehouse ISD Athletics make a commitment to the team, their teammates and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the athlete. Part of this commitment is to place the Whitehouse ISD Athletic team above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity and attend all practices and games scheduled by WISD Coaches.

If an athlete chooses to miss a Whitehouse ISD athletic practice or game because of participation in an activity not under the auspices of WISD, the student-athlete will face consequences. Each Head Coach of a sport will determine and communicate to the parents and student-athletes prior to the season the consequences for missing a WISD athletic game or practice. Repeated absences may result in the student-athlete's removal from the team and/or school athletic program.

Non-athletic WISD school sanctioned activities do not fall under this policy.

HAZING

A person commits an offense if the person:

1. Engages in hazing
2. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing.
3. Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the principal, superintendent, or designee.

“Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliated with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include other students. The term includes:

- A. Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
- B. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- C. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drugs, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- D. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described above.

Any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code. *WISD Board Policy FNCC (Legal)*

INJURIES

WISD employs fully licensed Athletic Trainers.

Athletic training is practiced by athletic trainers, health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize activity and participation of patients and clients. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities. In Texas, athletic trainers practice under state statutes recognizing them as qualified healthcare professionals similar to physical therapists, occupational therapists and other health care professionals.

Injuries must be reported to a Whitehouse athletic trainer(s) as soon as possible. Unless the injury is an emergency, please contact the athletic trainer prior to visiting a doctor. Anytime a doctor is consulted for an injury, the student-athlete must present a written clearance for participation in athletics from the doctor before he/she is allowed to participate in WISD Athletics.

In many cases, the athletic trainer can save the student-athlete a trip to the doctor's office or a physical therapist's office, thus saving on co-pays, etc. Please consult the athletic trainers on all injuries and/or prescribed rehabilitation of injury programs.

In some extreme cases, the District's extracurricular catastrophic insurance plan may supplement the athlete's primary insurance if the injury occurred in athletics. However, certain steps and procedures must be followed to make a claim and it is imperative that the athletic trainer(s) is aware of the injury.

**Please review the UIL Safety and Health information and WISD Sports Medicine information page at the back of this manual.

INJURIES (Junior High):

1. If you are injured, first show the injury to your athletic trainer/coach. If immediate attention is required, we will notify parents, and seek medical attention.
2. An athletic trainer/coach will remain with the athlete until released to parents.
3. In cases where immediate attention is not required, athletes should check with their athletic trainer/coach before going to the doctor. You must pick up proper insurance papers from the athletic trainer. If you go to the doctor without filling out the report, you will be responsible for all medical bills.

WISD employs full-time Athletic Trainers. Treatment times will be designated by the athletic trainer. Generally, daily treatment will not occur during the athletic periods.

INSURANCE

Whitehouse ISD offers a voluntary supplemental accident insurance policy for all extra-curricular participants. The voluntary supplemental policy may be purchased by parents. Fliers with information on the supplemental accident policy will be disseminated at the beginning of the school year or can be purchased online via <http://www.texaskidsfirst.com/>

Whitehouse ISD also carries a catastrophic injury policy for extracurricular participants. The WISD policy *does not* take the place of a student's primary insurance. It is expected that all student-athletes maintain their own primary insurance at all times.

INSURANCE:

Our district has a scheduled insurance policy for those students taking part in our various UIL programs. It is **NOT STRUCTURED** to pay all medical costs. It will be the responsibility of parents to get forms and fill them out and mail to the insurance company. WISD's insurance policy is a secondary policy. It is meant to supplement one's primary coverage and will not take effect until the primary insurance has been completed. In the event that one does not have a primary coverage, WISD's policy becomes primary to the individual. Athletic trainers can be reached at 903-839-5590 Ext. 4783 (Junior High) or 903-839-5500 Ext. 5483 or 5484 (High School).

Note: WISD's insurance policy is not meant to cover all medical costs. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for all remaining costs.

MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION

Participation in multiple sports is encouraged. However, the athlete must complete the season in a sport before they move on to the next sport's season. Whitehouse ISD coaches will make every effort to ensure that a student may participate in as many activities as they wish.

NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION REGULATIONS (UIL)

UIL rules restrict school coaches in grades 7-12 from interacting with student-athletes in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone in team sport non-school activities. School coaches are prohibited from providing transportation for student-athletes to non-school activities, or from providing instruction during the off-season except for allowable off-season programs during the school day. No school funds (including booster club funds), equipment or transportation can be used for non-school activities. Coaches shall not be involved in any activity which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student's participation in a camp or clinic, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product. ***Student athletes are allowed to participate in non-school competitions, camps and clinics at any time during the school year and summer, unless prohibited by local school district policies.***

Non-School Participation Not Required. School coaches shall not require student-athletes to participate in non-school activities. School coaches and personnel should make every effort to ensure that the student-athletes realize that participation in non-school activities is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation in non-school activities should never be a prerequisite for trying out for a school team.

PARTICIPATION

Each varsity coach sets the criteria for participation on a team. The chance to participate on a school team may require a try-out period. Expectations for making a team or staying on a team will be communicated prior to the season and/or try-out period.

PHYSICAL EXAMS

Prior to participating in athletics, a current physical examination form and medical history form must be on file with the athletic trainer. This includes tryouts, participation in the off season, strength and conditioning programs, and competition. ***NO EXCEPTIONS.***

Whitehouse ISD requires a valid athletic physical exam to be completed when the student-athlete enters their 7th, 9th and 11th grade years. Generally (with a few exceptions), these physicals are valid for two years from the time of the exam. The medical athletic history form, UIL acknowledgement, UIL steroid notification agreement, WISD data page, and emergency release form must be completed annually.

All paperwork must be cleared by a Whitehouse ISD Athletic Trainer prior to participating in athletics.

Physical forms and necessary paperwork are available in the athletic office or on the Junior High website (whjathletics.weebly.com).

PLAYING TIME

Student-athletes in the whitehouse Independent School District Program earn playing time for game and scrimmage situations by, first, being a member in good standing of the school community. Second, a student-athlete must attend practice and work to the best of his/her ability. Third, a student-athlete must be a team player and execute the specific role assigned to him/her by the coach. Fourth, a student-athlete must demonstrate a commitment to fair-play and sportsmanship at all times. And finally, a student-athlete must support the team by contributing in a positive way to the team's learning environment. In other words, the student-athlete must focus on learning tasks and assignments and not disrupt other players.

At the junior high school level, our goal is that every player will play in every game unless a player fails to maintain expectations regarding behavior, academics, or practice attendance. It is not required that each player plays the same amount of time.

Playing time is 100% at the coach's discretion and is never negotiable.

QUITTING A SPORT

If an athlete wants to quit a sport, he or she may have their parents call the head coach of that sport and state that they are aware that their child wants to quit and they have their permission to do so.

If an athlete that has quit with permission wishes to play the sport again, they must: 1) convince the head coach and athletic director/coordinator that they are sincere about staying out. 2) Then they must meet with, along with their parents, the head coach and athletic director/coordinator. The athlete must know that they will be expected to follow the rules and wishes of the coach.

All athletes are required to be in the athletic period in order to participate. Any exceptions must be cleared with the head coach and athletic director/coordinator.

LOCKER ROOMS/MEETING ROOMS

These are your athletic homes. You are responsible for keeping your individual area clean and the team area neat. Lockers should be orderly and neat. Locker locks should be secure at all times. Do not share your combination with others.

LOCKER ROOM EXPECTATIONS (Junior High):

The locker room is a transition area for athletes. Its' purpose is to provide an area where the athlete can change and store their equipment. All athletes are expected to enter and exit this area in a timely manner. The locker room is **not** a place for socializing, horseplay, play fighting, hazing, and other inappropriate behaviors. Violators are subject to immediate consequences. We will institute a general "in-and-out" rule regarding locker room use. Student-athletes will have a predetermined time to transition in and out of their assigned locker rooms. Students are only allowed access to the locker room/lockers they are assigned. Athletes should not be in the locker rooms outside of scheduled athletic times. Valued items should always be secured and locked in the student-athlete's locker during athletic activities. Cell phone use will not be allowed within the locker rooms.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones can be a distraction on game day. Coaches may regulate cell phones in order to prevent distraction. This may be accomplished in one of two ways:

1. Coach may take up cell phones from athletes. If a coach chooses this option, the coach is responsible for the phones. Coach must return the phone at least 30 minutes from arriving back at school.
2. Give athletes a set time for all phones to be silenced and put away. Phones are not to be used until after the contest. If the athlete cannot follow this guideline, the coach may take up cell phone and return at least 30 minutes from arriving back at school.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in game suspensions.

