

2025-2026

**Savoy Independent School District
Athletic Handbook**



School Board

- Jeff Frances, President
- Mike Bomar, Vice President
- Drew Saltzman, Secretary
- Joe Gilbert, Member
- Sandy Petree, Member
- Brian Pugh, Member
- Bear Reed, Member

Superintendent

- Samuel Talley

Campus Administrator

- Rory Hilliard - Junior/Senior High School Principal

2025-2026 Coaches	
Assignment	Name
Athletic Director	Brian Baccus
Head Football	Aaron Stiefer
Assistant Football	Ethan Norwood
Assistant Football	Josh Martinez
Head Cross Country	Brian Baccus
Assistant Cross Country	Jamie Foster
Head Volleyball	Dani Baccus
Assistant Volleyball	Jamie Foster
Head Girls Basketball	Brian Baccus
Assistant Girls Basketball	Dani Baccus
Head Boys Basketball	Ethan Norwood
Assistant Boys Basketball	Aaron Stiefer
Powerlifting	Aaron Stiefer
Tennis	Ethan Norwood
Head Track	Brian Baccus
Assistant Track	Jamie Foster
Head Baseball	Josh Martinez
Assistant Baseball	Aaron Stiefer

Introduction

Welcome to the new school year!

Note: Unless otherwise noted, the term “parent” refers to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of a student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Athletic Handbook is designed to align with law, board-adopted policy, and the Student Code of Conduct, a board-adopted document intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The Athletic Handbook is not meant to be a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules in any given circumstance.

In case of conflicts between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any Athletic Handbook provision, the district will follow board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Therefore, parents and students should become familiar with the Savoy ISD Athletic Handbook. To review the handbook, visit the district’s website at www.savoyisd.org.

The Athletic Handbook is updated annually. However, policy adoption and revisions may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed policy changes by attending board meetings and reviewing communications explaining changes in policy or other rules that affect Handbook provisions. The district reserves the right to modify the Athletic Handbook at any time. Notice of revisions will be provided as is reasonably practical.

A hard copy of the Savoy ISD Athletic Handbook can be requested at 605 East Hayes Street Savoy, Texas 75479.

Purpose

Participation in athletics at Savoy ISD is a privilege, failure to comply with the rules set forth in athletics may result in discipline, suspension, or removal from the athletic program completely. These policies are established so that parents may understand the expectations associated with being a student athlete. Athletics is not mandatory to graduate from any high school, it is offered as an extracurricular activity to help enhance the opportunities for students.

Rationale

A student who represents Savoy ISD in extracurricular athletic activities is recognized as a representative of their school, parents, community and mostly of themselves, therefore high expectations are set on presentation and good behavior. Each student is responsible for his/her behavior at all times, during the school day/year, or **outside the school day/year, on or off the school campus.**

The purpose of this plan is to make sure our students understand the high expectations Savoy ISD has for students who choose to participate in extracurricular activities.

Athletics serve many purposes for our students, participation in athletics can benefit our students in the most positive way possible by teaching life skills that will benefit them as they grow into adult life.

Our goal is that athletic activities will:

- Improve the performance of the students so that they can contribute to the overall success of the program
- Encourage students to get involved in athletics not only to represent your school but to learn to work with a team, self-discipline, and accountability.
- Allow the student to be a role model for younger students, to be a recognized citizen in our community.

Expectations and consequences

The coaching staff has set its standards of what it takes to represent Savoy ISD. They will use their own discretion for infractions that are not conducive to how an athlete must act to represent at the highest level.

The following actions/violations may result in disciplinary consequences:

- Classroom disruptive behavior
- Excessive tardiness or absences
- Unacceptable conduct at school or school activity
- Unexcused missed practice
- Unacceptable social media: during school hours or outside of school hours
- Students must make up all missed practices excused or unexcused

These student behaviors that will go directly to Principal/AD:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Felony charges
- Racism
- Bullying

All students are open to being randomly drug tested. Drug testing will be handled by an outside entity only. No at home testing will be allowed for results purposes. Refusal to test in an automatic positive result to be treated as an offense. A positive drug test result will have the following consequences listed (below). The five actions/violations listed above - drugs, alcohol, felony charges, racism and bullying will also have the same consequences listed (below):

First offense

Students will miss: Football - 3 games, Basketball - 6 games, Baseball/Softball - 6 games, Volleyball - 6 games, Track - 3 meets, Cross Country - 3 meets, Powerlifting - 3 meets, Tennis - 3 tournaments, Golf - 3 tournaments. The game suspensions will be only for the current sport the athlete is participating in at the time of the violation unless it is during the time between sports. In that case the student could miss games in two different

sports. Any extra punishment for a particular sport by that sport's coach (ie. running etc.) will be at that coach's discretion.

