

# **STOCKDALE**

## **INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

**2023-2024**



Reviewed by Stockdale ISD School Board on July 17, 2023.

## Stockdale Independent School District Athletic Program

### 1. Philosophy

The purpose of the Athletic program is:

- A. To encourage participation in all sports.
- B. To stress the high ideals of sportsmanship.
- C. To strive for excellence.
- D. To administer the programs so that there will be a minimum loss of school time — for participants and coaches.
- E. To require that participants be properly examined, equipped, instructed, and supervised.
- F. To foster proper respect for authority.
- G. To compete within the spirit of the rules — be gracious in victory or loss.
- H. To teach good work habits to participants.

This athletic policy will serve as guidance to questions that could possibly occur throughout the course of the year. I emphasize that all situations may not be covered in this handbook; however, appropriate actions will be administered throughout athletic policies, school policies, and the U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League).

The UIL is the governing body for the Athletic Programs in Texas Public Schools. The Stockdale ISD School Board, administrators, coaches, and teachers fully support the U.I.L. and its enforcement of the rules. In accordance with these rules, Head Coaches of our Athletic Teams are able to construct their own team rules for their program, with the approval of the Athletic Director.

It should be stressed that being a member of an athletic team is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, not all students are capable of competing in this program. Since it is a privilege; the athletic director has the authority to revoke that privilege when deemed necessary.

### 2. Grooming/Dress Code

Athletes will be neat and well-groomed at all times. Dress, hair, makeup and clothing shall not be excessive, exceptional or designed to draw attention to the individual. The

athletic director may hold student athletes to higher standards pertaining to the dress code. It is our goal for all athletes to set the example for the student body with their appearance at school and school events. Coaches may require athletes to adhere to a stricter code during their season and may specify certain attire to be worn on trips. You should be very professional in uniform and out. Everyone will wear his/her uniform in the same manner. No jewelry will be worn during athletic periods, practice or games. For Male Athletes, no hair below the collar, no hair in eyes or on ears. Also, no earrings or facial hair is allowed. Religious beliefs will be taken into account by the School District.

### 3. Off the Field or Court

As a player, if you are caught by a city, county, or school official, (this does not pertain to social media, pictures, or hearsay) in possession or under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco you will face consequences in the athletic program. Consequences are as follows.

- A. Drugs — use of any illegal drugs will result in the following punishment.
  - a. First offense will result in 14 calendar day suspension from athletic contests, and running \*\*\*5 miles before allowed to compete again.
  - b. Second offense for the use of drugs will result in a 30-calendar day suspension from athletic contests, and running \*\*\*10 miles before allowed to compete again.
  - c. Third Offense will result in dismissal from all athletic participation for all remaining years of eligibility.
- B. Alcohol — use of alcohol will result in the following punishment.
  - a. First offense will result in running \*\*\*5 miles before being allowed to compete again.
  - b. Second offense for the use of alcohol will result in running \*\*\*10 miles and 7 calendar days suspension.
  - c. Third Offense will result in dismissal from the athletic program for 1 year.  
*\*\*\*All running must be made up before you compete in a contest, when doing the 5 mile or 10 mile running consequence the athlete must run a minimum of 1 mile per day.*
- C. Use of Tobacco/Vaping  
Use or possession of tobacco products on school grounds is against the law. All Stockdale ISD grounds and functions are tobacco free as per state law. Violation of this policy by student athletes will result in a \*\*\*5-mile run and referral to school administrators.
- D. Destruction or theft of school property or any major offense that affects Stockdale ISD.  
These offenses will result in the following punishment:
  - 1. First Offense— \*\*\*5 miles punishment workout to be administered by the head coach of the sport.

2. Second Offense—Dismissal from sports for that school year, plus \*\*\*10 miles punishment workout before the athlete can participate in the upcoming year.
3. Third Offense—Dismissal from all athletic participation for all remaining years of eligibility.

E. Stealing

First offense may result in dismissal from the team. Strong disciplinary action will be taken. If found guilty in a court of law of theft, automatic dismissal from the athletic program for one year.

F. Felony

If found guilty in a court of law, first offense will result in dismissal from the athletic program for one year.

4. On the Field/Court

- A. Attendance — Do not cut class. Don't be tardy. If you miss an athletic period, be sure that it can't be helped. Don't make appointments on our time. Be in attendance on the day of an athletic contest. A coach must be consulted ahead of time if any athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing a practice or game without permission will result in make-up work and may result in suspension. (Allowances will be made for emergencies.) Nonparticipation because of illness/injury, after 1 day, will require a doctor's note. Any missed practice will require make up work.

If an Athlete will miss an athletic period or an athletic contest, it is their responsibility to get in touch with their coach and let them know the reason why. All absences from the athletic period will be made up, whether it is an excused or unexcused absence. All make-up conditioning will be assigned and observed by the coaches.

- B. Discipline – No athlete can do his/her best without self-discipline. A great deal of self-sacrifice is involved. At times, it becomes necessary for discipline to come from the coach. It is the Coach's responsibility to maintain team discipline. There are three levels of discipline to be used in our program, depending on the nature, severity or re-occurrence of the problem. It is our intent to be extremely fair and consistent with our athletes. If you have a question, contact the coach or athletic director.