Cell Phone/Video/Picture Policy

While at school, the use of cell phones or other electronic equipment for videoing or taking pictures of students and forwarding/posting online without parental consent is not allowed. Consequences include the possibility of referrals, assignment to I.S.S. (In-School-Suspension), placement at AEP (Alternative Education Placement), and removal from the athletic program. Cell phone use will not be allowed within the locker rooms.

TRAVEL ON SCHOOL NIGHTS

Coaches may require “B”/”C” team members to stay for the “A” team games. However, on school nights, consideration should be given to getting athletes home as early as possible. When traveling, if two buses are possible, it is recommended that “B”/”C” teams return home as early as possible. If only one bus, consider releasing athletes to parents if possible. Prior communication is recommended.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PARTICIPATION

While we realize the importance of school holidays, avoiding competition or practice on every school holiday sometimes is not feasible especially at the varsity level. Thus, the head coach of each sport may require participation on school holidays if the sport is in season with the following stipulations.

1. The student-athletes and parents are given notice prior to the start of the season
2. The student-athletes and parents are given notice of the consequences if a practice is missed prior to the start of the season.
3. Competition and practices must be scheduled in accordance with UIL rules.

Generally, the junior high sports teams will not practice over holiday periods, but on occasion, scheduled games may fall on school holidays. Parents and student-athletes will have prior notification if this scheduling situation occurs or if practices are scheduled over holiday periods.

TRANSPORTATION

Per WISD School Board policy, FMG (Local), athletes will be required to ride to and from an athletic event in transportation provided by the District. Only in extenuating circumstances will a student be allowed to ride to or from in a private vehicle. Parents/guardians may request a release in extenuating circumstances by notifying the school principal or head coach in writing at least one day prior to the trip. A release form may be obtained from the principal or the Athletic Office. If approved, the Athletic Office will notify the coach in charge of the trip.

Transportation Guidelines (Junior High)

Team buses will be used to transfer student-athletes to-and-from athletic competitions. All players will be required to ride the team bus to the contest. Parents will have the option to drive their own child back from contests. Parents ***will not*** be allowed to transport players from other families without prior approval from the school administration (Principal/s). If parents choose to transport their child back from a contest, he/she must adhere to the following requirements:

- Personally find one of the team coaches and sign the School Travel Release document.
- The student-athlete's game jersey must be turned in to the coach.

TRYOUTS/TEAM SELECTION

Coaches may conduct tryouts for participation on a team. Students must have a completed physical examination, as well as other required district paperwork on file with the athletic trainer prior to tryouts.

There are many factors that enter into the selection of members for all of our Wildcat athletic squads. This process is probably one of: if not the toughest part of coaching. As coaches, we try very hard to be fair in our judgements, as we fully realize the athlete's desire to be a member of our teams and the disappointments associated with not making a team or making the team the player had hoped to make.

It is impossible to make a purely objective evaluation, based entirely on the mastery of sport skills, or any other criteria. Too many other things have to be considered in order to maintain a successful program. Consequently, subjective evaluations are basically opinions, and are open to many arguments both for and against these evaluations. Please keep in mind that the coaches have been hired as professionals to make these types of decisions. Also realize that the coaches want to make the teams and the program the best they can possibly be and will not exclude players they believe will accomplish this in the end.

Coaches will make selections based on the following general guidelines:

1. Players that will make our teams better.
2. Players we believe have a realistic chance to play on a varsity team at some point in their career.
3. Players that fit the available positions for the greatest benefit of the team.
4. Players that understand two areas of evaluation for team placement and playing time: *effort and execution*.

With Regards To the Team Selection Process

Team selections are based on selection criteria (sometimes referred to as rubrics or assessments), which address the sport-specific skills and abilities needed to play the sport and, in some cases, performance benchmarks (i.e., the level of performance in the skills and abilities) required to make a given team. In keeping with the modified approach, however, it is the WISD Athletic Program's goal to maximize student participation in athletics. At present, many teams can accommodate the large number of students who tryout. However, this does not guarantee that every student who tries out for a team will be placed on a team. Past athletic success does not guarantee success in the future. Student-athletes must demonstrate a strong commitment to both team and player development every year before being placed on a team. Furthermore, once a player is selected for a team, it is his/her responsibility to maintain that commitment for continued team and individual improvement.

