

Aransas Pass

Independent School District

Athletic Code of Conduct



2009 - 2010

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ARANSAS PASS ATHLETICS

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Aransas Pass Independent School District strives for excellence in education, athletics, and all extra-curricular activities. The Aransas Pass Athletic programs are an integral part of the school district's quest for excellence.

In support of the district's standard of excellence, the Aransas Pass Athletic Department is committed to maintaining a program that reflects the attitudes and values of our school district: discipline, integrity, academic excellence, leadership, equity, diversity and success. We believe that an athletic program that reflects these values contributes to the overall development of the student athletes, enhances their entire school experience, and fosters a strong sense of community pride.

As a result, student athletes leaving our athletic program will possess the skills, attitudes, maturity and self discipline necessary to be successful contributing members of society.

This Plan and Code is not a contract. The purpose of this document is to serve as a guide only. The policies and procedures contained in this document can be changed at any time to serve the best interest of the District.

EXTRACURRICULAR STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

With the approval of the principal and Superintendent, sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics and marching band, may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on and off school property. No provision of any extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.

Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of interscholastic athletics and marching band, at the time the students report for workouts or practices that occur prior to the actual beginning of classes. Students and their parents shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity.

Organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES

Athletic activities are an extension of the educational experiences that a school may choose to offer. Therefore, participation is voluntary and is a privilege. Those students who choose to participate must be aware of the Code of Conduct in our school district. Each participant is expected to operate within the framework of these rules and regulations.

Acceptable conduct is important because an athlete is an integral part of a team concept and his/her behavior is a reflection of the entire team. Furthermore, when an athlete competes against another school at their site, he/she represents our school district and all that it stands for. Striving to earn respect for ones' self, school, and community should be a primary goal of all who participate in athletics.

The Interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies rules and regulations. **While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone “winning at any cost” and discourages any and all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health.** At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way so as to justify it as an educational activity.

Cooperation and understanding of the total program are essential in achieving success.

Note: The Athletic Department is not and will not be held responsible for any personal items lost, stolen or damaged.

ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

The following regulations have been established by the Aransas Pass Athletic Staff for participation in the Athletic Program. We believe they will help to achieve our goal of having the best athletic program possible. If an athlete fails to follow these rules, the following course(s) of action will be taken: Counseling the athlete, and/or dismissal of the athlete from the team (this could be for one or more games or for the remainder of the season). These regulations do not supersede APISD's rules. These rules and standards have been set for the purpose of allowing you the privilege and honor of being a part of a successful organization, the opportunity to become a better competitor, and to instill desirable traits of good citizenship. The coaching staff would like for each athlete to be able to give APISD 100% effort, both in the classroom and on the playing fields. In order to do this you must have good nutrition and get plenty of rest. Athletes and parents are welcome to talk to the coaching staff if they feel there is a problem.

1. The use of any illegal drug could result in dismissal for the remainder of the school year incumbent on the district policy. This includes Alcohol or tobacco in any form. The district rule prevails for on - campus violations.
2. Any athlete caught stealing is subject to suspension and can be removed from the program (this could be for one or more games or for the remainder of the season).
3. Insubordination and disrespect to coaches can result in suspension from the players' respective team. This will also include cursing at a coach, referee, or opponent.
4. Follow, without question, rules set by the Board of Trustees concerning the dress code. UIL rules apply and also a code of safety. At times you will be asked to cut hair, or to remove any jewelry you may be wearing, such as rings, ear rings, necklaces etc. This is for your safety as well as your team mates and opponents.
5. You will be responsible for all equipment furnished for your use, and it is to be returned to the school in the best possible condition. This regulation also applies when you borrow equipment from the school or a team mate.
6. Remember that as an athlete, if you fail to follow regulations or bring discredit to yourself, your team or APISD, you maybe removed from athletics or your team.
7. Athletes on school trips must travel to and from events with the team. The only exception to this regulation will be a direct written request from the parent stating that they will be traveling in the opposite direction.
8. Athletes who "drop out" of a current sport will not be eligible to participate in another sport until the current sport is concluded. To officially "drop" from a sport, the athlete must talk to the coach and turn in all equipment. Exception: If there is a written agreement between the two coaches and the Athletic Director.