Types of Disciplinary Action

1. Extra Duty
2. Probation/Suspension from the sport for a specified time
3. Suspension from the Athletic Program
  - a. Parents will be notified in cases involving suspensions. Every effort will be made to head off any problems before it becomes serious enough for suspension. However, serious misconduct or use of illicit drugs will result in immediate

suspension.

B. Injury — If you have an injury always see the trainer/coach before you leave from practice or game.

C. Promptness — Always be on time for meeting, practice, and games. Learn that being early is a great habit to form.

D. Conduct — Play with class. We will be noted for our clean, tough, competitive play. We don't shoot off our mouths on or off the field. Never taunt the opponent. Praise your opponent and play beyond your ability. We expect you to conduct yourself like ladies and gentlemen at all times. This means that you are to follow school rules and procedures while attending classes at Stockdale ISD. You are expected to act properly in class, giving teachers and administrators courtesy and respect.

E. Respect – Players will be treated with respect by their coaches. Coaches should receive “Yes sir/Yes ma’am” “No sir/No ma’am” responses from players. Whenever a coach is speaking with you, give him/her your undivided attention and always establish eye contact with him/her.

## 5. Quitting

A. If at any time an athlete quits or is expelled from a team in or out of season, he/she gives up all rights to any honors, which he/she has earned but not yet received.

If an athlete quits:

He/she must visit the head coach of that sport.

He/she must bring the quit form signed by his/her parents stating they are aware of his/her intention to quit and its implications.

B. If you quit a sport, you may not begin another sport until the sport you quit has completed its regular season, and the athlete will complete \*\*\*10 miles of running (a minimum of 2 miles per day) before allowed to compete for Stockdale ISD in any other sport.

C. Exception: 5 school day grace period for high school and junior high players from date of enrollment where they may try a sport and quit without penalty.

D. Cutting a participant from a team during tryouts.

1. Explain to all participants before tryouts start that there will be cuts made.

2. Coach's discretion on how cuts will be made.

## 6. INSURANCE

Stockdale ISD strives to provide each and every student/athlete with the best care possible. Each year we hope to avoid injuries but unfortunately that is something that cannot be controlled. It is the responsibility of the parents to cover the cost of any medical needs. Personal insurance is recommended for all students. Stockdale ISD provides a secondary insurance policy for all U.I.L.

sanctioned participants. Stockdale ISD also provides all students the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy at a minimal cost. The school insurance policy will pick up as a secondary coverage. Proper steps must be taken in filing a claim. Please be aware that the “secondary” coverage may not totally pay all remaining balances.

#### 6. ISS/Detention

- A. We do not tolerate attitudes/behavior that result in students being placed in ISS or detention.
- B. Make up running will be assigned by the head coach of the sport in season for students missing class or practice due to ISS or Detention.
- C. Students may be allowed to participate in after or before school practice.
- D. Repeated assignment to ISS or detention will result in punishment and may result in suspension or removal from the program.
- E. If you are assigned ISS and your assignment is on a game day, you will not be able to compete unless your time is over.

#### 7. Travel

- A. We require each athlete to ride the bus with his or her team to the event. In emergency situations where the athlete was left behind or at a doctor’s appointment, school officials or parent must take the athlete to the event.
- B. We encourage all athletes to ride home with the team from out of town games. In order for the player to ride home separately from the team, the following guidelines will be administered.
  1. A school official brings the player back. (Other events or contests.)
  2. A release form must be signed by the parent/guardian and the player must ride home with the guardian that is in control of that athlete. The parent/guardian must also tell the coach in person.
  3. In emergency situations or conflicts with other sporting events, an athlete may be released to another parent only if the coach and athletic director are told prior to the event. Again, all release forms must be signed and the parent that is taking another player with them must contact the coach in person.

There will be no student/player ride home with other students or other persons who do not meet the above requirements.

#### 8. Athletic Letter Jacket Policy

An Athletic Letter award should require serious sacrifices on the part of the student-athlete. The school letter should be a symbol of not only school pride, but also of hard work and dedication in the classroom on the playing field/court. If they are handed out as “favors”, then the value of the award is diminished for all who have earned their jacket the right way. If sacrifices were not made, then the athlete does not deserve it. In order to receive an athletic award, each

athlete must participate and complete the season in good standing on the Varsity Team at the level listed.

