

STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



SWEENY ISD

Sweeny Independent School District

Athletic Department

MISSION STATEMENT

WE BELIEVE

it is the mission of the Sweeny Independent School District Athletic Department to provide successful athletic experiences upon which participants can build for life-long opportunities.

WE BELIEVE

a successful athletic program establishes a winning atmosphere, enables students to participate at their highest level of ability, and fosters self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence, and team spirit. Such a program also emphasizes abiding by the rules of UIL.

WE BELIEVE

it is the districts responsibility to provide the athletic program with the necessary facilities, equipment, personnel, and support.

WE,

the athletic staff of the Sweeny Independent School District, are committed to doing whatever is necessary to accomplish this mission.



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Introduction

The policies in this handbook are in compliance with school board policies and administrative procedures.

This handbook supersedes all prior publications governing Sweeny athletic teams and shall be used by all principals, coaches, and players in grades 7-12.

The athletic program is an integral part of the total school experience for both boys and girls. It offers a variety of sports and activities to all students who have potential skill and the desire to participate.

The procedures and regulations set forth in this handbook are designed to provide for the efficient operation of such a program.

You, the student athlete, will be held accountable and responsible for all policies contained within this handbook and for any additional ones that your respective coaches might add.

Philosophy

We believe that an exemplary athletic program is an extension of the classroom. As such, athletics offers students an opportunity to develop and grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. Positive benefits of athletics include, but are not limited to, self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence, and the development of team spirit. Further, participants learn the values associated with competition and benefit from the experience of both winning and losing. For the participating athlete, these experiences provide an integral part of the foundation needed to be a productive citizen capable of leading a full and enriching life.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Participation in athletics means more than competition between the different individuals or the different teams representing different schools. It teaches fair play, sportsmanship, understanding, and appreciation of teamwork. It also teaches that quitting means failure, while hard work means success. With these goals in mind, this guide was set up for the use of all concerned, because the conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life.

In the area of athletic competition, a real athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics. He learns the fact that winning and losing are part of the game, and that he should be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent of a well-played game after a contest. False athletes often display fits of temper when things fail to go as desired or when replaced by a teammate. A true athlete has complete control of him or herself at all times.

Any behavior contrary to that, which has been stated, is direct reflection of your school, to other players and coaches, and will not be tolerated.

Participation

It is the goal of this athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics nor is participation in athletics required. **It is to be stressed that participation in the Sweeny ISD Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right.** Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with Sweeny ISD policy and due process procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and standards of this athletic program are not followed.

Available Sports

The following sports are available for the student athletes of Sweeny ISD:

Football	Boys teams Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman, Junior High
Basketball	Boys and Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman, Junior High
Baseball	Boys Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Softball	Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity
Track & Field	Boys and Girls Grades 7-12
Volleyball	Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman, Junior High
Tennis	Boys and Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity, Junior High
Golf	Boys and Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity, Junior High
Cross Country	Boys and Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity, Junior High
Soccer	Boys and Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity
Powerlifting	Boys and Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity

**The teams may be increased or reduced pending participation.

Responsibility of the Athlete

All athletes have the responsibility to give their best, play to win, follow training guidelines, exhibit good conduct and fair play at all times, so as to be a credit to his/her school. Athletes, as well as coaches, are always on display. We are judged by the company we keep. Our actions in everyday life, both private and public, are a direct reflection on this athletic program and our school district. The responsibilities of Sweeny ISD athletes are as follows:

During Competition, an Athlete:

1. Learns that both winning and losing are part of the game and must learn to accept both. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
2. Does not use illegal tactics in an attempt to defeat the opponent or to beat the rules of the game.
3. Has complete control of himself/herself at all times. Displays of temper, use of profanity, disrespect for coaches and officials will result in loss of respect for the athlete and in disciplinary action from the coach.
4. Will respect the decisions of the officials at all times.