Coaches Regulations: The individual head coach is allowed to set his/her own regulations (over and above the regulations stated above) regarding discipline or any other facet of the sport as long as those regulations are written down and have been approved by the Athletic Director and Superintendent. Each coach is to provide a copy of these regulations to each athlete on his/her team. It is also suggested that the coach have the parent(s) sign and return some statement stating they have read and understood the regulations. These statements will be kept on file.

I. Behavior

- A. An athlete must be a model of good behavior in school, outside of school, and while visiting other schools. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action being taken by the Head Coach as well as a penalty for violating this policy rule.

II. Eligibility

- A. The athlete must be in compliance with the district’s enrollment policies as well as the rules and regulations of the University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) and the Texas Education Agency.
- B. The number of credits earned the previous school year determines participation the first six weeks of the new school year.
Grades 7, 8 & 9: Student must have been promoted from the previous grade.

As a **10th Grader:** A student must have earned at least five (5) accumulated credits the previous 12 months.

As an **11th Grader:** A student must have earned at least ten (10) accumulated credits the previous two years or five credits during the previous 12 months.

As a **12th Grader:** A student must have earned at least fifteen (15) accumulated credits the previous 3 years or five credits during the previous 12 months.

If an athlete does not meet the above criterion, they are ineligible through the first six weeks. They must be passing all classes at the end of the first six weeks to become eligible.

* All credits must count toward state graduation requirements.

- C. Athletes who fail a six weeks will become ineligible and placed on probation for three weeks. At the three-week point, the athlete must be passing **all** classes in order to regain eligibility. If failure continues, the athlete remains ineligible for the remainder of the six weeks and may eventually be removed from the team if failure continues. (During the period of ineligibility the athlete **must** continue to practice, but may not attend, travel or participate in a contest with the team. Failure to attend practice may constitute dismissal from the team. The athlete, however, may participate in an organized scrimmage.)

- D. If an athlete is suspended or placed in D.A.E.P. he/she is ineligible to practice or participate in a contest for the length of the suspension or placement. When and if an athlete returns from D.A.E.P. he/she must wait a total of **(10)** school days before they are allowed to suit up and participate in their first contest. They must, however, practice with the team during this time. Should an athlete quit or walk off the playing or practice field or be kicked off the team and then allowed back on the team, the above rule also applies. They must also wait **(10)** school days before they can participate in their first contest. However, if an athlete was sent to D.A.E.P. based only on criminal charges filed against them and the charges are dropped or they are found innocent, then there is no waiting period, when the athlete returns from D.A.E.P. they may begin practicing immediately and play in a contest that week.
- E. I.C.E. – “Individual Corrective Environment” is an in-school placement at the middle school where students may go if they get in trouble. The length of stay in I.C.E. will vary from **(5)** to **(15)** days. If an athlete at the middle school is sent to I.C.E., he/she is ineligible to practice or participate in a contest for the length of the suspension or placement.
- F. P.U.R.G. – “Placement Under Restrictive Guidance”, is an in-school placement at the high school where students may go if they get into trouble. The length of stay in P.U.R.G. will vary from **(5)** to **(15)** days. If an athlete is placed in P.U.R.G., they will be suspended for the length of time in P.U.R.G. from any and all contests. They will not be allowed to attend practice. An athlete will not be released early from P.U.R.G. to participate in an athletic contest.
- G. The consequences for being placed in I.S.S. will be determined by the Head Coach of the sport in season. They will be suspended for the length of time in I.S.S. from any and all contests. They must, however, attend practice. An athlete may not be released early from I.S.S. to participate in a contest.

III. Equipment

- A. All athletes will be issued a locker and a lock in the athletic dressing room.
- B. The athlete is responsible for the upkeep of all equipment issued and the upkeep of the dressing room.
- C. The athlete is responsible for paying for all lost or damaged equipment before being cleared.

