



Athletic Code of Conduct

The discipline code for athletes has been developed in compliance with the District's Board-approved *Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct*, but with increased requirements due to the higher standards expected of athletes as student leaders. It is the intent of the athletic staff of Katy ISD to emphasize that self-discipline is an integral and essential part of any successful academic and athletic program. Specific information regarding the levels of discipline violations, and consequences, can be found in the Board-approved *Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct* which is given to every student at the beginning of the school year. Students disciplined for infractions at the campus-level will also receive one or more of the following consequences under the athletic code of conduct.

Level I and II Discipline Violations – Disciplinary offenses in Level I and II range from mild to more severe acts of misconduct that will result in one or more of the following consequences:

- a. Coach/athlete conference.
- b. Coach/athlete conference with additional sport-appropriate conditioning activities.
- c. Coach/athlete/parent conference and a behavior contract.
- d. Coach/athlete/parent conference and possible suspension for one or more games.

Repeated violations of Level I and II behaviors may result in more serious consequences or removal from the team and athletic program.

Level III Discipline Violations – Level III offenses are acts of misconduct which are serious and which disrupt the orderly educational process. Examples of disciplinary options at this level include suspension, assignment to ISS, referral to law enforcement, arrest, and/or restitution of damages. Athletes are prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored/school-related activities during the period in which they are suspended and/or placed in ISS. In addition to campus-based consequences, the Athletic Department may impose one or more of the following consequences:

- a. Coach/athlete conference.
- b. Coach/athlete conference with additional sport-appropriate conditioning activities.
- c. Coach/athlete/parent conference and a behavior contract.
- d. Coach/athlete/parent conference and suspension for one or more games.
- e. Removal from athletic program.

Level IV Discipline Violations – Level IV offenses are primarily acts of misconduct for which removal to the OAC is mandatory. The period of removal to the OAC will be based upon district guidelines that are in effect at the time the offense occurs. Athletes are prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored/school-related activities during the period of removal to the OAC. The Athletic Department may also impose one or more of the following consequences in addition to the OAC placement.

- a. Coach/athlete conference.
- b. Coach/athlete conference with additional sport-appropriate conditioning activities.
- c. Coach/athlete/parent conference and a behavior contract.
- d. Removal from athletic program.

For athletes to re-enter the athletic program after having been removed for any reason, the following procedure will be followed:

- Athletes and their parents(s)/guardians(s) will meet with the Campus Athletic Council*. At this meeting a probationary contract for re-entry into the athletic program will be developed. After discussing the specific contents and obligations outlined in the contract, all parties present will be required to sign the contract.

- Upon re-entry into the program on a probationary status, athletes will be suspended from any participation in any competition other than practices for a period of ten consecutive school days.
 - The suspension will begin on the first day of re-enrollment on the school campus.
- During the ten-day probationary suspension, athletes will be required to complete additional sport appropriate conditioning activities as directed by the coach.

*Campus Athletic Council shall be composed of the Campus Athletic Coordinator, Assistant Athletic Coordinator, the head coach of the sport involved, and the principal or an appropriate assistant principal of the campus.

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All Level IV drug and alcohol-related violations will result in removal from athletics and will also require athletes and their parent(s)/guardians(s) to meet with the Campus Athletic Council to consider a probationary contract for re-entry.

A second Level IV violation (regardless of where the infraction occurs) will result in a suspension for one calendar year from the date of the second incident. Any second violation during the junior high years (grades 7-8) will result in a one-year suspension. After a first offense in high school, any second violation during the high school years (grades 9-12) will result in a one-year suspension.

Level V Discipline Violations – Any behavior that falls into this category requires mandatory expulsion from school and all school-sponsored/school-related activities.

Athletes involved in a Level V disciplinary infraction will automatically be suspended from the athletic program for a period of one calendar year from the date of the incident. Upon completion of this suspension from athletics, athletes who desire re-entry into the program must meet with the Campus Athletic Council and be accompanied by their parent/guardian. At this meeting, a probationary contract will be developed outlining the requirement for re-entry. If all parties agree to the contract, as evidenced by their signatures, the student will be allowed to re-enter the program on a probationary basis.

Specific Athletic Code Violations and Consequences

Drug Violations

Student athletes who are arrested and charged with selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of drugs (including steroids) whether on or off campus, will be automatically suspended from the athletic program until guilt or innocence is determined. Athletes found guilty of an alleged offense will be suspended from all athletic participation of any kind for a period of one calendar year from the date of the incident. In cases where a campus has jurisdiction to take disciplinary action, athletes must complete any campus-level disciplinary sanctions before being eligible to return to the athletic program.

Deferred Adjudication/Deferred Prosecution

Deferred adjudication does not equate to “not guilty”. A judge may, after receiving a plea of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere, defer further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt, and place a defendant on community service. In effect, if the defendant complies with the conditions of probation as ordered by the judge for a specified period of time, the defendant would receive the benefit of not actually being found guilty of the offense as charged. During the period of deferred adjudication, athletes will remain suspended from participation in any athletic activities.

Likewise, deferred prosecution does not equate to “not guilty”. The prosecuting attorney may defer prosecution for any child if the preliminary investigation results in a determination that further proceedings in the case are necessary. The probation officer or other officer of the court may also request deferred prosecution in certain circumstances as allowed by statute. Deferred prosecution simply delays the court hearing regarding the student’s case for a period not to exceed six (6) months. The child is not detained during or as a result of deferred prosecution. At the end of the deferred prosecution period, the court hearing is scheduled for a determination to be made in the

criminal case. During the period of deferred prosecution, athletes will remain suspended from participation in any athletic activities.

Indictment for a Felony

Athletes, while under indictment for a felony, whether on or off campus, will not be allowed to participate in any capacity in the athletic program. (This includes exclusion from both practices and games.) When guilt or innocence is established, re-admission to the athletic program will be determined based upon that outcome. In cases where the campus has jurisdiction to take disciplinary action, the student must complete any campus-level disciplinary sanctions before returning to the athletic program. Likewise, students on deferred adjudication will need to complete the probationary period specified by the judge prior to consideration for reinstatement in the athletic program.

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Appeals

Athletes are provided the same opportunity to appeal a disciplinary consequence for a violation of the Board-approved *Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct*, where applicable, in the same manner as all other students. Disciplinary actions resulting from a violation of the Katy ISD Athletic Code of Conduct are not appealable.

The contents of these guidelines are not contractual, and do not give rise to a claim of breach of contract against the school district. Further, the contents of these guidelines apply to all athletes in the Katy Independent School District, as the contents now appear or may be amended in the future.

It is the policy of Katy ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, religion, color, or national origin in its educational programs and/or activities or in its employment practices.