In the Classroom, an Athlete:

1. Must realize that he/she is a student first, an athlete second. The student-athlete must give time and energy to their academic courses to achieve acceptable grades that meet both local and TEA requirements for participation.
2. Must maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record. Tardiness, disrespect for teachers, and unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated.
3. Attendance is required the day of competition to be eligible to compete.

On Campus, an Athlete:

1. Must maintain proper dress and appearance, grooming, and personal cleanliness.
2. Will refrain from fighting, horseplay, and unacceptable behavior in and around the school building.
3. Will seek out avenues to become leaders in the school population and be good role models for our young future student-athletes.

During the Athletic Period and Before/After School Practice, an Athlete:

1. Will notify the coach if he/she needs to miss a game or practice that is scheduled after school hours.
2. Will be dressed out and prompt for roll check.
3. Will maintain a neat and clean locker space.
4. Will dress decently as he/she leaves the dressing room. **You will NOT be allowed to wear practice clothes home.**
5. Will place soiled laundry in the appropriate bin for washing.

During Team Travel, an Athlete:

1. Will travel to and from all out of town contests with the team. If for some reason you need to ride home with your parents/guardians, you must clear it with the coach in charge prior to leaving and you must present the school adopted written release form signed by your parents/guardians. Under no circumstances will you be released to ride with anyone other than your parents/guardians or person designated by your family.
2. Will dress neatly and properly for all trips. The type of competition, time, and length of the trip may dictate the type of dress acceptable.
3. Will conduct himself/herself properly on the school bus or school appointed vehicle.
4. Will receive permission from the coach before bringing any radios, electronic devices, etc. aboard the bus.
5. Will be informed of the departure and return times for each trip. Every effort will be made by the coaching staff to notify the proper personnel as to unexpected changes in arrival or return times.
6. Will not be allowed to bring parents, family members, or friends on bus trips.

Dress Code and Grooming

Grooming and Hair

1. Good hair grooming must be evident at all times, so as not to obstruct the student's vision.
2. The hair of male students should be kept neat, clean, and frequently trimmed.
3. Hair length in male students should not extend over the ears, curl up, or extend beyond the top of a dress shirt collar in back.
4. Male students shall be clean-shaven at all times. **No facial hair will be allowed while the student is participating in athletics.**
5. Sideburns should not extend below the bottom of the ear.

Social Networks:

Any depiction of drinking, smoking, drug use, or any other inappropriate actions or evidence of these actions (photos, comments, videos, etc.) is unacceptable. In addition, any online postings (including, but not limited to, MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat) that are disparaging towards another student, employee, or group at Sweeny I.S.D will not be tolerated. These actions will be handled on a case by case basis. Depending on the severity of the infraction (to be determined by the coach, athletic director, and principal), the penalty for such offenses will range from extra-conditioning to suspension or possibly even dismissal from the athletic program.

Miscellaneous

1. Caps, hats, and headbands are not to be worn inside buildings
2. Dark glasses are not to be worn inside the buildings, unless approved by the campus administrator.
3. The wearing of earrings is not appropriate for boys, while participating in athletics. We will adhere to the UIL rules that states that no jewelry will be worn during competition.
4. Suggestive writings, symbols, emblems or pictures on garments depicting sex, violence, blood or gore, satanism or cults are not permitted.
5. The display of advertising (logos and emblems) of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or tobacco products will not be permitted on clothing items.
6. Appropriate undergarments will be worn at all times.
7. Any student wearing attire deemed inappropriate by the campus administrator will be asked to change or be placed in ISS for the day.

Appearance is basically the responsibility of the students and parents. The school does not want to assume this responsibility; however, certain guidelines need to be followed so that the educational process is not diverted.