IV. Practice

- A. Athletes must attend every practice session when physically able to, even if just as an observer because of an injury. The Coach/Trainer is the only one who grants permission to miss practice and athletes must show the courtesy to notify the coach as to why he/she did not attend practice.
- B. If an athlete is absent from practice/game without excuse or demonstrates a lack of responsibility, he/she should expect disciplinary action, i.e, extra conditioning; suspension or removal from the sport. Athletes should expect to make-up missed practices or workouts with conditioning.
- C. Parents are not allowed to interact with Coaches or Players during practice or contest as per U.I.L. Parents must stay in the stands or outside of the playing fields.

V. Athlete Withdrawal

- A. When dropping from a team, an athlete must discuss the situation with the coach before the drop is finalized, all equipment that was issued must be returned, in good condition, as soon as possible. If an athlete wishes to change from one sport to another sport during that season, the athlete must request permission from each of the coaches involved. If an athlete drops during one season he/she cannot try out for a sport in the next season till the completion of the sport that was dropped unless permission is granted by both coaches and the **Athletic Director**. If an athlete is cut from a team, he/she is free to try out for another team during the same season.

VI. Tobacco and Alcohol

- A. An athlete shall not smoke cigarettes, use smokeless tobacco, or consume alcoholic beverages. When he/she is discovered or reported engaging in such activities, then immediate disciplinary action will be taken by the coach based on the seriousness of the offense (after proper investigation).

VII. Travel

- A. Transportation will be supplied by the school (bus, van, charter bus). Athletes will dress and act appropriately when traveling. School and athletic policies will be enforced at all times.
- B. Under normal conditions team members will travel to and from an athletic event using school transportation. An athlete may not take their own vehicle to the contest.
- C. Traveling to a contest, the athletes should remain quiet and focused on the contest.
- D. Radios, boom boxes, and jewelry should not be taken and or used while on the trip. Athletes will not be allowed to board the bus with these items.
- E. While at a contest, athletes are not allowed to leave the premises without proper supervision. Parents may take their athlete to get something to eat but must sign a written notice and give to the head coach.
- F. After the contest, athletes are encouraged to return on the bus with the team. Athletes may leave with their parents, however, they must give the coach a written and signed note indicating they have taken their child home with them. Athletes are not allowed to leave with someone else's parents, unless there is athletic director or principal approval one day in advance of the contest.
- G. Game spikes (track and baseball shoes) should not be worn on the bus. Athletes have cut the seats with these items.
- H. It is the parents' responsibility to provide transportation for their athletes to and from practice. Coaches are not responsible for this task.
- I. Once the team has returned home the athletes will clean all trash (ex. empty bottles, sunflower seeds, or paper bags) off the bus before departing.

VIII. Athletic Participation

- A. Coaches may make every reasonable effort to interest and encourage students in their activity. However, these efforts must never go to the extent of jeopardizing a student's participation in another activity or his/her academic success.
- B. Coaches should encourage students to participate in a variety of athletic endeavors.
- C. When seasons overlap, such as when a team is involved in University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) playoff games, an athlete must complete the season in progress before starting participation in another sport. However, the athlete must be given the opportunity to try out for the next sport after the playoffs are completed.

D. **High School Boys:**

If an athlete wishes to play football, basketball or baseball, they must be enrolled in the appropriate athletic period with the approval of the Head Coach of that sport. Few exceptions will be allowed.

High School Girls:

If an athlete wishes to participate in a sport other than Tennis and/or Golf, they must be enrolled in the appropriate athletic period with the approval of the Head Coach of that sport. Few exceptions will be allowed.

Junior High Boys and Girls:

If an athlete wishes to participate in a sport other than Tennis, they must be enrolled in the appropriate athletic period. Few exceptions will be allowed.

- E. When an athlete is involved in two or more sports simultaneously and contests overlap, the following guideline should be followed in order to resolve which contest has priority over the other:

Non-district vs. Non-district: The coaches need to meet and come to a mutual agreement before they meet with the athlete and recommend to the athlete what they feel is in the best interest of the athlete and the team. The athlete ultimately decides.

District vs. Non-district: The athlete must attend the district contest, unless otherwise agreed upon by both head coaches and the athletic director.