By no means is this an all-inclusive list we use to evaluate players but it does cover many of the things we look for in the selection of our teams. We strive to use our best possible professional judgement, and if we error, we try to do so by keeping more players on squads, rather than less. As always, we appreciate and value each student as an individual, but will base all decisions on *what is best for the TEAM*.

WARNING ABOUT THE INHERENT DANGERS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Student-athletes and parents should be aware that any athletic participation will always have inherent dangers. Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in sports, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment, proper training methods, and common sense.

WEATHER

In the event of severe weather or pending severe weather, a decision will be made to postpone or cancel an event based on the information and forecast available at the time. A decision to postpone or cancel will be disseminated via our staff, the WISD Communications Department, and through email lists. Should severe weather present

itself during an event, the game administrator and the game officials will make a decision based on the department's weather safety guidelines.

Weather (Junior High)

In addition to the above mentioned policy regarding weather, we encourage all Junior High parents to sign up for the Remind Phone App. for their child's specific school sport. This way parents can be quickly informed when games/practices are affected by weather conditions.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OFFICIALS

Every game/contest is officiated by officials. We must show respect for the judgement of these officials. Officials are human and may make mistakes; however, we feel that these are honest mistakes. We don't believe that any official would deliberately help one team over another. We will treat officials with respect due them.

1. Any disrespect toward an official by a student-athlete will be subject to physical punishment (running), athletic game suspension, as well as school suspension.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS):

1. An athlete will practice during their assignment to ISS.
 - a. They may only attend practices that are held before or after school.
2. An athlete cannot participate in a contest while in ISS.
3. Coaches may require additional work if placed in ISS.
4. An athlete that is a continuous discipline problem is subject to removal from the athletic program.

In School Suspension (ISS) for the Junior High

A student athlete assigned to ISS (In School Suspension) will be suspended for one game/tournament/contest, and will be required to complete "extra duties" (determined by the coach) for each day assigned to ISS. Student athletes are not eligible for school games/tournaments/contests until ISS assignment has been completed, but are required to attend before/after school practices. All required "extra duties" must be completed for the student to be eligible for the next game/tournament/contest. Refusal/failure to complete assigned consequences before the next contest may result in suspension from activities or removal from the athletic program. Habitual assignments to ISS could result in removal from the athletic program.

Suspension

A student-athlete suspended from school will not be eligible to participate in any school athletic contest/practice for the duration of the suspension. Re-entry into the athletic program may also include “extra duties” at the discretion of the Head Coach/Athletic Coordinator.

AEP (Alternative Education Placement) (Junior High)

A student-athlete that is assigned to AEP will be ineligible to participate in any school athletic contest/practice for the entire AEP placement time. Once returning to the home campus, the student’s schedule will be changed, and she/he will not be allowed into the athletic period. Guidelines for possible future re-entry into the athletic program will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director/Coordinator.

Academic/Behavior Contracts (Junior High)

Participants in junior high athletics are held to higher expectations regarding academic achievement and proper behavior. ***Being a member of the school athletic program is considered a “privilege” not a right.*** Habitual academic problems, or recurring behavior concerns, may lead to student-athletes being placed on a contract. These contracts are designed to help the student-athlete succeed academically/behaviourally. Failure to adhere to contracts may result in removal from the school athletic program, and could be used to assist in determining future involvement in school athletics. Certain behavior/s may require immediate removal from the athletic program.

MISSING PRACTICE:

Communication on a miss is critical. The athlete will contact their coach before a missed practice. Examples of an excused miss may include: a school function, student being sick, or attending a funeral. The determination on excused/unexcused miss is determined on an individual basis. Athletes that are missing practices may be dismissed from the team.

