

# ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

## JUDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Judson ISD provides comprehensive athletic programs for the benefit of JISD students. The belief is that participation in athletics can provide students the opportunity to learn responsibility, dedication, leadership, the value of hard work, respect for the rules, respect for authority and many other positive qualities. Regulations are established to promote these qualities and to help build and maintain strong programs. In addition, an athlete who quits one sport cannot participate in another sport while the sport he quit is in season. This applies only to the year he/she quits. **It is recognized that some of the expectations for students involved in athletics exceed the expectations for the general student body.** These students are expected to follow district policies and all program-specific procedures set by the district and the school. Violations of the rules will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. The facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining consequences for rule violations.

It is the desire of Judson ISD coaches and directors to educate and counsel our students on the harmful effects of a violation of this Athletic Code of Conduct and the potential consequences inflicted upon themselves, their families, and their respective teammates should they choose to breach the Athletic Code of Conduct. It is also the intent of the Athletic Code of Conduct to provide a clearly defined course for our student to follow and instill a belief that a one-time infraction need not result in a permanent pattern in life.

In all instances of an alleged violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct, the student will be provided due process. The process for determining a violation of the Code of Conduct will be established by the principal on his/her campus. Any student involved in an extracurricular activity who is found to be in violation of any of the infractions mentioned below will face disciplinary action.

Once guilt has been determined, the Student Code of Conduct, as outlined in the JISD Student Handbook, will be used when possible and applied to all cases concerning the Athletic Code of Conduct. The following consequences will be administered throughout JISD when infractions occur:

### **TOBACCO**

No athlete shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of tobacco.

A first offense will result in a 2-week suspension of the student from game competition or athletic participation. If there are not 2 weeks remaining the particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season. A contract will be required.

A second offense will result in dismissal of the student from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year in which the infraction occurred. Another contract is required.

**A third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle or high school athletic programs.**

## **ALCOHOL**

No athletic participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol.

The first offense will result in a 4 week suspension of the student from game competition or participation. If there are not 4 weeks remaining in that particular sport, season, or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season. A contract will be required.

The second offense will result in dismissal of the student from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year. Another contract is required.

**A third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school athletic programs.**

## **ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**

No athletic participant shall, while on or off campus, sell give, deliver, use, posses, or be under the influence of any controlled or otherwise illegal substance.

A first offense will result in a 6 week suspension of the student from game competition or activity. If there are not 6 weeks remaining in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season. A contract will be required.

**A second offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school athletic programs.**

## **THEFT**

Any extracurricular participant guilty of theft will face the following consequences:

A first offense will result in a 3-6 week suspension of the student from game competition determined by the circumstances involved in the theft. If there are not 3-6 weeks left in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in the subsequent sport season. A contract will be required.

A second offense will result in dismissal of the student from athletic participation for the remainder of the school year. Another contract is required.

A third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school athletic activities.

## **ATHLETIC ENVIRONMENT**

Any behavior deemed disruptive by a coach/administrator to the athletic environment of practices and/or games will be considered a violation of the athletic code of conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

## **ARRESTS**

Citations or arrests on or off campus in regards to smoking, using/selling or possession of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, drinking alcoholic beverages, vandalism or any behavior which causes embarrassment to the team or Judson ISD may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program. Any member of extracurricular organization **must notify** the head coach, director or sponsoring staff member immediately upon any arrest or citation. Failure to notify the staff member responsible for the program may result in suspension or dismissal from the program.

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

Participants in Judson ISD athletic activities will also ensure their personal electronic communication is appropriate. Any communication including, but not limited to Twitter, Facebook, photosharing, inappropriate texting that is published or appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Athletic participants are responsible for texting and electronic communications on the internet through their personal websites as well as postings on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd vulgar or obscene comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Communication on the internet or by electronic means by athletic participants that are published and as a result cause disruption or damage to school district property at Judson ISD or another school district are also inappropriate.

Any member of a Judson ISD athletic program who is involved in inappropriate, disruptive, negative, lewd, obscene, or sexual pictures, comments, or statuses on any social network such as, but not limited to, Twitter, or Facebook may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Behaviors that are identified by the Texas Education Code, Section 37.007, may also result in suspension or dismissal of a student from the athletic program. These behaviors are identified in the Student-Parent Handbook and are listed under Section III, The Student Code of Conduct, and will apply to students while on or off the campus. Student must remain aware that being a part of an extracurricular activity is considered an honor and a privilege and not a right. Therefore, it requires observance of all discipline policies whether or not a student is at school or school-related activities. While interacting with other students, members of athletic organizations shall refrain from any behaviors including but not limited to taunting, public displays of affection, artificial noisemakers or any other prohibited behaviors outlined within the UIL rules and regulations in conjunction with the JISD Student code of conduct.

The discipline consequences for violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct may include suspension or dismissal of the student from the athletic program. Such actions shall be taken by coaches, directors or sponsors only after consultation with the campus athletic coordinator and/or

school administration. A behavioral contract may also be used following various infractions. Consequences for some rule violations may be addressed by coaches through discipline within the student's program. Additional disciplinary consequences can also be imposed by the appropriate school officials for conduct or behavior that violates the District's Code of Student Conduct.

**Note:** if the offense occurs during the summer, the suspension from activities will begin with the first week of competition/activity.

If the offense occurs during the sport season, the suspension will begin with the next competition as determined by the coach, director or sponsor.

## **CONTRACTS**

Upon verification of a first offense of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, the student will be required to attend a conference in which he/she will be presented with a contract detailing future behavioral expectations. The contract will be signed by the student, parent(s) or guardians(s), campus administrator, and his/her particular campus and consequences for future rule violations. The contract must be signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or guardians) prior to his/her reinstatement to the extracurricular program.