District vs. District: The coaches will meet and come to a mutual agreement, then meet with the athlete and recommend to the athlete what they feel is in the best interest of the athlete and team. The coaches should lean towards the sport, which realistically has the best chance of making the playoffs. The coaches ultimately decide.

District vs. Playoffs: A playoff game has precedence over a district contest, unless both Coaches agree otherwise.

Playoffs vs. Playoffs: The same as District vs. District.

IX. Injuries: Treatment, Follow-Up and Release

- A. Concern for the athlete's health and safety must be of primary importance to each coach. It must take priority over winning.
- B. All students who wish to participate in Interscholastic (U.I.L.) sports in the school district must receive their physical examination from the physician provided by the school district or their physician. The athlete needs to see the athletic trainer for the appropriate physical forms to be filled out.
- C. The head coach with the cooperation of the trainer must be aware of the nature of all injuries.
- D. The head coach must make it clear to the athletes at the outset of the season that all injuries must be reported regardless of their severity.
- E. In the absence of the athletic physician when the trainer is present, it is he/she who is directly responsible for making the final decision as to whether or not the athlete requires medical attention beyond first aid.
- F. When an injured athlete is required medical attention beyond first-aid, the trainer or coach (when a trainer is unavailable) must refer the athlete to the doctor or hospital emergency room which ever is the most appropriate at the time. If an ambulance is called the athlete must automatically be transported to the hospital emergency room.
- G. An athlete will not resume participation in the sport without a doctor's release form. This release form is to be given to the athletic trainer. The athletic trainer releases the athlete to the coach.

- H. If parents choose to take their child to an alternative healer, please inform the athletic trainer of any ointments that are rubbed on the injured area.
- I. Parents are encouraged not to tape their athlete. The athletic trainer and their student trainers are trained in this area and they do an excellent job. Please allow them to do their job.
- J. Questions relating to athlete injury should be directed to our athletic trainer.

X. Contest Behavior

- A. The athlete will not show disrespect for opponents or game officials. Violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action.
- B. The athlete will show respect for the coach and will follow all coaches' directions. Violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action.
- C. If an athlete is dismissed from classes early due to athletics, he/she is responsible for all work missed.
- D. Athletes should make arrangements to leave school premises as soon as possible after practice or contest is completed.

XI. Dress

- A. Only school issued equipment may be worn for practice/contests unless approved by the head coach. Shirts must be worn at all times. Shorts must be worn around the waist.
- B. No jewelry is allowed to be worn during practice/contests. Earrings, tongue rings, the back of an earring, or tape covering up an earring will not be allowed during practice or contests.
- C. Extreme hair styles that are considered to be disruptive to the instructional process or do not represent our school district in a favorable manner, i.e., Mohawks, spikes, unusual solid coloration, multi-color streaks; ponytails and rat-tails on males, will not be allowed.
- D. At the discretion of the head coach, proper game day attire may be required.
- E. **All tattoos must be covered during a contest and while at an all day event.**
- F. Any violation of the dress code may result in disciplinary action or removal from the team.

XII. Hazing

- A. Hazing includes any willful act done by a student, either individually or with others, to another student for the purpose of subjecting the other student to indignation, humiliation, intimidation, physical abuse or threats of abuse, social or other ostracism, shame, or disgrace.
- B. Students shall not engage in any form of hazing, nor shall any athlete encourage or assist any other person in hazing. Any form of hazing will result in disciplinary action.

XIII. Sexual Harassment (As per Student Code of Conduct)

- A. Sexual harassment by a student includes unwanted and unwelcomed verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, whether by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors.
- B. Students shall not engage in sexual harassment toward another student or a District employee. A substantiated charge of sexual harassment against a student shall result in disciplinary action.

XIV. Conflict Resolution and Chain of Command

The Chain of Command should be followed any time there is a problem with a coach. If a situation arises in which there is a disagreement between coach and player/parent, the following steps must be followed in order to resolve the situation:

High School:

- A. Student/parent should talk to the **coach** about concerns.
- B. Student/parent should next talk to the **Head Coach** of that sport about concerns.
- C. Females: Student/parent should next talk to the **Girls Athletic Coordinator, Coach Terri Seidel**, about concerns.
- D. Student/parent should next talk to the **Athletic Director, Russell R. Lee**, about concerns. It should be noted that any meeting at this level will include the player, parent or guardian and the coach in question.
- E. If necessary, student/parent can inform the **Principal** of the situation in writing.
- F. If necessary, the **Principal** will call together all parties for a meeting to resolve concerns.

