

2022 - 2023

SLIDELL I.S.D.

**ATHLETIC
HANDBOOK**

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

ATHLETIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The mission of the athletic department will be to enable students to become strong citizens within our local community and society by instilling character through the development of a strong work ethic and a positive attitude.

The specific objectives of the Athletic Department are:

1. To promote the concept of teamwork and an understanding of its value
2. To promote the concept of good sportsmanship.
3. To promote self-improvement, goal setting skills, and pride in accomplishment.
4. To promote athletics as an enjoyable outlet for self-development.
5. To promote wholesome lifetime health habits.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SLIDELL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

It is the goal of this athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the desire to do so. Interscholastic athletics fosters competition and cooperation. It also represents an area of great potential for teaching dedication, perseverance, courage, poise and practicing the pursuit of excellence. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics. It is to be stressed that participation in the Slidell Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. **Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with the Slidell ISD policy and due process procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules, regulations, or standards of the athletic program are not followed.**

SELECTION OF TEAMS

The Head Coach of each sport will determine the teams. The selection of teams will include, but is not limited to: skill level, knowledge of sport, attitude, and experience in the sport. **Members of any athletic team are not guaranteed playing time.**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SLIDELL ATHLETE

All athletes have the responsibility to give their best effort, strive for excellence, and exhibit good conduct at all times in a manner that is a credit to his/her school. The fact that an individual has chosen to participate in interscholastic athletics is indicative that each athlete has taken into consideration the rewards, privileges, and pleasures that can be attained from participation. It is also indicative that each athlete understands the price that must be paid in meeting responsibilities, following rules and regulations, and meeting the demands that are placed on each individual athlete. The privilege of representing the Slidell Athletic Program coincides with the expectations of the administration, coaches, teachers, parents, community, and most of all by fellow teammates and classmates.

The responsibilities of an athlete include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The athlete will strive for excellence in all activities at all times while being a member of the Slidell Athletic Program.
- The athlete will faithfully abide by all rules set forth in the athletic handbook.

- The athlete will abide by the practice schedules and complete workouts each day.
- The athlete will personally notify his/her coach when unable to attend practice, and will miss practices only under extreme circumstances.
- The athlete will abide by the coach's directions, instructions, and decisions.
- The athlete will be responsible for the proper care of any school issued clothing and/or equipment.
- The athlete will be required to pay for any clothing and/or equipment that is lost, damaged or destroyed. Issued clothing should not be worn outside of athletic participation (practice/competition).

NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION

Prior to participation, an athlete must have the following on file:

- Pre-Participation Medical History and Examination form (to be completed every two years)
- Parent/Student Acknowledgement of Rules form (UIL form only)
- Illegal Steroid Use form (UIL form only)
- Slidell ISD Parental Consent to Biological Testing Form (UIL form only)
- Slidell ISD Athletic Handbook Acknowledge Form
- Previous Athletic Participation Form (if applicable)
- UIL Foreign Exchange Student forms (if applicable)

GRADES

Student athletes are students first. ALL students are expected to pass all of their classes. However, consequences must be in place for any student athlete that does not pass all of his/her classes. Student athletes that are in danger of failing may be required to attend tutorials at the Athletic Director or Coach's request.

1. Any student athlete who has a failing grade on their report card for two consecutive six weeks may be removed from the current sport.
2. Any student athlete that has a failing grade on their report card for three consecutive six weeks may be subject to removal from all athletics until he/she demonstrates the ability to pass all subjects.

ATHLETIC DRESS CODE

In addition to following regular school rules regarding dress code (found in the student handbook), athletes have additional expectations in regard to hairstyle, jewelry, and dress. Initials, numbers or other insignia shaved on the heads of athletes will not be accepted. Any tattoos an athlete might have must be covered at all times during practice or competitions as well throughout the school day. Athletes in the girls' program, who have long hair, must wear their hair, including long bangs, pulled back from the face during all athletic practices and competitions. Athletes in the boys' program must maintain hairstyles that do not have bangs that extend below the eyebrows when pulled down, do not cover the ear, and do not touch the collar of their shirt in length at the back of the neck. While it is not the expectation for boys to shave daily, athletes are expected to be clean shaven while competing in contest as a representative of Slidell ISD. In accordance with UIL rules and regulations, for safety reasons, athletes are not allowed to wear jewelry of any kind during any athletic practice or competition. Athletes are not allowed to wear facial piercings at any time while an athlete at Slidell ISD or while representing a Slidell ISD athletic team at another location, either as a spectator or participant. This includes traveling to and from athletic competitions and practices. Athletes will not be afforded extra time during the day to meet athletic or

school dress code requirements. This includes extra time to make changes to appearance before practice or competition. Any hairstyle, jewelry, or clothing that is not within the regulations or expectations of the program, and requires the athlete to report to the office to make changes to their appearance, will be considered an unnecessary loss of academic or athletic time and will be punishable within the guidelines of the athletic department in addition to any school consequences that are assigned.