Practice Guidelines (Junior High)

Promptness and responsibility are two factors that parents expect from their children. We feel as coaches that part of our job is to reinforce these expectations. ***We expect all student-athletes to attend each and every practice, and that they will be held accountable for missed practices.*** The athletic period will count as ½ practices, while

the afternoon/morning practice will count as 1 practice. Not notifying the coach prior to a practice will be considered unexcused. Use 903-839-5590 Ext. #4781 for calling in absences. Each specific sport might alter the practice guidelines to a certain degree. The following are the general guidelines/consequences for missed practice:

- 1 excused absence = 2 gassers or equivalent (for missed conditioning)
- 1 unexcused absence = 4 gassers or equivalent & 1 quarter of a game
- 1 missed morning practice = 2 gassers or equivalent
- 1 late to practice = 2 gassers or equivalent
- 2 unexcused practices = 8 gassers or equivalent & 1 complete game (will not travel to game with team)
- In-School-Suspension (ISS) = 5 gassers or equivalent per day & 1 complete game/tournament/contest (Gassers or equivalent must be completed before being eligible for the next game). Student-athletes are not eligible for school athletic contests during the ISS assignment, but are required to attend daily practices that occur outside the standard school day.

Coaches will have the final determination if a missed practice is excused or unexcused.

ALCOHOL & DRUGS:

One of the greatest aspects of a winning team is good physical conditioning. The purpose of training rules is to discourage any activity that would be detrimental to your physical conditioning.

1. The first offense for possession of an illegal drug or alcohol will result in running 10 miles before participation in the next athletic event. (Parent Conference). If the athlete is charged with possession, there will be at least a one game suspension. (Tournaments are considered as one game).
2. The second offense will result in a 30 day suspension (With parent conference).
3. The third offense will result in immediate expulsion from the athletic program for one calendar year (with parent conference).

TOBACCO:

Students in possession of tobacco or tobacco products will be required to run 5 miles before participation in the next athletic event. If tobacco becomes a continual problem, the student will face expulsion from the athletic program.

ACTIONS THAT WARRANT IMMEDIATE EXPULSION:

1. Stealing
2. Disrespect toward coaches or the program.
3. Constantly absent from their activity without just cause.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE POLICIES:

Serious infractions will result in immediate expulsion of an athlete from the total athletic program. The coach and athletic director/coordinator with the approval of the building principal will make such a decision. The decision that will be made concerning our athletes will be based on the best interests of the athletic program and the athlete.

EQUIPMENT: (Junior High)

1. You are responsible (financially) for all equipment that is issued to you. You are expected to return it when the season is over. If you have lost it, you are expected to pay for it. Equipment prices will be charged at cost.
2. Your school issued equipment must be kept in your locker at all times.
3. School issued equipment must be cleaned regularly.
4. You must use your own school issued equipment only. Never borrow any equipment from your teammate.
5. Personal items should be secured and locked inside the athlete's locker when the student-athlete is using the locker room.

GRADES:

Each athlete must be passing every course to be able to play on any level of competition. Whitehouse ISD Academic Eligibility Calendars are formulated for each school year based on the district's grading periods for that particular year.

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. Each athlete is responsible for the required training rules.
2. If any of the rules are violated, disciplinary action will be taken.

JEWELRY: (Junior High)

Because of safety issues, no jewelry will be worn during practices or contests. This policy will apply to all school sports.

SUITING OUT (Junior High)

All student-athletes are required and expected to suit-out in the school issued shorts/shirts/workout wear each day. Failure to abide by this rule will result in added consequences. Habitual failure to abide by this rule will lead to further consequences, including the possibility of removal from the athletic program. Injured/ill student-athletes will suit-out, but may not be allowed to participate.

Extra Duty

It is the coach's option to provide "extra duties" to students for the following reasons.

- Unfavorable Teacher Reports
- Failing Grades
- Tardiness
- Missed Practices
- Foul Language
- Refusal to follow Directives
- Disrespectful Behavior
- General Misconduct

Refusal to complete assigned "extra duties" may result in suspension from athletic contests or possible removal from the athletic program.

Discipline Policy

- Athletic tardies will result in various extra conditioning
- Absences – Unexcused absences will result in make-up conditioning and possible loss of playing time in athletic contests. Habitual unexcused absences may result in removal from the team/athletic program. For health/safety reasons, a student

who misses multiple practices (although excused) may be held out of an athletic contest. Coaches will have the final decision on absentee issues.

- Improper language will result in extra conditioning.
- No horseplay will be allowed; especially in locker rooms.
- Hazing is illegal, and will not be tolerated.
- Athletes must appear neat and well groomed.
 - No facial hair.
 - Hair restrictions will follow district school policies.
 - No earrings or piercings (safety issues)
 - Coaches will make the final determination in this area.
- Athletes are asked not to bring anything extra on trips – WISD and coaches are not responsible for lost or damaged items.
- Classroom problems will not be tolerated and may result in extra conditioning.
- Student-athletes must abide by the U.I.L. 's “no pass, no play” policies for eligibility in school athletic activities.
- Tutorials are permitted, but will require a teacher note with beginning and ending times as documentation of attendance.
- Habitual behavior problems may result in removal from the athletic program.