Student Eligibility

A student in grades 7-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year, only if the student has earned the cumulative number of credits in state approved courses indicated in this subsection:

1. Beginning at the 7th Grade year – promoted from the 6th to 7th grade
2. Beginning at the 8th Grade year – promoted from the 7th to 8th grade
3. Beginning at the 9th Grade year - promoted from the 8th to 9th grade
4. Beginning at the 10th Grade year – earn a minimum of (5) five credits toward graduation
5. Beginning at the 11th Grade year – earn a minimum of (10) credits toward graduation or Pass (5) five credits the previous 12 months.
6. Beginning at the 12th Grade year – earn a minimum of (15) credits toward graduation or Pass (5) five credits the previous 12 months.

In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for a six week period following the initial six weeks period of the school year, a student must not have received a grade lower than 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for that preceding six weeks period.

A student whose recorded six weeks average, in any course, is lower than a 70 at the end of the six weeks grading period shall be suspended from contest in any extracurricular activity during the succeeding 3 weeks periods until the end of the a 3 week period during which the student achieves a course grade average of at least 70 in **all classes**.

Physical, Medical, and Insurance Requirements

All Athletes are to have on file in the Athletic Trainer's office a copy of the following athletic forms. These will be updated at the beginning of each school year. These include:

1. Physical Form – current information regarding the health standing of each athlete. These must be completed on a standardized form and signed by the parent/guardian.
2. Acknowledgement of the Rules – signed form required by the UIL for participation.
3. Insurance Waiver – required UIL form indicating primary insurance coverage for the participating athlete.
4. Copy of Letter of Acceptance – form indicating receipt of Sweeny ISD student athlete handbook and understanding of policies and operational procedures concerning Sweeny ISD Athletics.

* Athletic insurance shall be offered to all students who are participating in UIL sponsored activities. The program will be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the UIL and the Sweeny Independent School District. This is a **secondary type** policy that will pay only after claims have been submitted to the athlete's primary carrier. If the athlete has no other coverage, then this coverage becomes primary. Policy requirements are subject to change yearly.

Procedures When Ill or Injured

Your health is not only a personal item, but a concern of the participating team. In the event you feel ill or your condition does not improve, see a doctor as soon as possible. An injury that possibly could hamper your ability to participate must be reported to the Athletic Trainer/Coach. Specific instructions regarding treatment by the trainer will be given to you at the start of the season. On all injuries, please check with the trainer/coach first. If further care is needed, the trainer can direct the athlete and parents to the appropriate source of care. Whenever you are injured, or ill of minor nature, you are required to dress out (but not participate) and attend any group/team teaching sessions. Treatment by the trainer will be set on an individual basis.

Athletic Passes

It shall be the policy of the Sweeny Independent School District Athletic Program to issue Player Passes to all student athletes participating in sports at Sweeny ISD. The Player Pass shall be used by all sports that charge admission for **HOME** games. The following stipulations shall apply to the passes:

1. Only the player whose name appears on the pass may use it. Free admission is allowed only when the pass is presented.
2. Identification may be required
3. Use of the pass may be revoked if (a) an unauthorized person uses the pass, or (b) the holder of the pass displays unsportsmanlike conduct at any contest.
4. Passes will be issued to admit athletes to Sweeny ISD **HOME** athletic events only. This does **NOT** include the playoffs.
5. If any athlete drops out of a sport, the coach of that athlete must take up the player pass as part of the issued equipment.
6. Replacement fee for a lost pass is \$10.00



Dropping A Sport

There will be times when some athletes find it necessary to quit playing a sport before, during, or after the season. Reasons for such a decision will vary widely, but despite the reason, the following should be adhered to when dropping a sport at Sweeny:

1. The athlete should think the whole situation through before reaching a final decision.
2. The athlete should talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached without having to quit. A conference between the parents, athlete, and coach or any combination thereof, may be required and is highly recommended before an athlete will be permitted to quit.
3. If an athlete decides to quit, he/she must check out of the sport, just as he/she would check out of any academic class.
4. All equipment must be returned clean. Missing equipment must be paid for.
5. If an athlete wants to return to a sport, he/she must consult the appropriate coach. The decision will be left to the discretion of the coach, campus athletic coordinator and the Executive Director of Athletics with regard to allowing the athlete to return or not to the team.
6. If the athlete decides to quit one sport, he/she will be placed in PE until the conclusion of that sport. If the athlete decides to quit a second sport (in one school year), he/she will be placed in PE and suspended from all sports for one calendar year.