TEAM TRAVEL

All regular school transportation rules and regulations apply when on an athletic trip. *All athletes are expected to ride the transportation provided by Slidell ISD to and from all competitions.* The approval of the Head Coach must be obtained for an athlete to return home with his/her parent/guardian, and this will only occur in rare circumstances. We request that if specific circumstances such as, but not limited to work schedules, limited transportation, previous engagements, etc. will affect this requirement, that parents notify the head coach prior to the day of the competition. **Even with a notification from the parent prior to the activity, Slidell ISD may or may not allow a student to leave with any person other than the parent/guardian of that student athlete. These instances will be looked at on a case by case basis and will be up to the discretion of the Head Coach and/or the Athletic Director.** A sign out sheet will be available at the event when leave is allowed.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

It is the philosophy of Slidell ISD that our interscholastic and extracurricular programs shall be drug and alcohol free. The basis for this is founded upon and by the following:

1. Use of drugs and alcohol is illegal by school age students.
2. Abuse of these products has been shown to create short- and long-term health and safety risks.
3. Students using these products may not be capable of fulfilling commitments and responsibilities toward themselves, teammates, and school.
4. Use of these products can diminish the student's mental and/or physical performance.
5. Student-athletes should be positive role models who demonstrate pride and honor to their school, community, and family.
6. Student-athletes will be held responsible and accountable for their behavior and choices they make. We have established that extracurricular participation is not a requirement, and violations of this policy fall under the discretion of Slidell ISD administration, the Athletic Director, and its coaches.

DROPPING/QUITTING A SPORT

There will be times when an athlete finds it necessary to quit playing a sport before, during, or after the season has begun. An athlete may not quit one sport to play another sport. The following procedures should be followed in order to drop/quit a sport:

- Examine the situation before a decision is made.
- Talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached. (A parent conference may be required)
- If the decision to quit is made, the athlete must check out of the sport through the Head Coach of the sport and the Athletic Director. All clothing/equipment issued to an athlete must be returned in the same shape as it was issued to the athlete. Payment for any lost or damaged clothing and equipment will be required.
- An athlete that decides to quit one sport to join another must wait until the first sport has completed its season before he/she will be allowed to join the new sport.

- During the first 2 weeks (14 calendar days) of the sport, an athlete is able to make the decision to drop the sport without any consequences.

Coaches in conjunction with the Athletic Director, reserve the right to prohibit any athlete from joining a team or sport if that athlete has routinely failed to complete seasons in other sports.

UNIFORMS

Student-athletes will be issued a set of practice clothes that may include but not limited to shirt, shorts, sweats, or travel suits. **These clothes will be worn during participation in athletic practice or competition only.** At the end of the season/year, the issued clothes will be returned. Student-athletes will pay a replacement fee for all clothing or equipment not returned at the end of the year. Student-athletes will not be allowed to participate at the next grade level until outstanding fines are paid in full. Consequences for not being dressed out in proper practice attire will be at the discretion of the head coach.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Athletes should not leave personal items, especially jewelry or money, in areas unsupervised. Each athlete is issued a locker and a combination lock to secure personal property. Any athlete who fails to secure their property is risking having that property stolen and coaches have limited response when this issue occurs. **Slidell ISD and the Slidell Athletic Department are not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT

Athletes are expected to take care of all facilities and equipment at all times. Normal wear and tear is expected, misuse and vandalism is not. School equipment issued to the student is his/her responsibility. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation. Any misuse or mistreatment of equipment or athletic facilities will be punishable at the discretion of Slidell Administration, the Athletic Director, and Coaches.

