



2019-2020 WINSTON ATHLETIC POLICIES

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Winston's Athletic Policy

The athletic program at The Winston School is intended to compliment the overall mission of the school, *a small college preparatory school designed to maximize the potential of bright students who learn differently.*® *Though individual strategies our students are empowered to meet confidently the challenges of tomorrow.* We strive to develop the whole student in mind, body and spirit. Athletics is an integral part of the Winston experience and compliments the academic programs of the school. Major emphasis is placed on teamwork, positive group participation, good sportsmanship and the willingness to commit fully in terms of both effort and time. We expect that the student-athlete will cooperate within the rules of play guided by an attitude of fair play and respect for authority, fellow team members and opponents.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The primary emphasis at The Winston School is academic excellence. Participation in athletics, although extremely important to the development and experience of many students, should be secondary to performance in the classroom. The following are the minimum academic guidelines and may be set at a higher level by an individual coach.

(Upper School/8th Graders Playing Up) A student-athlete:

- Must be enrolled in at least four accredited academic courses.
- Must not be failing (below 70) more than one course when grades are reported (every week).
- If the student is failing more than one course during the sport's season will be placed on academic probation and becomes ineligible to participate in scheduled contests until eligibility is regained. (The athlete is expected to participate in all practices during this time.)
 - a) The length of time for ineligibility **prior to a grading period** shall be at least one week, after which the athlete can regain his or her athletic eligibility by:
 - (1) regaining passing status of failed course,
 - (2) achieving this status seven days prior to any athletic contest,
 - (3) and currently passing all other classes.
 - b) If the student athlete has below a 70 in more than one course at the **end of a grading period** the length of time for ineligibility shall be **at least three weeks**, after which time the athlete can regain his or her athletic eligibility by:
 - (1) regaining passing status of failed course,
 - (2) achieving this status seven days prior to any athletic contest,
 - (3) and currently passing all other classes.

NOTE: ½ Physical Education credit will be awarded to those upper school student-athletes who successfully fulfill all academic and team requirements for each sport that they participate in. There will be practice attendance and game playing time requirements that are set by each Coach in order to qualify for this credit. All athletes are required to turn in a grade sheet by Friday of each week during their respective sport season.

(Middle School) A student-athlete:

- Must maintain passing grades and demonstrate appropriate behavior in all school related activities as a prerequisite for participation in athletics, and must not be failing more than one course when grades are reported.
- If a student is failing more than one course during the sport season will be placed on academic probation and becomes ineligible to participate in scheduled contests until eligibility is regained.

The Athletic Director, along with the Assistant Head of School, will complete a weekly grade check for all student-athletes. Any student-athlete who continuously fails classes will be removed from athletics.

GOVERNING ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS

- Students in C and D cores compete in the Junior Independent Athletic Association (JIAA)
- Students in 7th-8th grade compete in the Independent Athletic Association (IAA).
- Students in 9th-12th grade will compete in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS)

STUDENT PARTICIPATION/CODE OF CONDUCT

All students currently enrolled in C core - 12th grade are eligible to participate in athletics.

Participation in athletics is a privilege. The school has instituted an “Open Participation” policy when appropriate. This policy allows for any qualifying student to join any athletic program. (On rare occasions for upper school programs, a “try-out” may be necessary because of transportation issues, uniform and equipment availability, and PE credit integrity.) *This policy, however, does not guarantee equal playing time for every participant.* Participation in games is based on effort, attitude, and attendance per the coach’s discretion. The athletic program strives to allow everyone to participate in games when applicable. Our purpose is to be competitive while providing an opportunity for overall participation. 8th grade athletes may participate in Upper School/Varsity sports with the understanding that the athlete may not participate in Middle School Athletics. This decision is based on input from the Head Coach, Athletic Director and Parents.

NOTE: A student-athlete may participate in more than one different sport occurring in the same season. This privilege depends on the academic status of the student/athlete, the sport’s programs that are involved as well as parent, coach and Athletic Director approval. In such instances, a practice and game plan for each sport must be set and approved by the coaches for the student/athlete prior to the season.