Disciplinary Procedures

Many behaviors can be successfully managed by the coach. There should be immediate and consistent intervention of any behavior, which impeded orderly athletic procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of them.

I. Procedures

1. Intervention should occur by the coach who is supervising the athlete or who observes the misbehavior.
2. A record of offenses and disciplinary actions shall be maintained by the coach and turned into the Campus Athletic Coordinator and a copy sent to the Executive Director of Athletics.
3. The coach must discuss the misbehavior with the parent, Campus Athletic Coordinator and Executive Director of Athletics, or support personnel.

II. Discipline Options

1. Verbal reprimand.
2. Conference with the student
3. Detention: Athlete would be detained for first fifteen minutes of lunch period
4. All punishment must pertain to sport specific skills
5. Corporal Correction (punishment) – If allowed by parent/guardian
6. Be assigned school duties other than a class task, including but not limited to restoration of property and clean up.
7. Probation
8. Unable to suit up with the team for one game
9. Unable to suit up with the team for two games
10. Removal from team or sport he/she is participating in. If not actively participating in a sport at the time of the violation, the athlete will be suspended from the next sport they choose to participate in for 20% of the schedule season.

11. The student-athlete will be placed on one-year probation. Within that year's probation, if a major violation is committed, they will not be allowed to participate in athletics again at Sweeny ISD.
12. Dismissal from the sport for the season or dismissal from athletics for a year. As outlined in the District's Policy Manual, a student will be dismissed from the time of the infraction to the end of that year. If the infraction occurs within the last six weeks of school, the suspension is for the entire next year, until that date when the student was first suspended.

Appeal

The student and/or parent shall have the right to appeal any decision to suspend, expel a student, or place the student on probation from the athletic program.

Steps in Appeal:

1. Personal visit with the Coach
2. Personal visit with the Director of Athletics
3. Personal visit with the Building Principal
4. Personal visit with the Superintendent

An appeal by the student and/or parent of suspension, expulsion, or probation from athletics shall be considered by the appropriate school personnel, not on the basis of judgment(s), but on the basis of:

1. Variation from printed policy, administrative procedures, regulations, rules, and standards for membership and participation in athletics.
2. Failure to establish reasonable documentation that the student's conduct/behavior has violated the standards of athletics cause for suspension or expulsion; and
3. Failure to give the student/parent due process about the conduct/behavior and opportunity to refute the charges.

Athletic Department Policies – Sweeny I.S.D.

The following rules apply to all Sweeny ISD athletes at all times during the school year. This is not an all-inclusive list; prudent judgment will be made in assessing disciplinary action for the various offenses.

USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

We would like to have the option to use corporal punishment as a behavioral modification technique. Due to the nature of this discipline, we would use corporal punishment in place of physical punishment. We would always allow your child the option to choose. Due to the amount of time it takes to notify parents, we will not be calling you prior to administering the punishment. As the child's legal guardian, you need to check your option and sign the letter of acceptance page.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal Punishment may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Corporal punishment shall be limited to spanking or paddling the student, and shall be administered only in accordance with the following guidelines:

GUIDELINES

- (1) The student shall be told the reason Corporal punishment is being used
- (2) Corporal punishment shall be administered only by Executive Director of Athletics, principal, or assistant principal
- (3) The instrument to be used in administering corporal punishment should be approved by the principal
- (4) Corporal punishment shall be administered in the presence of another District professional employee and in a designated place out of view of other students.

DISCIPLINARY RECORDS

The disciplinary record of any corporal punishment shall include any previous disciplinary actions, the type of corporal punishment administered, the name of the person administering the punishment, the names of witnesses present, and the date and time of punishment.