LOCKER ROOM BEHAVIOR

All athletes are expected to behave in locker rooms (both home and away). General behavior is as follows:

1. Locker rooms should only be utilized during athletic periods.
2. No running, horseplay, or throwing objects
3. Dirty Shoes / Track spikes should not be worn in locker room.
4. Cell phone use in the locker room is prohibited including phone calls.
5. Keep all equipment in locker (not on floor)
6. The locker room should be cleaned before athletes exit.
7. Locker rooms are a community athlete space. All users have equal rights to that space and will be given respect as rightful members of the athletic program.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Athletes must meet the 90% school attendance rule to be eligible to miss school time for athletic events. Exceptions must have prior approval by school principal.

PRACTICE/CONTEST ATTENDANCE

Athletes are expected to be at all practices and all competitions on time and remain for the duration of the practice or competition required by the head coach. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach if he/she must miss a practice, competition, **or will not be in attendance during the athletic period**. By becoming a member of the Slidell Athletic Program, you are making a commitment to the program. ***An unexcused absence from a game may result in suspension of the next scheduled game.**

*An excused absence is that of an illness, emergency, etc... In such cases, the athlete may be required to present the coach and/or Athletic Director a written note from the parent/guardian, immediately following the incident.

As with any other activity, please be aware that excessive tardiness or absences result in a loss of practice/instructional time. This loss of time could subject the athlete to loss of playing time or even dismissal from the team. Make-up conditioning **or an individual workout** may be required for any tardy or absence at the discretion of the Head Coach of the sport and approved by the Athletic Director.

During any activity associated with Slidell athletics that is led by a member of the Coaching staff (i.e. weights, film, walkthroughs, conditioning, practice); cell phones shall not be present. During these times cell phones should remain in the locker room and be secured in the school provided locker.

PARTICIPATION WHEN INJURED

Any athlete that is injured during the course of the season and is unable to participate due to this injury must continue to follow all expectations, rules, and regulations, if the athlete wishes to remain a part of the team. The athlete will not participate but will be required attend all practice sessions and sit with the team during competitions. *Athletes learn from each practice session, whether they are actually working out or simply observing.*

PRACTICE TIMES/SCHEDULES

According to UIL rules, school teams shall be prohibited from practicing team skills before or after school except during specified practice dates set forth by the UIL, and during the one allowable period during the school day. The respective coach in conjunction with the Athletic Director and other coaches of in season sports will arrange practice schedules for each sport. Attempts will be made to ensure that practice times for one sport will not interfere with practice times for a coinciding sport. Student-athletes competing in multiple sports may at times be subject to overlapping practice schedules. Conflicts between two sports will be handled by the Head Coaches of those sports.

CRIMINAL CHARGES

Any athlete legally accused of, arrested for, or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (other than a traffic violation) may be subject to suspension from all athletic competitions, or other disciplinary action may be taken if the athlete is not in-season, until the matter has been cleared through the courts or punishment has been served. The athlete will be expected to participate in all practices during that time in order to remain in the athletic program. Depending on the severity of the charges and the outcome of the case, an athlete may be suspended for one or more games, dismissed from that sport for the remainder of the season, or dismissed from the athletic program for the remainder of the year. If the athlete is found not guilty or all charges are

dropped, then the athlete will be reinstated into the athletic program at the Athletic Director's discretion. An athlete that is placed on probation may be allowed to compete in athletic competitions after a conference between the parent/guardian, the athlete, the Head Coach and the Athletic Director.

AEP

Any athlete that is assigned an alternative education assignment (AEP or home suspension) will not participate in practices and/or competitions for any extracurricular activity for the duration of the alternative education arrangement. Extended time may result in dismissal from any in season sport. Any athlete disciplined under the student code of conduct may be subject to additional punishment or suspension / dismissal from the athletic program at the Athletic Director's discretion.

ISS

Any athlete receiving ISS on the day of an athletic competition is ineligible to participate in that competition. An athlete receiving ISS on the days prior to an athletic competition is subject to punishment or loss of playing time based on the Head Coach's and/or the Athletic Director's discretion.

CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

An individual student who participates in many extracurricular activities may experience a conflict. If a conflict does arise, the student should:

1. Notify coaches and sponsors.
2. Notify the Athletic Director.

The sponsors, coaches, etc. will work out a solution such that the student is not affected negatively for missed activities. Compromises made may be based on the following:

1. The relative importance of each event. (i.e. district event vs. non-district event)
2. The importance of each event to the student. (i.e. playoffs vs. pre-district event)
3. The chances for success by the student in each event. (i.e. competition vs. practice)
4. How long the event has been scheduled.
5. Parental input.

