

Plainview ISD Athletic Policy and Code of Conduct

All students of Plainview ISD have a right to the academic curriculum and programs offered through our district. However, athletic participation within Plainview ISD is a privilege for our students and is not guaranteed. The Plainview athletic policy will adhere to all policies and procedures found within our district's Student Code of Conduct. It will also, at times, supplement the Student Code of Conduct with policies and procedures specific to Plainview athletes. All those who participate in athletics and their parents will annually sign an agreement stating that they have read and agree to adhere to the athletic policy and any potential changes which are made to that policy as needed. An athlete is bound by the policy at school, on school sponsored trips, or anywhere else in public as their actions are a reflection on the Plainview Athletic Program. We expect our student athletes' behavior to be beyond reproach. Any changes made to the athletic policy will occur before the beginning of each school year or at semester. All previously signed documentation will adhere to any new policies that need to be placed in effect.

- Plainview ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing educational services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1954, as amended: Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- Plainview ISD offers athletic enhancement through various team and individual sports. A lack of athletic skills, or other skills, will not be a barrier to the opportunity to try out for admission and participation in any sport offered.
- Plainview ISD does not discriminate on the basis of disability by denying access to the benefits of district services, programs, or activities. To request information about the applicability of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), interested persons should contact the central office of the district.
- The head coach of each sport at Plainview ISD has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege of participation in the athletic program when rules, regulations, and/or standards are not followed or when it is deemed best for that particular sport's team. Athletes participating in or associated with the Plainview Athletic department will be expected to adhere to the following:
 - Student athletes have the responsibility to give their best effort and exhibit good conduct and character at all times in a manner that is a positive example to team members, fellow students, the school, and their community.
 - Student athletes will abide by all rules set forth by the coaches, and be coachable at all times.
 - Student athletes will demonstrate respect for their coaches, teammates, teachers, staff, administrators, fellow classmates, and maintain a proper attitude with each.
 - Student athletes are to serve as positive representatives of their team, coaches, and school district during competitions and interactions with opponents. This includes but is not limited to: profanity, "trash" talking, dress, etc.
 - Student athletes are expected to maintain (at minimum) passing grades, strive for excellence both on and off the field of competition, and adhere to all policies put forth by the district and athletic department.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Plainview Athletic Department, in partnership with our district and community, will strive to give student athletes direction in developing responsibility, self-discipline, leadership, competitiveness, teamwork, respect for authority, and adherence to rules and regulations while, at the same time, allowing each team and/or athlete the opportunity to reach their potential athletically.

ATHLETIC PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

The Plainview ISD Athletic Department Procedures and Guidelines will be applied to ALL students who are involved in the athletic program from grades 6-12. All policies are enforced and the level of consequence earned at the discretion of the athletic department. Please take note of the following categories:

AWARDS/LETTERING POLICY

Each varsity sport has established criteria for earning a varsity letter or letter jacket. The head coach of each sport will be responsible for the lettering criteria (approved by the Athletic Department). Earned letter jackets are purchased by the school district and may be denied in the event a student athlete violates any part of the athletic policy. Varsity athletes are allowed to receive one letter jacket while in high school, provided they meet the criteria for lettering in a varsity sport. *The accuracy of Letter P's given to seniors at the athletic banquet is the responsibility of the student athlete. Seniors are given the opportunity to review before the order is made. If the student athlete has not reviewed the letter prior to order, correction/replacement costs will fall on the student athlete.*

COMMUNICATION/PARENT'S ROLE

It is important that coaches maintain an open and positive communication relationship with the parents and/or guardians of student athletes involved in our athletic program. Positive communication is a two way process and parent/guardians are expected to communicate any questions or concerns they might have to the appropriate coach. Student athletes should be encouraged to seek resolution of issues or concerns with their coach first before involving a parent/guardian. Coaches are employed to make decisions concerning strategies, procedures, playing time, evaluation of student performance, and what is best for the team. Playing time will NOT be discussed with parents/guardians. Playing time is based on competition and practice. We feel every student athlete will benefit from being in the Plainview Athletic Program regardless of how much, if any, playing time he/she receives. Any concern which may require a parent/coach meeting will follow the following protocol:

- Parent/Guardian Expectations
 - Be positive and supportive of your son/daughter.
 - Be positive and supportive of the coaching staff and the entire athletic program.
 - Encourage your daughter/son to talk to her/his coach first about any issue or concern not involving moral turpitude.
 - Notify the coach and/or trainer of any injury, illness, or absence in a timely manner.
- Protocol for meeting with a coach about a question or concern.
 - The student athlete will be required to attend any parent/coach meeting.
 - The meeting will always begin at the lowest level (meet with the coach directly involved) unless it is a case of moral turpitude. Any case involving moral turpitude should involve contacting the athletic director or athletic coordinator immediately.
 - Call the athletic department office (806-296-3353) for the best way to contact the appropriate coach.
 - At the conclusion of the meeting, if a resolution is not reached, the coach in charge of that meeting will gladly assist you (the parent) in setting up another meeting at the next level.
 - Meeting guidelines will be instituted and reviewed by the coach at the initiation of each meeting.
 - Do NOT engage a coach for the purpose of a parent/athlete meeting before, during, or directly after a practice or game. Please go through the appropriate steps as outlined above.