Student and parents will have a meeting with the Athletic Director and all head coaches involved with the sports the student participates in. This meeting will be to explain the consequences for the first offense and what the consequences of a second offense will be. The consequences of the second offense will be made very clear to the student and parents.

2nd Offense

A second offense of a positive drug test result or a second offense of one of the five actions/violations listed above - drugs, alcohol, felony charges, racism or bullying will result in a one calendar year suspension from the athletic program. This means that the student will not be permitted to participate in any sport for one calendar year that involves Savoy ISD. Example: If a student has a second offense after the fifth football game, then they will not be eligible to go back into the athletic program until the sixth football game the next season. An entire year of athletics will be missed by the student. Once the calendar year is over there will be a meeting between the Athletic Director and the student's other coaches along with the student and parents of the student. The student's eligibility back into the athletic program will be the sole decision of the Athletic Director and the other coaches that coached the student. This meeting does not guarantee the student will be allowed back into the athletic program.

3rd Offense

A third offense will result in the immediate removal from all athletic programs for the remainder of the time the student is enrolled at Savoy ISD. The parent may file an appeal with the superintendent.

Possession, distribution, or use of drugs

Refer to the Savoy ISD Student Code of Conduct with regards to the possession, distribution, or use of illegal drugs.

Felony

Students charged with a felony will result in immediate suspension of any extracurricular activities currently participating in until results of charges are available.

Students who are convicted of a felony charge depending on the charge are subject to a - year suspension from all athletic programs.

Stealing

Students who are caught stealing may be subject to removal from all athletics and subject to possible arrest. Students are subject to disciplinary action as per the school code of conduct.

Racism

Racism will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to proper procedure with school and athletic policy. Students are subject to disciplinary action and dismissal from athletics.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

Bullying of any type will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to proper procedure with school and athletic policy. Students are subject to disciplinary action and dismissal from athletics.

Dress and Hair Code

Although students at our school are required to follow certain guidelines with hair and dress code, athletics is a different entity.

Quitting

Once quitting happens it becomes a habit, we encourage all kids to learn to fight through adversity, tough times, injuries, and any other circumstances that can cause a setback. In such a small school district we need kids who want to participate and represent their school and community to the best of their ability. While quitting is easy, overcoming adversity makes you a stronger person. We do realize that athletics may not be for everyone, but we do encourage you to give your best effort.

The student may choose following the season not to play the next year but quitting mid-season will have its repercussions.

If a student decides to quit a sport mid-season and later realizes they want to rejoin the sport during that same season, that will not happen. If they still want to join the team the next season they will have to meet with the Athletic Director and Head Coach of that sport. If the athlete is allowed back and quits mid-season for the 2nd time, they will no longer play that sport the rest of their high school career. If a player quits 2 different sports mid-season permanent removal from the athletic program will happen. As these rules state, when we are speaking about quitting, we are speaking about midseason quitting. If a player starts basketball and decides after the season that basketball is not for him/her and chooses not to play the next year, there is no problem. A student can do that previous scenario in basketball and baseball back-to-back and there is no problem. Mid-season quitting is what we are trying to deter.

With regards to quitting, re-entry into a sport or participation in the athletic program, will be at the discretion of the athletic director and head coach.

Practice and Games

In order for our teams to be successful it is mandatory that all students attend practice and the games of the teams they compete with, all missed practices will be made up.

Students are expected to be at practice on time or they will have consequences unless prior arrangements have been made

Communication is vital, if a student is to miss a practice or game, they must have notified a coach in advance.

Coaches will handle all excused and unexcused absences according to their team rules.

Students who are under the care of a physician and bring a written note from the doctor to the school, coaches etc. the school and coaches must adhere to the letter of what the doctor note says.

