

ATHLETIC POLICIES For Bronte ISD Student-Athletes

PREAMBLE

The Bronte Independent School District provides an athletic program only for the benefit of our students. We believe that participation in a competitive athletic program can provide students an opportunity to learn many things not available to them in the classroom. Athletes are encouraged to participate in every sport in which they have an interest and for which they have the ability to contribute to the sport.

It is recognized that some of the following rules are stricter than for the general student body. However, athletes are expected to accept and to follow the established rules. Violation of the rules will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. All known facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining what action will be taken. Students may be disciplined or dismissed from the athletic program for violation of those rules.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

- A. The intent is to establish as much uniformity as possible in the handling of the athletic guidelines of Bronte ISD.
- B. Each student who participates in the Bronte ISD Athletic Program, and their parents/guardians, will be required to sign a statement that they are aware of the significance of these guidelines before they can participate in a sport. One signing a career is adequate.
- C. Student athletes and their parents must be aware that the main degree of prevention lies in their hands. The coach will be bound by these guidelines.
- D. The coach will be required to carry out these guidelines as fairly as he/she can. The coach must:
 - 1. Inform all athletes under his/her responsibility of these rules.
 - 2. Apply rules and punishment as fairly as possible as put down in this paper.
 - 3. Coaches' discretion can be applied to the Code of Conduct for athletes.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES

1. Athletes are representatives of Bronte Independent School District. You are expected to conduct yourself with dignity. Respect in the classroom toward fellow students and teachers is necessary. Athletes are expected to act beyond the standards of conduct of other students as they are the leaders of the school. They must realize that because of the prominent role of athletes, their conduct must be above and beyond question at all times on or off campus.
2. Profanity is not allowed.
3. The use of formal language is expected when addressing coaches and officials; males should be addressed "Yes, Sir" or "No, Sir" when giving instruction and at other times during communication, and females should receive "Yes, Ma'am" or "No, Ma'am".
4. Student-athletes will be expected to maintain academic eligibility. Any student-athlete ineligible for two consecutive six-weeks periods is subject to removal from Athletics.
5. Excessive absences of any kind will be unacceptable and reason for removal from the athletic program.
6. School vehicles will be used to transport all athletic groups whenever possible. All students must travel with the team unless approved by the Coach. All students are expected to return with the team. When necessary the student may be released to his/her parent(s) with written permission.
7. All student-athletes will dress and conduct themselves properly on all out-of-town trips. Athletes represent Bronte ISD; therefore everyone should conduct themselves like ladies and gentlemen on the bus, in the dressing rooms, during competition, and in restaurants/stores following contests.
8. Any athlete found guilty of unlawful acts by law enforcement agencies is subject to severe punishment and/or subject to permanent expulsion from the entire program.
9. Any athlete found guilty of stealing or willfully destroying school property or the property of a fellow student is subject to punishment or dismissal from the athletic program. This includes the taking or destroying of property of other schools.
10. If a student misses spring offseason, he/she must complete extra conditioning before they can participate in a contest the next school year.

The amount of extra conditioning will be determined by the coach and athletic director, but will not exceed 25 miles.

11. If an athlete quits a sport two times, he/she cannot participate in that sport any longer. This process starts when an athlete enters the 9th grade.
12. Athletes are expected to maintain a favorable attitude and conduct during offseason athletic periods. If the attitude and conduct of the athlete becomes a detriment to the good of all, the athlete may be dismissed. Dismissal of this type would be considered the same as quitting a team since they are both attitude problems.
13. In the event that an athlete chooses to quit a sport or if a coach deems it necessary to remove an athlete from a team for disciplinary reasons, a 24 hour evaluation period (cool down) will be in effect. A conference with the student, coach, and possibly athletic director and parent(s). If the athlete chooses to remain in the sport, he/she will be required to make up any missed conditioning. In the event of a major disciplinary action the student may be removed from the Athletic Program for the remainder of the school year.
14. Athletic Lettering Policy: An athlete cannot receive a letterman jacket until the Spring Semester of their sophomore year (coaches' & athletic director discretion may be used in individual cases).
15. Bronte ISD's dress code is established to teach grooming hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, teach respect for authority and compel uniformity to the standards of the community.
16. Athletes are to follow the dress and grooming code as found in the student handbook and included below. Athletes will abide by and be held to a higher standard than the rest of the student body. They are expected, when traveling as a team, to dress up for the occasion as deemed necessary by their coach.