GROOMING CODE

The following will be in effect for male athletes and, where applicable, for female athletes as well.

- Hair should not be long enough to cover the eyes of an athlete, extend below the earlobes, nor below the collar of a normal dress shirt. Hair should be neat and not draw attention to the individual.
- Sideburns should be trimmed and not extend below the earlobes. They should be a consistent width from top to bottom as well.
- No facial hair will be allowed with the exception of mustaches.
- Earrings are prohibited at any athletic facility, contest, or event when representing a PISD sport.
- All athletes shall be neatly dressed in clothing that adheres to school policy.

- All other grooming issues will be subject to the approval of the head coach of the sport in question and the athletic director.

HAZING

Hazing by or to Plainview athletes will NOT be condoned or tolerated. Hazing is defined as any activity intentionally taken for the purpose of initiation in which any student(s) humiliates, degrades, or physically or mentally abuses any other student. Hazing can result in athletic consequences which could include suspension, or removal, from the athletic program.

IN SCHOOL MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION

Participation in multiple sports at Plainview is strongly encouraged. A student athlete must complete the season in a sport before they move on to the next sport's season unless mutually agreed upon by both varsity head coaches and approved by the Athletic Director.

INJURIES

Injuries should be reported to an athletic trainer as soon as possible. Unless the injury is an extreme circumstance, please contact an athletic trainer prior to visiting a doctor. All student athletes are expected to adhere to treatment recommendations when recovering from injuries and will not be allowed to participate in a practice and/or game without the approval of the athletic trainer and/or physician. All athletes should report injuries to a coach or trainer – NOT the school nurse. Student accident insurance is provided for all student athletes by Plainview ISD. This is a secondary coverage in nearly all cases. In order to facilitate a smooth accident claims process, all injured student athletes must see one of our school's athletic trainers before filing a claim. Once the injury has been reviewed, an official claim form may be obtained by contacting the athletic trainer. Injuries that occur outside of a school sponsored activity are NOT the responsibility of PISD athletic trainers and should be evaluated by a physician before treatment is rendered.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

It is a procedure of the Plainview Athletic Department that a sub-varsity student athlete currently involved in a sport at Plainview ISD will be allowed to participate in or attend another sport, camp, or athletic related activity outside of school sponsored sports as long as it DOES NOT interfere with the school sponsored sport in ANY way. This includes club sports, camps, AAU, and all other athletic related activities. All school sponsored practices, games, and other school related athletic events at Plainview take priority over all outside sporting events, camps, and other sporting activities. This guideline is in place for sub-varsity sports only. Plainview athletes participating in VARSITY sports will NOT be allowed to participate in or attend another sport, camp, or athletic related activity outside of the school sponsored sport currently in season unless approved by the head coach of that sport. A violation of these guidelines can result in disciplinary action, the level of the action is at the discretion of that sport's head coach.

PARTICIPATION

Each varsity head coach sets the criteria for participation in each sport (at all levels). The chance to participate in a school sponsored sport may require a try-out period. Some sports have a limited roster number therefore try-outs are required to get the proper number of participants. Student athletes are expected to participate in all practices and/or games for school sponsored activities that occur during school holidays. Student athletes must have a completed and current physical examination form, medical history form, and all other required athletic paperwork on file with the athletic trainer prior to participation in practices and/or games. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may return for a second chance at that sport's head coach's discretion. An athlete may NOT go to a subsequent sport until the sport he/she quit has concluded its' season without approval of the athletic department. An athlete who is cut from a sport will not be considered as an athlete who has quit. If an athlete quits, or is removed from, any combination of sports two or more times, that athlete will no longer be afforded the opportunity to participate in Plainview athletics under the discretion of the athletic department.