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|-----------------------------|---|
| FOOTBALL                    | 6 or more games, or 3 Seasons in Program  |
| CROSS COUNTRY               | 4 or more meets + Compete at Regional Meet, or 3 Seasons in Program                 |
| VOLLEYBALL                  | 14 or more matches, or 3 Seasons in Program   |
| POWERLIFTING                | 4 or more meets + Compete in Regionals in One Season, or 3 Seasons in Program       |
| BASKETBALL                  | 14 or more games, or 3 Seasons in Program   |
| BASEBALL                    | 14 or more games, or 3 Seasons in Program   |
| SOFTBALL                    | 14 or more games, or 3 Seasons in Program   |
| TENNIS                      | 4 or more Tournaments + Compete in Regionals in One Season, or 3 seasons in Program |
| TRACK                       | 4 or more meets + Compete at Area Meet in One Season, or 3 Seasons in Program       |
| GOLF                        | 4 or more Tournaments + Compete in Regionals in One Season, or 3 Seasons in Program |
| STUDENT TRAINER/<br>MANAGER | 3 Varsity Seasons   |

#### 9. Athletic Period Enrollment

- All junior high athletes must be enrolled in the athletic period to be able to participate in athletics. Any possible exceptions will only be granted by the athletic director.
- High school students participating in athletics, with the exception of Cross Country, Golf and Tennis, must be enrolled in the athletic period all year. Possible exceptions may exist when unique circumstances arise where class scheduling makes it impossible to be placed in the athletic period. These exceptions will be granted and approved by the athletic director.
- Seniors – If you are playing football, volleyball, basketball, or powerlifting you must be in the athletic period during the fall. After the fall season and fall semester, if you do not participate in a winter or spring sport, you will be given the option to move out of the athletic period at the end of the first semester. Seniors wishing to participate in a spring sport (basketball, powerlifting, baseball, softball, or track) must be enrolled in the athletic period. The athletic director may make exceptions if a circumstance arises when a senior's schedule will not allow them to be in the athletic period.

## 10. Athletic Period Workout and Game Days

All athletes will dress out for athletic period and report to a designated area for attendance purposes and a briefing on upcoming events. All athletes that are participating in a sport that is in season will then report to the head coach of that sport. The head coach will coordinate with the athletic director the workout schedule for these athletes. All athletes will be required to participate in a conditioning workout daily in addition to the skills workout for the sport in season. Modifications or athletes being excused from workouts on game days of contest will be discussed between head coaches and the athletic director.

11. Random Drug Testing – All athletes must have a Drug Testing Policy Permission Slip signed and on file in the principal's office.

## 12. Conference/Grievance

Conferences are encouraged anytime a student or parent has a concern. The initial conference needs to be with the head coach of the sport concerned. Any conference regarding playing time will be held with the athlete present. When a conference is necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the coach to setup an appointment. This can be done by calling the high school office, the athletic director or sending the coach an e-mail requesting a meeting.
2. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest. This can be an emotional time for both the parent and the coach.

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the athletic director.

If a satisfactory resolution has not been reached then a level one grievance should be filed with the high school principal.

Grievance procedures are outlined in the District's policies and forms can be obtained from the high school office or on the district website at this link:

<https://www.stockdaleisd.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/School%20Board%7CComplaints/Grievance%20Process>

### Removal from Athletic Program:

It should be stressed that being a member of an athletic team is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, not all students are capable of competing in this program. If the athletic director at any time feels a student is continuously bringing down other students and is a constant distraction, he/she will be removed from the athletic program.

- If a student/athlete fails 3 or more 6 week periods in a school year, he/she may be removed from the athletic program
- If a student is sent to DAEP, he/she will run \*\*\*10 miles upon returning to



Stockdale Athletics, and be placed on a behavior contract stating if he/she continue to have discipline issues he/she will be removed from the program.

- If a student is enrolled in the athletic program, he/she MUST play a sport. If a student goes through the entire school year without playing a sport for Stockdale ISD, he/she will not be allowed in the program the following year (this does not pertain to injury or extenuating circumstances).
- At any time if a student athlete continues to bring teammates and moral of the team down, the head coach of that sport has the option to remove him/her from that team.

While all situations may not be covered in this handbook the athletic director will deal with any situations that may arise and handle those situations the way he sees fit, which could result in removal from the athletic program. This Athletic Policy and its rules and consequences will serve our athletes and our program during the school year beginning **August 1, 2023 and ending May 23, 2024.**

#### Responsible use of Electronic Messaging and Social Media

It is important for All Athletes to remember that Facebook, Twitter and other social media are not private and it can be very difficult to control access, even unauthorized access, to your content and information. Please do not post any content or pictures you would not want your parents, your principal, your coaches or fellow athletes to see. If you have to think twice about it - it's probably inappropriate.

Please also be very careful in e-mailing and text messaging. It is all too easy for a picture or text message to end up in the wrong hands.

As an extracurricular participant, you are expected to represent Stockdale ISD and our Athletic Program with pride; messages, posts, photos and/or other forms of electronic media which do not promote positive school spirit and support of coaches/administrators/peers may be considered in violation on the Athletic Guidelines and subject to appropriate discipline.

## 2023 – 2024 Stockdale ISD Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement

This year the Stockdale ISD Athletic Handbook is posted on the district website. You can access it by going to <https://www.stockdaleisd.org/> and clicking on the Departments tab and then clicking on Athletics. On the Athletics page, the policies can be found under the required paperwork section.

If you cannot access the website and would like a paper copy, please have your athlete let Coach King know and he will provide one for you.

Please sign and return this page.

We have read and understand the Stockdale Independent School District High School Athletic Handbook.

Student Athlete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received in Athletic Department: \_\_\_\_\_