Additional Dress and Grooming for Athletes:

BOYS

- Hair is not to be distracting or disruptive. The hair shall be clean, well groomed, and above both the ears and eye brows. Hair shall not exceed the top of a regular dress collar. The following extremes shall not be allowed: geometric or unusual patterns shaved or cut into hair; unnatural color variation in hair; ponytail, rattail and braids. No shaven heads. Afro hair should be no longer than two inches.

- Facial hair (beards and mustaches) are not allowed. Sideburns should not reach below the ears and shall be kept neatly trimmed.
- No earrings or visible tattoos will be allowed.
- Coaches' discretion may be used for the dress and grooming code.

GIRLS

- The hair shall be clean, well groomed, and not covering the eyes. Geometric or unusual patterns shaved or cut into hair shall not be allowed.
- Visible tattoos will not be allowed.
- Limited to earrings in the ear with a maximum of two per ear only in earlobes. (Refers to home and away games or trips)
- No other visible piercing or ornamentation of any skin or body part will be allowed.
- Coaches' discretion may be used for the dress and grooming code.

IN-AND-OUT SEASON GUIDELINES

No student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. It is stressed that this is a privilege and the coaches and administrators have the authority to revoke this privilege when requirements are not met by the student athlete.

It is suggested that all student athletes place themselves on the "Honor System" and report themselves when a mistake is made. To do so indicates a desire to do right and concern for the welfare of the team. All student athletes are expected to accept their coaches' judgement regarding the handling of any case.

1. The use of tobacco will not be tolerated; disciplinary measures for violations have been set by the coaching staff at 10 miles of running.
2. Athletes must be aware that if they are in attendance at a social event where alcoholic beverages are being served, they are expected to abide by all athletic rules. Athletes must be aware that good intentions are often offset by peer pressure and that the "rumor mill" will often have them guilty through association and could make it necessary that they prove their innocence.
3. MINOR-IN-POSSESSION/CONSUMPTION OR DUI/DWI: If you are charged with any of these it is your responsibility to prove beyond a doubt that you were not drinking and are guilty only through association. You are reminded that this is nearly impossible to prove. Therefore, your best course of action is to avoid these circumstances altogether.

4. Although accepted by a certain percentage of the American society, the drinking of alcoholic beverages is dangerous, unhealthy, and unlawful for minors, and is incompatible with desirable training programs for athletes. A Bronte athlete, who by consuming alcoholic beverages is willing to jeopardize his/her own and his/her teammates' chances for success during the season, has shown that he/she cares little for either. They have further shown that they are easily misled; or not very smart; or that athletics is not important to them; or all three. Therefore, drinking of alcoholic beverages by Bronte athletes will be judged as such by their coaches and dealt with.
5. DRUGS: A person's performance in mental and physical capacities has been proven time and again to be affected adversely by the use of both legal and illegal drugs. An athlete using legal drugs as medicine must inform his/her coach of such action and his/her parent(s) and/or doctor will be consulted. Illegal drugs of any type, including narcotics, marijuana, hallucinatory agents, sedatives, amphetamines, and synthetic substances are never acceptable.

USE OF ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUGS WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

ALCOHOL

- 1st Infraction: Run 25 miles (outside of practice time & supervised by a coach) and suspension from participation in one game or until all 25 miles are completed.
- 2nd Infraction: Six weeks suspension from athletics.
- 3rd Infraction: One calendar year suspension from athletics.
- 4th Infraction: Total suspension from athletics.

REVIEW COMMITTEE

A Review Committee made up of the Principal, Athletic Director, and Head Coaches of sports that the student competes in will review each case before final dismissal will take place.

In conclusion, always conduct yourself in such a manner that you bring honor to yourself, your teammates, your family, and to Bronte ISD.

**POLICIES
For Bronte ISD Student-Athletes**

I have read and understand all of the policies and procedures for Bronte ISD Student-Athletes.

Please print:

_____ Last name _____ First _____ MI

Please sign:

_____ Student-Athlete Signature _____ Date

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date

Please complete this form, detach it and return it to your coach. Keep the copy of the POLICIES for Bronte ISD Student-Athletes for your records.