

# SPARTANATHLETICS

## CODE OF CONDUCT

A student is not required to take part in athletics; therefore, **athletics is a privilege**. Consequently, when high ideals and standards are violated, the privilege can be revoked. All athletes will be expected to conduct themselves with pride and dignity. All procedures in this Code of Conduct are to be maintained while on campus and at all athletic events.

The general philosophy of the Stafford Middle School Athletic Department to attempt to help our athletes make good decisions; however, if poor decisions are continually repeated, the welfare of the team must take priority.

### Sports

Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Cross Country, Tennis, and Soccer are sports that will be offered at Stafford Middle School. Team selections will be based on the coaches' assessments. Fundamentals, attitude, and behavior, in and out of the classroom, will be taken into consideration for making a team at Stafford.

### Physicals

All students participating in athletics **must** have a physical signed by a doctor before being able to try-out or practice. The physical must be documented on the UIL physical form. All incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student-athletes must have a new physical each school year.

### Athletic Periods

1<sup>st</sup> Period-- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Athletics

7<sup>th</sup> Period—7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Athletics

2<sup>nd</sup> Period—7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Athletics

8<sup>th</sup> Period—8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Athletics

### Practice Times

Boys' Sports—All sports will take place before school.

Girls' Sports—All sports will take place after school.

**\*\*Depending on available staff and facilities, some practices may be held at other times throughout the school year.**

### Attendance and Tardies

Attendance at practices and contests is mandatory. **Skipping athletics or practice will not be tolerated.** Serious consequences will result for any athlete who is caught skipping. The conditioning part of the workout will be made up for both excused and unexcused absences. If the absence is unexcused, the athlete will also be required to make up the skill work missed during the practice and any additional work deemed appropriate by the coaching staff. The discretion of the coaching staff will be used to determine requirements for making up a prearranged absence due to another **mandatory Stafford** activity.

If an athlete is unable to work out for more than 2 days in a row, a doctor's note will be required for continued missed workouts.

If an athlete missed 2 or more practices from one scheduled contest to the next \*, excused or unexcused, he/she may not play in the next scheduled contest. Students who are tardy to practice may be required to make up the conditioning. Continual tardies to practice will affect playing time.

\*If there is more than one week between contests, the coaches will determine if the practice requirement was met.

### **Game Day Attendance**

Athletes must be in attendance for a minimum of a half day (4 full class periods) of school to be able to participate on a game night.

### **Personal Appearances**

1. **Dress: Game Day Dress Expectation**—Boys will wear pants, a button-down shirt with a tie, and dress shoes, except during football season where jerseys will be worn on game day. Girls will wear a skirt or dress pants, along with a nice shirt, or dress, unless told otherwise. We will look and behave professionally.
2. **Daily Dress**—All students are expected to meet school dress code every day; however, holding our athletes to a higher standard, continued issues with inappropriate dress could result in consequences at the coaches' discretion.
3. **Hair**—In accordance with school policy, hair shall be clean, well groomed, and out of the eyes. It shall be styled in such a way that is not distracting and/or designed to be conspicuous. The athlete's hair should be neatly trimmed to meet his/her coach's satisfaction. Hair should not be an unnatural color. **Bleaching and dying of hair a difference color is unacceptable.** Facial hair such as mustaches, beards, goatees, and extremely long sideburns are not allowed.
4. **Body Art/Piercing**—The athletic department realizes that sometimes athletes will have tattoos and body piercings; however, neither shall be visible when representing FISD as an athlete. This includes earrings, belly button rings, and other piercings. Examples of events deemed inappropriate include: practice, games, banquets, and at tournaments. Tattoos must be covered. Body jewelry and earrings must be removed, **including new piercings.**

### **Quitting the Team**

If an athlete decides to quit a sport, then the athlete **may** not be allowed to rejoin the team. Whether or not an athlete is permitted to rejoin the team will be at the discretion of the head coach. If an athlete quits one sport and is seeking to join another sport within the same school year, then the athlete's ability to join a new sport immediately will be at the discretion of the head coach and athletic coordinator.

### **Other Sports and Activities**

We want to encourage our student-athletes to participate in as many sports and activities as they would like but encourage them to keep in mind the following parameters: In-season sports take precedence over all other activities and events. We will do our best to accommodate conflicts with other schedules, but by enrolling in our athletic program, you have chosen that **Stafford Athletics is your primary commitment.**

**Stafford games cannot be missed for outside practices or games without consequence, (i.e. losing playing time, even up to a whole game.)**

## **Athlete's Conduct**

Athletes and their parents will show respect for all coaches, teachers, officials, teammates, opponents, fans, visitors, and school officials. Stafford athletes should strive for, and be taught, acceptable and proper conduct at all school functions and in the community, as they are representatives of their school and athletic program. Profanity will not be tolerated in the athletic program. Any unsportsmanlike behavior on or off the field, such as fighting, mouthing, taunting, etc. will be addressed by the coaching staff and may result in disciplinary action by administration.