PROFANITY / DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR

Profanity and disrespectful behavior will not be permitted on the field, court, dressing room, or on the school campus. Disciplinary action for these offenses will be outlined at the beginning of the season. Discipline will in all cases match the severity of the offense. This can include additional running to probation and suspension. Additional offenses will result in removal from the Sweeny Athletic Program.

ABSENCE FROM CONTEST / PRACTICE:

Workout time is valuable to you and your teammates. If you must be absent from practice or a contest, you must notify the Head Coach or the Athletic office (979) 491-8148. If you are sent home during the school day for any reason, it is important that you let the coach in charge know that you will not be at practice. Failure to report an absence will result in additional makeup work when you return. The amount of additional work will be determined by the coach in charge in concurrence with the Campus Athletic Coordinator. By following the call-in procedure, the athlete will lessen the amount of makeup work required for participation.

Disciplined teams win Championships. It is the cornerstone of all successful organizations. Do your part and bring PRIDE to yourself and the Sweeny community.

Multiple ISS assignment could be reason for removal from the athletic program.



Uniform Extra-Curricular Athletic Discipline Management System (EC-DMS)

This documentation covers the discipline procedures for all athletic extra-curricular programs with Sweeny I.S.D. Student participants in Sweeny I.S.D. will adhere to all the following disciplinary guidelines. By definition, discipline is meant to train, correct, mold, or perfect. In no way do we want to be harsh with our students or throw them out of organizations that are there to help build the very attitudes and characteristics that they may at times experience difficulty with. This discipline management system is designed to set high and consistent expectations for all athletic extra-curricular participants. If a student chooses to not cooperate with the system, he/she may ultimately be removed from extra-curricular activities.

SWEENY I.S.D. EC-DMS MISSION

It is the mission of the EC-DMS to deal with all major disciplinary offenses in a fair and consistent way.

Definitions & Expectations:

Suspension - During a period of suspension from an extra-curricular program, students may be required to practice but will not be allowed to compete in any event related to that organization, nor will they be allowed to travel with the group for fun or competitive trips

Probation - A period of one year after the offense. Any level one offenses committed during the probationary period extent the student to level two and a new one-year probationary begins. Further level-one offenses during the new probationary period advance a student through the levels and extend the probation each time. Once the probationary period is over, any offense would be considered on it's own merit. A probationary period begins the day that the sponsor meets with the student and delivers the written reprimand.

Communication Requirements - Any student, parent, or school employee who is aware of an offense on or off campus is under obligation to report it to the High School Principal. The Principal will then report the level of the offense to the sponsor of each organization the student belongs to.

Enforcement of the System - Enforcement of the EC-DMS will be the responsibility of the sponsor of each organization. The Principal will provide consultation to the sponsors as needed to assure consistency between organizations.

Appeals - If a student or parent feels that the system has been applied incorrectly, they must appeal in writing within 7 days to the sponsor. If the sponsor cannot resolve the matter, the appeal letter should be passed along to the Principal, then Superintendent, and finally the School Board.

Records - Each sponsor will be required to maintain a record on file of the action and submit a copy to the student &/or parent as well as the Principal. Documentation will be recorded on the written reprimand form.

Confidentiality - Everyone involved has a responsibility to maintain confidentiality

Scope of the System - The system is intended to apply to offenses that occur during school, during participation in the extra curricular event, or offenses committed out of school.

Removal - A period of time ranging from the rest of the school year to one full calendar year where the student would not be allowed to participate at all in an organization.

Uniformed Athletic Discipline Management Plan

Level I – Offense

- Use of tobacco products
- Destructive behavior (examples, but not limited to: Talking back, Profanity, Tardiness, Inappropriate Use of Social Media)
- Refusal or failure to fulfill the terms of a reprimand

Consequences

1. Written reprimand
2. One full calendar year of probation
3. Service to the organization as required by the Coach

Level II – Offense

- A repeat of any Level I – Offense while on probation
- Theft, if items are returned to owner
- Charged with Off-campus (non-school related) use or possession of alcohol.