Once a decision has been made, the student is expected to abide by it. The student will not be penalized for following the decision of the Sponsors, Coaches, Athletic Director, or Administration.

SELECT/CLUB SPORTS

In the case of a non-school related athletic event conflicting with a school related athletic event, priority will be given to the school athletic event. Consequences for violating this rule will be at the discretion of the Head Coach of the in-season sport and/or the Athletic Director and may include suspension from future athletic contests.

VARSITY LETTER REQUIREMENTS

Varsity letters shall be granted in accordance with UIL guidelines. The following guidelines shall apply:

1. A cross country runner shall participate in 75% of meets, participate in the district meet, on the

- varsity level, and be recommended by the coach
2. A basketball player shall participate in 75% of all varsity games and be recommended by the coach.
 3. A track athlete shall participate in 75% of the individual track meets, participate in the district track meet, on the varsity level, and be recommended by the coach.
 4. A tennis player shall participate at the district tennis meet, at the varsity level, and be recommended by the coach.
 5. A golf player shall participate at the district golf meet, at the varsity level, and be recommended by the coach.

COMMUNICATION

What will be expected from the athlete's coach:

1. Coach's philosophy.
2. Expectations the coach has for the athlete.
3. Locations and times of practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, team rules, and off-season expectations.
5. Procedures that will be followed in the event of an injury.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

1. The mental and physical treatment of the athlete.
2. What improvements the athlete can make.
3. Concerns about the athlete's behavior.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with a coach:

1. Playing time of the student athlete.
2. Any situation that deals with other student athletes.

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Encourage your child to speak directly with the coach as this will often take care of the problem.
2. Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
3. Meetings will not be held immediately following competitions.
4. Contact the coach to set up an appointment. Every attempt should be made to meet with the coach as this initial process will be required prior to advancing to step five.
5. If the issue remains unresolved contact the athletic director to schedule an appointment.

FAN EXPECTATIONS

Slidell ISD strives to uphold integrity, fairness, and respect as the principles of good sportsmanship. While our student athletes are coached to learn, understand, and display these principles; fans or spectators must be held to the same expectations. You are a spokesperson for your school when you attend an athletic event. Your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Your display of good or poor sportsmanship is a display on our district, the students, and your athlete. With this in mind, below you will find examples of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors as identified by our athletic department.

Acceptable Fan Behavior

1. Be respectful of game officials, players, coaches, and all fans or facilities.
2. Show respect during introductions of both teams.
3. Cheer positively for both teams with as much enthusiasm as possible while still maintaining composure.
4. Recognize and show respect for outstanding performance of all competitors.

5. Remaining calm and quit when any player is injured or receiving treatment.
6. Assisting other spectators and parents in maintaining appropriate sportsmanlike behavior.

Unacceptable Fan Behavior

1. Making derogatory chants, songs, or gestures.
2. The use of profane, vulgar, or abusive language.
3. Negative communication directed towards either team or staff, including calling out name, number, or any other defining characteristic.
4. Engaging any fan in a dispute or argument.
5. Using horns or noise makers.
6. Throwing objects on to the floor or into the crowd.
7. Distracting participants, obstructing vision, or directly affecting play.
8. Attempting to coach from the stands, or giving specific instructions to any participant.

As parents, please understand that similar to our athletes, a failure to adhere to the athletic policies could result in consequences preventing you from attending our athletic events. These consequences could include, but are not limited to:

1. Being asked to leave the facility and premises for the remainder of the specified event.
2. Involvement of law enforcement to ensure that all request are compliant.
3. Suspension for a disclosed period of time for all district events.
4. Within district policies, continued disruption could also result in the student athlete being removed from the athletic program.

2022-2023 SLIDELL I.S.D. ATHLETIC HANDBOOK **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

I understand the policies and procedures of the Slidell I.S.D. Athletic Department, I am also aware of the consequences for violating said policies. If at any time I have questions regarding the handbook, I will address these questions to the Head Coach/Athletic Director. I understand that the Athletic Director and coaching staff will enforce these policies, procedures, and consequences.

Athlete Signature

Date

Athlete Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email Address:

(Return this copy to the Athletic Department)