Junior High:

- A. Student/parent should talk to the **coach** about concerns.
- B. Student/parent should next talk to the **Head Coach** of that sport about concerns.
- C. Student/parent should next talk to the **Junior High Athletic Coordinator, Phillip Dromgoole**, about concerns.
- D. Student/parent should next talk to the **Athletic Director, Russell R. Lee**, about concerns. It should be noted that any meeting at this level will include the player, parent or guardian and the coach in question.
- E. If necessary, student/parent can inform the **Principal** of the situation in writing.
- F. If necessary, the **Principal** will call together a meeting of all parties to resolve concerns.

XV. Lettering Requirements

The student athletes should meet the following requirements to be eligible for an Athletic Letter Jacket. (Boys and Girls Athletes)

- A. Meet the minimum requirements for lettering as set by the Head Coach for that particular sport that he/she participates in. These requirements are submitted to the Athletic Director and are kept on file in the Athletic Office.
- B. If a student athlete is not in good standing with the athletic program at the time the jackets are delivered, then that individual will not receive the award jacket.
- C. Athletic Department will purchase only one letter jacket per student for their entire four years in high school. All additional letters earned, or special recognition patches for All-District, etc. must be purchased by the student athlete.

XVI. Possible Consequences for Code Violations

The following is an example of possible consequences for violation of the rules in the Athletic Code of Conduct handbook and consequences are not limited to this list.

- A. Extra conditioning as assigned by the coach.
- B. Suspension of an athlete from the team for practice and contest for a certain period of time.
- C. Removal of an athlete from the team for the season.
- D. Removal of an athlete from the athletic program for **one calendar year**.
- E. Removal of an athlete from the athletic program **permanently**.

XVII. Amendments

With the approval of the Athletic Director, the head coach of each sport may enforce additional rules and regulations.

ARANSAS PASS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Athletic Code of Conduct Notification Letter

Dear Parent:

This booklet contains the Athletic Code of Conduct for this school district. It is designed to inform you and your athlete of the type of conduct expected in Aransas Pass Athletics. It is important that you and your athlete review this information together so that you will clearly understand the rules of acceptable conduct and the consequences of violation of established rules. With your support and encouragement I am confident your student will meet behavioral expectations of the Athletic Program. Those who fail to do so may expect to experience normal discipline management techniques, suspension, or removal from the athletic program.

Please sign below so that we may know that you have received and reviewed the Code of Conduct with your athlete. Please tear out and return the completed form to your athlete's coach. The athlete will not compete in a contest until this form has been turned in to the coach. If you have any questions relating to this Athletic Code of Conduct, please call or visit with the Athletic Director.

Sincerely,
Russell R. Lee
Athletic Director

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF 2009-10
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

I have received a copy of the Aransas Pass ISD Athletic Code of Conduct. I have read and/or reviewed the plan and consent to the contents of the plan as a condition of athletic participation.

School: A.C. Blunt Middle School Date: _____
 Aransas Pass High School

Athlete's grade level: _____ Sports: _____

Athlete's Name (Please Print): _____

Athlete's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

ARANSAS PASS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXTRACURRICULAR DRUG TESTING AUTHORIZATION FORM

Student's Name:

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Date: _____

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Aransas Pass Independent School District Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy. I understand that I will be asked to provide a sample for drug analysis. I consent to any such testing conducted as part of the drug testing policy, and I agree that I will not refuse to provide a sample for drug analysis, if requested by the Aransas Pass Independent School District.

Student's signature:

Parent/Guardian's signature:

* Parent / Guardian DOB: ___/ ___/ ___

OR

Parent / Guardian LAST four digits of Social Security Number: _____

* Information is needed to allow Medical Review Officer (MRO) to verify person contacted is parent / guardian concerning test irregularities or results.

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT IS VALID FOR THE 2009 TO 2010 SCHOOL YEAR.