PRACTICE/GAME EXPECTATIONS (BOTH IN AND OFF SEASON)

Students are responsible for the following:

- Attending all practices for all activities, including those that occur during school holidays.
- Being coachable, obeying all rules established by coach or policy and getting along with teammates.
- Displaying a strong work ethic.
- Notifying a coach of an anticipated absence prior to game, offseason workout, or practice. Excused or unexcused absences are exclusively determined by that sport's coach.
- Only licensed drivers are allowed to drive vehicles from a school to a practice location during school hours. Student athletes who speed or drive recklessly may lose this privilege.
- Our school is contractually partnered with Adidas and all individually bought equipment must be Adidas or approved by the athletic department before it is allowed to be used in competition.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Students will be issued proper equipment, workout gear, and game uniforms to the extent applicable to each particular sport. If the event that all equipment and/or uniforms issued are not returned, the student athlete will be required to make full restitution (replacement cost) to the athletic department. Per UIL rules, no equipment or uniform may be given to student athletes on a permanent basis.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Student-athletes are high-profile representatives of the Plainview Independent School District, and their behavior is subject to scrutiny by their peers, the campus, community, and the media. The actions of a single student-athlete can reflect positively or negatively not only on the individual student-athlete, but also on his or her team and coaches, the Athletic Department and the entire school campus. Therefore, student-athletes are expected to represent themselves and PISD with honor, dignity and integrity at all times – including when interacting on social networking websites and in other online environments. The popularity of social networking websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Vine, YouTube, Instagram, BlogSpot, Snapchat, etc.) has grown tremendously during the last few years. These websites can serve as valuable communication tools when used appropriately. The use of social media, however, has the potential to cause problems for both the student-athlete and the school environment. Almost anything a student-athlete posts on a social networking site may be viewed by others, and both the media and the general public are more likely to view the profiles of student-athletes than the profiles of other students.

The Athletic Department has developed this Student-Athlete Social Networking Guideline in order to:

- Provide recommendations and suggestions for student-athletes to help them use social media in a safe and responsible manner.
- Outline important rules that student-athletes must follow when using social media.

Important Suggestions & Recommendations Regarding Social Networking Sites

Some students mistakenly believe social networking websites have a veil of privacy about them and assume their profiles are viewed only by a close circle of friends and fellow students. To the contrary, the content on most of these sites is accessible by anyone in the general public unless security and privacy features are used. The public nature of these websites has created personal safety and personal welfare concerns. For example, student-athletes have been stalked or sexually harassed and assaulted as a result of their Facebook profiles. Fans of opposing teams have taunted student-athletes based on information obtained from social networking sites. Student-athletes also should be aware that potential employers and graduate school admissions officers now regularly screen applicants by conducting “Google” searches of an applicant’s name and by reviewing the applicant’s social networking profiles. Students are being passed over for interviews and denied admission to universities based on the content of their profiles.

Student-athletes should be very careful about what personal information they share on the internet.

For their own security, protection and welfare and that of their teammates and friends, the Athletics Department strongly recommends and advises student-athletes to:

- Keep phone numbers, physical addresses, birthdates, current whereabouts, travel plans and other personal information strictly confidential. This information should not be contained in a student-athlete's personal online profile.
- Limit the access of others to e-mail addresses and screen carefully those whom a student-athlete may accept as "friends" on a social networking site.
- Use whatever security and privacy features are available to restrict the ability of others to view a student-athlete's site or to post pictures, messages and other content on a student-athlete's site.
- If an individual contacts a student-athlete via a social networking site and the nature of the contact makes the student-athlete concerned for his or her safety or uncomfortable in any way, the student-athlete should immediately contact a parent, a coach, or a campus administrator.

Rules Regarding Social Networking Sites

As previously stated, participation in PISD Athletics is a privilege and not a right. As a condition of being a student-athlete in PISD, student-athletes must abide by the following rules related to the use of the internet and social networking sites:

- Any postings or communications via social networking websites which disrupt either the educational or athletic environments or which advocates the violation of any school or team policy would be unacceptable.
- Student-athletes may not post online any pictures, information or other content that might cause embarrassment to themselves, fellow student-athletes, teams, coaches, the Athletics Department or the campus (examples: obscene images or language, nudity, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs, sex, or illegal activities).
- Student-athletes may not post any content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual, teammate, coach, faculty member, or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).
- Student-athletes may not post any content online that would constitute a violation of the PISD Student Code of Conduct.
- Student-athletes may not post any information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the Athletic Department or the school which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).
- Student-athletes are required to abide by all laws related to the use of the internet (including state and federal privacy laws such as FERPA and HIPPA), and student-athletes are personally liable for any violations of those laws.

Student-athletes in PISD are required to abide by rules set forth in these guidelines. The failure to do so will be considered a violation of the student-athlete code of conduct and/or the PISD student code of conduct. The violation may result in disciplinary action by the athletic department and the campus.

- 1st Offense - Warning and parent/athlete meeting with the head coach. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.
- 2nd Offense – Parent/athlete meeting with the head coach and an athletic director or campus coordinator. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.

- 3rd Offense – Parent/athletic meeting with the head coach, campus coordinator, and the district’s athletic director. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Student athletes are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship both in and out of the competitive arena. During competitions students will display respect for officials and leave the resolution of any conflicts to their coaches. Student athletes should demonstrate the ability to accept defeat as well as be gracious winners.