Wildcat Student-Athlete Guidelines

Participating in athletics is a “privilege,” not a right. Because of this privilege, student-athletes are held to a higher behavioral/academic standard than ordinary students. Student-athletes are a reflection of their town, community, school, family, and themselves, and should strive to exhibit these standards at all school events.

- As Student-Athletes, academic progress is a premium. Expectations in the classroom should match the expectations of the athlete in the arena of competition. Habitual failures in the classroom could lead to dismissal from athletics.
- You are in athletics because you are a very special, gifted, individual who is willing to work to reach goals. To accomplish these goals, you are expected to dress out and participate in daily

workouts. Injured players must dress out to receive treatment or to participate in an injured player's approved workout or observation.

- Athletes are expected to attend every practice and game. If you are sick or have a family emergency and will be absent, you must call 903-839-4781 to let us know before practice begins. I strongly encourage parents/guardians to hold the student responsible and make him/her call. Try to speak to a coach or please leave a message with the office.
- Athletes must be dressed, on the floor or field, and ready for practice two minutes after the tardy bell rings. Tardiness will result in extra conditioning.
- For safety reasons, no earrings, piercing, or jewelry will be allowed during game/ practice time or in the locker area.
- WISD issued athletic equipment shall not be worn off campus. Equipment must remain in the locker when not in use. Athletes are financially responsible for all issued equipment.
- Lockers must be kept neat and clean. Clothes should be hung in the locker when not being washed or worn. Work out clothes will be taken home to wash.
- Athletes will be required to sit together before and after all games. Improper behavior may result in exclusion from future contests.
- Game day dress code - Every player that represents WHJHS Athletics will present themselves in proper school spirit attire.
- Removal from the athletic program may result if the student:
 - Fails any two nine week grading period.
 - Is assigned to ISS (In-School-Suspension) multiple times
 - Assignment to AEP (Alternative Education Placement)
 - Exhibits misconduct that is detrimental to the athletic program/team
 - Is involved in theft of school or personal property
 - Fails to comply with the athletic policy
 - Habitual misconduct
 - Fails to follow academic/behavior contracts.

PRE/POST GAME AND CONTEST GUIDELINES: (Junior High)

Any parent with a concern, regarding the contest, at the conclusion of a Junior High contest should contact the coach/s the next day to discuss the particular issue. Coaches have been instructed not to engage contest issues with parents/guardians after a contest. Parents/guardians are more than welcome to visit with coaches after a contest, but game/contest issues will not be discussed.

Meals and Junior High Athletic Contests:

Currently the district does not provide/finance out-of-town meals for Junior High athletic contests. It is recommended that student-athletes bring extra food, snacks, or money when traveling out of town for athletic events. Most out of town events have some sort of concession stand available for fans and athletes.

PROMOTION FROM 7TH GRADE ATHLETICS TO 8TH GRADE ATHLETICS:

Any student in the Whitehouse Junior High School athletic program during their 7th grade school year is eligible for 8th grade athletics as long as they are in good standing (academically & behaviourally) at the end of the school year. Students who have been removed from the athletic program, have chosen to change out of athletics during their 7th grade school year, or chose not to participate in the school athletic program during 7th grade, must be granted approval by the Athletic Coordinator before being allowed to enter the school athletic program their 8th grade year.

**2020-2021 Whitehouse Junior High Athletic Policy
Parent/Athlete Acknowledgement Form**

I have read the Whitehouse Junior High School Student/Athlete Policy (whjhathletics.weebly.com). I understand the consequences that are involved if I choose an inappropriate behavior or action that violates this policy. By signing this document, Parents/guardians and student-athlete agree to adhere to the policies and guidelines listed in this packet. I understand that it is my responsibility to become a team player, to work hard, to respect myself and others, and to follow the rules and regulations outlined in this policy.

Student's Last Name (print)

Student's First Name (print)

Grade (Current): _____

Gender: _____

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

This page must be completed and returned before a student is allowed to participate!!!