Consequences

1. Written reprimand
2. One full calendar year of probation
3. Service to the organization as required by the Coach
4. Up to a three-week suspension

Level III – Offense

- Assignment to ISS
- Charged with On or Off-campus (non-school related) use or possession of any illegal drug.
- Major destructive behavior (examples, but not limited to: Walking out of a practice, Getting ejected from a contest, fighting)
- Theft if items are not returned to owner
- Three Level I – Offenses while under probation

Consequences

1. Written reprimand
2. One full calendar year of probation
3. 6-12 week suspension
4. Removal of any leadership responsibilities and/or privileges
5. Service to the organization as required by the Coach

Level IV – Offense

- Possession or use of any quantity of illegal drugs on campus or at school related event.
- Four Level I – Offenses while under probation
- Any violent or negligent behavior or acts that the Coach, Campus Athletic Coordinator, Executive Director of Athletics, and Principal feels endanger the safety or welfare of other Students or Coaches.
- Charged with any felony on or off campus

Consequences

1. Removal from the organization for a period ranging from the rest of the current school year to one full calendar year.
2. Proof of required counseling to regain entry into the organization at the end of the removal period.

Letter of Acceptance

The rules, regulations, and standards set forth in this Athletic Handbook are designed to give each athlete a sense of responsibility and pride through membership in the Sweeny Athletic Program whether they are on the fields of play/courts of play, in the classroom, in our community, or while visiting another city. Therefore, your signature commits you to abide by all regulations set forth in its contents. As a Sweeny ISD student-athlete, you must also abide by the following additional regulations. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the team or total athletic program.

1. I will strive for excellence in all my activities at all times while a member of the Sweeny ISD Athletic Program
2. I will faithfully abide by the training rules set forth in the handbook. I realize that failure to do so will result in the specified punishment.
3. I will abide by the practice schedules and complete my workouts each day.
4. I will personally notify my coach when I cannot attend after school practice, and will miss only under extreme circumstances.
5. I will abide by my coach's directions, instructions, and decisions, or I will drop out of that particular sport.
6. I will be responsible for the proper care of all school issued equipment
7. I will pay for any equipment I am personally responsible for losing, damaging, or destroying.
8. I have read the Athletic Handbook from cover to cover and fully understand my obligations, responsibilities, and duties to myself, my parents, my coaches, my school, and the community of Sweeny.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

A Note to Parents/Guardians of Sweeny ISD Athletes

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian I have read this manual and am aware of policies and operational procedures concerning Sweeny ISD Athletics. We ask you to assist us, as your sons/daughters coaches, to see that his/her athletic experience is worthwhile, rewarding, and a fun part of the educational process. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with your son's/daughter's expectations. Thank you for your cooperation!

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

_____ I will allow my son/daughter to receive corporal punishment in athletics

_____ I will NOT allow my son/daughter to receive corporal punishment in athletics

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Sweeny ISD Head Coaches

Randy Lynch	-	Director of Athletics / Head Football	491-8148
Tyler Rowlett	-	Junior High Campus Athletic Coordinator	491-8244
Henry Ashworth	-	Head Powerlifting	491-8144
Jo Ann Berry	-	Head Volleyball	491-8189
Melissa Hansen	-	Head Softball	491-8159
Crayton Henry	-	Head Tennis	491-8148
James Howell	-	Head Golf	491-8144
David Luster	-	Head Baseball	491-8144
Donica Owens	-	Head Girls Track	491-8159
Jesse Herrera	-	Head Boys Soccer, JH Football	491-8144
Valerie Soistman	-	Head Girls Basketball	491-8159
Ron Stewart	-	Head Boys Basketball	491-8144
Rilea Whitaker	-	Head Cross Country	491-8159
Samantha Kuykendall	-	Head Girls Soccer	491-8159