Student-athletes have the responsibility to abide by the following rules:

- Before a student-athlete is permitted to engage in any practice, they must have on file with the athletic director the following:
 - a) Emergency Medical Authorization form (completed with admissions packet)
 - b) Completed Physical Examination form
 - c) Student-Athlete's Pledge (signed by **student and parent**)

- Student-athletes quitting a sport must submit a letter to the Athletic Director explaining the reason for discontinuing a particular sport co-signed by the parent of the student-athlete. A student-athlete may NOT return to the sport that he/she has discontinued for any reason.

- Refusal to participate through the end of the season shall result in the loss of any awards or recognition. An athletic season is officially complete after all contests, tournaments, or meets have been completed by the team or individuals.

- Dismissal from a game by an official or coach for a major infraction (unsportsmanlike conduct, blatant disrespect, etc.) will result in forfeiting play for the next scheduled contest. Participation in practice will be required during this time and additional consequences may be administered by the coach.

- Student-athletes who take any type of medication shall have on file with the coach (or athletic director) a note from the parent/guardian and or doctor.

- All student-athletes shall abide by all regular school policies including attendance, dress code, and discipline (detentions, suspensions, and expulsions) as stated in The Winston School Student/Parent Handbook.

- The use by student-athletes of any tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited per The Winston School handbook.

It is the policy of the Winston Athletic Department and coaching staff that any disciplinary action taken by a coach against an athlete can result in an indefinite suspension or removal of the athlete from that team, under the general rules and regulations of The Winston School, UIL, JLA, IAA, CSAF, and TAPPS. In the event of any infraction of these policies or rules, the following procedures will take place:

1. The coach/advisor must inform the athlete either verbally or in writing about any infraction and the subsequent consequences. The coach/advisor will then conduct an informal hearing to allow the athlete to explain his/her actions. The coach/advisor will immediately inform the athletic director of the infraction and any relevant information pertaining to the infraction.

2. The coach/advisor must contact the athletic director either verbally or in writing that the athlete is being denied participation until a thorough assessment of the situation has taken place. The athletic director and/or coach will verbally inform the athlete's parent/guardian of the

situation and the action being taken.

3. If requested by the parent/guardian, a meeting involving the athlete, his/her parent/guardian, the involved coach, the athletic director, and designated administrator may be held to determine whether the denial of participation may become definite or may be lifted.

All student-athletes must abide by all regular school guidelines as stated in The Winston School Student/Parent Handbook, JIAA (Lower School), IAA (Middle School) and TAPPS (Upper School) athletic association policies. All student-athletes and coaches must adhere to these policies during the full duration of their season including all conditioning sessions and the post-season competitions.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

- Student-athletes should recognize that participating in athletics is a privilege that requires a commitment to maintain acceptable academic and athletic standards of achievement.
- All student-athletes are expected to be prepared, ready to work, and on time to all classes, practices, and games.
- Athletes who continuously miss practice and/or games for any reason (excused or unexcused) will face dismissal from the athletic program. Participation in a club or outside league should be considered secondary to the school team. Do not schedule outside appointments during practice or game times.
- The student-athlete shall be expected to attend all required practices, meetings, and contests. The head coach shall be directly notified of an absence in advance. Absences will adversely affect the cohesiveness of the team and will limit the student-athlete's participation in scheduled contests and affect their ability to acquire the Physical Education credit.
- If a student-athlete is absent for more than half the school day (at least (4) four full class periods) he or she may not practice or play in a game on that day.
- Injured or excused athletes must stay for the entire practice, unless they are going to the doctor for injury assessment.
- Missed practices or games due to detentions will be considered unexcused absences.
- If a student-athlete is suspended, he or she is ineligible to participate until eligibility is reinstated by the Athletic Director and the Assistant Head of School.
- Student-athletes shall abide by additional rules and regulations presented normally to all team members of a particular sport by the coaches and/or athletic director.

- Practice attendance and game playing time requirements to qualify for physical education credit will be decided by each coach of each sports and will be discussed prior to the start of the season.