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

All student athletes will participate in strength and conditioning activities as a part of in-season and off-season training during the school year. Summer strength and conditioning is encouraged but not mandatory. Due to summer strength and conditioning being voluntary, no potential athlete will be required to participate in it in order to try out for, or participate in, any school sponsored sport.

TRANSITION FROM MIDDLE TO HIGH SCHOOL

A middle school athlete who loses their privilege to participate in the athletic program may rejoin athletics at the beginning of their freshmen year only if he/she is granted permission by the head coach of the sport he/she is seeking participation in along with athletic director approval. If permission is granted, the athlete may rejoin at the beginning of their freshmen year. If permission is denied, the athlete may seek reinstatement at the semester of their freshmen year. Reinstatement will be based on any or all of the following factors: behavior, coaches’ discretion, and/or grades.

TRAVEL

Students traveling as a part of a team will be expected to arrive at the designated location prior to the scheduled meeting and departure time. Student athletes will travel to and from an athletic event on the district provided vehicle with the team. At the discretion of the coach in charge of that event, an athlete may be given permission to ride home with his/her parent or guardian ONLY. An athlete cannot ride home with anyone other than his/her parent or guardian. A signed post activity release request must be given to the coach by the parent/guardian before dismissal from the event. Injured athletes may or may not be allowed to travel with the team to contests. This decision is also at the discretion of the coach in charge of that particular team or that particular sport’s policy.

VALUABLES

It is recommended that athletes NOT bring any valuables to the dressing rooms. If they are brought into the dressing rooms, keep them LOCKED in your locker, or they can be brought to a coach for security. It is up to each student athlete to make sure ALL valuables are in a secure place at all times.

VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES FOR POLICY AND CODE VIOLATIONS

Student athletes who violate team policies as determined by the varsity head coach in the sport they are participating in or who violate the athletic policy and code of conduct may be subject to discipline and/or removal from athletics at the discretion of the head coach and/or the athletic department. The following is a list of potential violations and potential consequences for those. Obviously, all violations are not able to be listed and any consequence is able to be more or less severe based on individual cases.

- AE/Surge Placements
 - Student athletes who are placed in AE/Surge are not allowed to participate in practice or games until the AE/Surge placement is completed. The athlete must also follow all other school policies in regard to AE/Surge.

- Athletes who receive 6 (or more) ISS/AE/Surge placements, or any combination totaling 6 placements, in a calendar year may be removed from athletics for a calendar year from the date of the 6th ISS placement.
- A student athlete who receives 2 (or more) AE/Surge placements in a calendar year may be removed from athletics for a calendar year from the date of the 2nd AE/Surge placement.
- Alcohol
 - Student athletes which are caught using, present at gatherings where underage drinking occurs, or in possession of alcohol may be subject to athletic department approved discipline for the sport or offseason they are in. The discipline may include additional conditioning, suspension, and/or removal from the athletic program. The level of punishment will be consistent but at the discretion of the athletic program.
- Felony Charges and/or Convictions
 - Student athletes which incur a felony charge will be suspended from competitions (not practices) until the legal outcome is determined. Conviction may result in dismissal from any further athletic participation as per the athletic department.
- Illegal Drugs
 - Any student athlete who tests positive, is proven guilty of the use of illegal drugs, confesses to using, or is found in possession of illegal drugs may be dismissed/suspended from all athletic participation for one calendar year. Steroids are considered an illegal drug unless taken for medically approved purposes.
- ISS Placements
 - ISS placements will be viewed as an unexcused absence in regard to in season practice or offseason workout. Unexcused absences will be dealt with by each individual sport's head coach and the policy it uses. All sport's policies are held on file at the athletic department to insure fair and consistent treatment to individual athletes. Athletes who serve ISS are allowed to practice outside of the school day in which they serve ISS.
 - Athletes who receive 6 (or more) ISS/AE/Surge placements, or any combination totaling 6 placements, in a calendar year may be removed from athletics for a calendar year from the date of the 6th ISS/AE/Surge placement.
 - The first ISS placement for an athlete may be waived at the discretion of the athletic department, principal, and the parent/guardian of the athlete if they chose corporal punishment to replace the ISS assignment. The corporal punishment will consist of no more than 3 swats. This is only available for the initial placement in ISS and only if all parties involved agree to this choice (athletic department, principal, and parent/guardian).
 - Subsequent ISS placements may result in discipline actions such as added conditioning, suspension, or removal from athletics as per the coach's and/or the athletic department's discretion.

If unable to sign via online forms, please use the following:

I have read and understand all sections of the Plainview ISD Athletic Procedures and Code of Conduct. As a Plainview ISD student athlete and parent/guardian, we will abide by the above stated procedures and guidelines. We also understand that any subjects not covered by the above policy will be subject to the discretion of the athletic department.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____