Coaches have the right to discipline athletes in their individual sport but will exercise sound judgment in evaluating each situation. Punishments may range from conditioning to suspension from the program. Keeping in mind the welfare of the team, as well as the welfare of the individual, coaches will discipline in a consistent manner. If suspension or removal from the program happens for disciplinary reasons, this removal is for all sports for the remainder of the school year.

Consistent C-halls and behavior issues are unacceptable within our athletic program and consequences for each action are as follows:

**\*\*The following consequences may be implemented for athletes during in-season sports as well as the off-season program.**

C-Hall	Extra cardiovascular conditioning and/or loss of playing time, up to full game suspension
TNR (behavior)	Miss that day's contest
Full day ISS	Full game suspension for next scheduled contest [and make-up conditioning missed during athletics].

**\*\*Multiple occurrences (ISS or OSS) could result in removal from that sport or that athletic program.**

## **Locker Room, Equipment, and Theft**

Equipment, that is school property, will be issued to each player and a record will be kept. Athletes are issued an athletic locker with their own combination. It is the athlete's responsibility to take care of his/her equipment. The athlete will pay for any lost, stolen, or damaged equipment. The athlete will not wear or use school equipment for personal use. All equipment will remain at school unless instructed by a coach to take home. Athletes may not wear equipment home, wear another athlete's equipment, leave equipment out or have a messy locker room. Any violation will result in disciplinary action. **Stealing will not be tolerated.** Any athlete caught stealing may be removed from the program for the remainder of the school year. Cell phones, music devices, etc. are brought to school at the athlete's own risk and should be locked up. These devices are subject to school disciplinary actions if being used when they should not be, or in a manner that is not acceptable.

## **Substance Abuse**

Alcohol, tobacco, and drugs will not be tolerated at any time in our program. Punishment will be dealt with through our Code of Conduct policies and could range from one game suspension to suspension from the program. This policy applies to all extracurricular activities in Frisco ISD.

## **Transportation**

We will provide transportation to and from the games for all athletes. Each student athlete **must** ride the bus to the game. Football players must ride the bus to and from contests. The FISD **expectation** is for student-athletes to stay and support teammates when their individual games are finished. This promotes an environment of team unity and helps encourage the overall direction of the athletic program. In an emergency situation, the **exception** will be that an athlete may be signed out by his/her parent. Athletes must be picked up from contests within a reasonable time frame (15 minutes) upon completion of practice/games. If students continue to have problems being picked up, the athlete may be removed from the program.

## **Off-Season**

Any student-athlete not participating in the current sport will be placed in an off-season program. This program will involve conditioning and weight training as well as drills to prepare the athlete for the next sport. The program will take place only during the school athletic period.

## **Participation**

We encourage all of our student-athletes to participate in all the sports offered at Stafford. With this being said, every athlete must try-out for at least one sport. Unfortunately, the coaching staff will have to make roster cuts in volleyball, basketball, track, and soccer. Athletes who do not participate in any sports in 7<sup>th</sup> grade will have to try-out and **make** a team in order to be put in athletics in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Eligibility**

Athletes are held to a higher standard in the classroom. To be eligible to participate in athletic contests, a student must pass all classes with a minimum of 70% each six-week grading period. Two consecutive failing report cards may result in being placed in the off-season program for the remainder of the year.

## **Tutorials**

We promote academics coming first, and any athlete who needs to attend tutorials will be encouraged to attend. If an athlete is failing, he/she will be required to attend tutorials in that subject. Teachers will have tutorials before and after school, so athletes will need to attend tutorials that do not conflict with their respective practice times. For boys, tutorials will be in the afternoons. For girls, tutorials will take place in the mornings. If this cannot be arranged, athletes may be required to come 20 minutes early/after to practice to make-up missed conditioning.

## **Grading**

Athletes must be on time and suited out for work out. **Attendance at practice and games is mandatory**, even if injured. Student-athletes must participate to the fullest of their abilities in all practices and games. Athletes must follow all athletic policies as agreed upon in our Code of Conduct. Participation, attitude, work ethic, and compliance with our Code of conduct will constitute 100% of the six-weeks' grade.

### **Parent Concern**

Parent concerns should be handled in the following order:

**ATHLETE/PARENT→ COACH OF SPORT→ ATHLETIC COORDINATOR→ ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL→ PRINCIPAL**

**A successful athletic program has communication between coaches and parents, coaches and athletes, and athletes and parents. We encourage parents to share in their son/daughter's athletic experience and help make it positive and rewarding. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with your child.**

Stafford Middle School Coaching Staff

**To sign this form (REQUIRED) please follow the below link:**

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LG7UQ\\_sW9K\\_tiG1qyFIY3Ux789oQl8ry2kgJuNx7Pak/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LG7UQ_sW9K_tiG1qyFIY3Ux789oQl8ry2kgJuNx7Pak/viewform)**