PRACTICE WEAR

In some cases, student-athletes will be provided a practice uniform which must be worn at all practice sessions. Student-athletes must provide their own socks, athletic shoes, and any other items as specified by the head coach. No types of sandals will be allowed for practice.

Student-athletes are responsible for providing their own lock, deodorant, towel, and other personal hygiene products. Showers are available in the locker rooms.

EQUIPMENT

Student-athletes must take appropriate care of all uniforms, equipment, school facilities, and property. Student-athletes may be charged for the full replacement cost for any lost, damaged, or stolen items.

GENERAL GYM/FACILITY RULES

- Food and drinks are not allowed in the gymnasium at any time. Chewing gum is prohibited. Exception to this rule is during athletic games/contests in which concessions are being sold.
- Only non-marking gym shoes are to be worn in the gym. Do not wear cleats inside the building. Students will not be allowed to participate in any activity without proper footwear. No bare feet allowed.
- Students are not allowed in the gymnasium or weight/exercise room without proper supervision by a coach.
- Gym lockers will be issued to each student. Personal locks are allowed, but the coach will need the combination or the spare key. Lost locks must be paid for before another one can be issued.
- **Students are strongly urged to lock up their belongings at all times as the school cannot accept responsibility for lost or stolen articles.*

- P.E. uniforms will be purchased by Winston parents through Parker Uniforms. It will also be the responsibility of the student and his/her family to launder and care of the uniforms. Sport-specific uniforms (provided by The Winston School) will also be collected and washed by the athletic department. All athletic lockers will be cleaned out before the end of the school year by the student-athlete and items left behind will be collected and kept in lost and found. All unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of May.
- All students are responsible for the proper use, care and maintenance of all school property.
- Students are not allowed to remove any items from the storage areas (athletic shed, uniform lockers, or equipment cage) without permission from a coach.

ATHLETIC LETTERING

Athletic lettering is based on student participation in games, practice attendance, and the amount of playing time they have accumulated within that season. The discretion of issuing letters to student-athletes will be left to the coach of the specific sport and the athletic director. Only grades 9th – 12th qualify to letter in a sport.

TRANSPORTATION

Participants **MUST TRAVEL TO AND FROM EVENTS ON BUSES OR VANS AS PROVIDED BY THE WINSTON SCHOOL.** Parents/guardians may transport **ONLY THEIR CHILD** home from an event with pre-arranged approval from the coach. Due to liability concerns, parent drivers of participants other than their own children from an event may only occur after approval from the main office in conjunction with the A.D. and the Head Coach. While the athletic department realizes that extenuating circumstances do occur, all athletes must secure approval from the coach, and the coach requires written notification from the parent, in advance of contests, of a transportation request or change electronically or paper form.

If a student-athlete leaves immediately following a game/contest away from The Winston School with a parent/guardian, they must take their belongings to the game and must turn in their school-issued uniform before departing. Permission to ride must always be granted by the coach in charge, and is not left to student discretion.

COMMUNICATION

At the earliest possible time, the Athletic Director will enter season information onto the Athletic

web-page for each sport. This information will include the following:

- a schedule of games and game results
- location of all games and contests
- League information, athletic forms, etc.

Coaches should also remind student-athletes at least one day prior to an athletic event of the following information:

- destination
- time of departure and estimated time of return
- appropriate uniform and attire to wear

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

All schedules can be viewed on The Winston School website www.winston-school.org . This website will be updated in the event of cancellations or changes.

Parents/athletes will be notified in advance, whenever possible, of any schedule changes. In the case of inclement weather, please call the athletic department by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled contest for status or check the website for updates.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Winston School Athletic Booster Club is open to all families. It is comprised of parents and staff who volunteer their time and effort to work together to promote and support the financial goals and objectives of the athletic program. The financial donations and volunteer work are essential to the overall success of the athletic program. All families are encouraged to join the booster club.

If you have questions, comments, concerns, or need to schedule a meeting with a coach or the athletic director, please call or email the athletic department between 8am-4pm. The number is 214-691-6950 X 211 and my email is timothy_waters@winston-school.org.

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