Students who play for club organizations need to understand that UIL takes precedence over any outside organizations (School Activities comes first). Failure to comply could result in dismissal from the team.

Communication with Coaches

Coaches will use a variety of methods to communicate with students and parents. We encourage you to enroll in the different communication platforms a coach will use to communicate information and updates. As per the Savoy ISD employee handbook (see the employee handbook for more details, page 47), an employee who communicates electronically with students shall observe the following:

- Only a teacher, trainer(coach), or other employee who has an extracurricular duty may use text messaging, and then only to communicate with students who participate in the extracurricular activity over which the employee has responsibility. An employee who communicates with a student using text messaging shall comply with the following protocol:
 - The employee shall include at least one of the student's parents or guardians as a recipient on each text message to the student so that the student and parent receive the same message. If the parent or guardian gives written or texted permission for the employee to text the student without including the parent, the employee will only send messages that are sent in group messages to students. An employee will never send a message directly to one student (one-to-one communication).
 - The employee shall limit communications to matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities (e.g., for classroom teachers, matters relating to class work, homework, and tests; for an employee with an extracurricular duty, matters relating to the extracurricular activity).

Sportsmanship

Savoy athletes are expected to conduct themselves to the highest degree of sportsmanship at all athletic events home or away. We will accept winning and losing with humility and great respect for our opponents. We will not use foul language, express displeasure with officials or fans, or act out in any way. Students who do not comply will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students who receive infractions for unsportsmanlike conduct, rejected from a game, receive a technical foul for negative responses to a situation, again will be subject to meet with coaches of sport and athletic director and will be subject to disciplinary action.

It is at the discretion of a coach or athletic director to determine if a student's actions or attitude are detrimental to the team. If found to be detrimental, a parent conference will take place. If the actions are not corrected, removal of the team will be the result.

Parental Involvement

The following guidelines are to encourage parental involvement, and to show support for the team and athletes.

The job of the parent is to support their student athletes. Negative responses to coaches, players, and officials are not part of creating a positive environment, therefore should not be part of an athletic event. We know the frustration of a possible bad call, bad play etc. but negative responses only enhance the situation. Please do not confront officials, fans, coaches, or players as this could result in immediate removal from the games and possible suspension from future sporting events. Please be a great fan and great supporter of our student athletes.

Coaching from the stands is something we totally discourage as we feel it can be detrimental to the player and the team. A coach needs the full attention of all the players during competition and distractions from the stands could become a distraction to our teams.

As a parent you need to be mindful of the things you say and respond to around your kids. A negative attitude toward coaches and or other teammates can become a toxic situation very quickly. If there are concerns, we have the following protocol to take place:

- Parents need to respect the decisions of the coaches in charge by staying positive. Parents are allowed to request a meeting with the coach but airing negative comments to friends and student athletes should never happen. Parents will never be allowed to approach a coach or their child while on the bench, halftime or immediately following an event or prior to the postgame meeting. Parents should never enter the locker room with exceptions such as an injury or to decorate the locker room prior to a game.

While we do encourage communication with all parties involved, we do have a set protocol on how to handle any situation where a meeting with the coach is required:

- Students are encouraged to first communicate with their respective coaches, discuss the concerns and hopefully come up with a working solution. Students will always meet with two coaches (never one on one). If the head coach is of the opposite sex, the head coach will ensure a coach of the same sex of the student is present.
- Second option is for parents to schedule a meeting with the concerns they may have. Playing time, other students, and team strategies are not options that will be discussed. The coach will give you information on how to become a better student athlete and listen to any concerns you may have. Meetings will not be scheduled on game days.
- The third line of communication will involve the Athletic Director, coach, and the parents.

We as coaches would like to thank you for the opportunity to coach your kids!

Student Name: _____

Grade Level: _____

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Savoy ISD Athletic Handbook that explains the policies, procedures, and expectations of our athletic programs. I have read and agree to follow the policies and standards that have been set forth in the 2025-2026 Savoy ISD Athletic Handbook.

As a parent I have read and understand the policies and procedures that will be required of my child to participate in the Savoy ISD Athletic Program.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this to your head coach by August 22, 2025.