



askom I.S.D.

WILDCATS

Athletic Handbook
2013-2014

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To The Parent:

It is the responsibility of the Athletic Department at Waskom to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules, however, need your input and support. This can best be achieved through open and honest communication. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this publication. Please take the time to read this with your child. If there are any questions, please contact the Athletic Director.

To the Student Athlete:

Being a member of a Waskom High School athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal comes with certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. Our fine athletic tradition was not built overnight. It took the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of one of our teams at Waskom, you have inherited a fine tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor and class. We always play to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school and our communities. We expect to win on the athletic field, but also to win in the sportsmanship arena as well.

It will be a challenge to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear the maroon and white we hope that you not only understand our traditions but also are willing to assume the responsibilities that go along with them. The contributions that you make should be a very satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

Waskom High School's Athletic Philosophy

Athletics are considered to be an essential aspect of the learning process at Waskom High School. We believe that our athletic program is vital to the educational, physical and social development of our students.

We are convinced that young people learn a great deal from their participation in interscholastic athletics.

Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part of each team in our athletic program.

Because of our strong commitment and proud emphasis toward our athletic program, we must conduct it, at all times, in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity. We take great pride in, and never apologize for, our winning traditions. However, we never condone winning at all costs. We will always discourage any and all pressure that might tend to neglect good sportsmanship as well as good mental and physical health.

Expectations- Coaches and Parents

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. When and where practices and contests will be held.
2. Expectations the coach has for team members.
3. Requirements to be a part of the team-equipment, etc.
4. When your child is injured while participating.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Support a commitment to the program.

Things to discuss with your child's coach:

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Skill improvement and development.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Inappropriate things to discuss with your child's coach:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

If you have a concern...

1. Make an appointment with the coach.
2. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a practice or game. These are emotional times for both the parent and the coach and this period does not promote objective analysis of the situation.

If meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution ...

1. Schedule a meeting with the Athletic Director to discuss the issue and determine the next appropriate step.

Expectations of Programs

Goals of the Middle School Program:

- . A quality experience for all athletes involved
- . Development of skills to progress as a player
- . Sportsmanship on and off the field
- . Enjoyment of the game and of the team-building experience

Each of these goals has equal weight in the Middle School program. Winning is an outcome of the accomplishments of these goals. The desire to win is fostered; however, winning is a nice thing that happens at this level-it is not the driving force that governs the program.

Goals of the Sub-Varsity Program:

- . Development of skills and refinement to prepare for Varsity competition
- . A quality experience for all athletes involved
- . Sportsmanship on and off the field
- . Enjoyment of the game and of the team-building experience

At this level, a primary focus is development of players to compete at the Varsity level-but not at the expense of the other goals. The desire to win is more strongly encouraged, but again not at the expense of the other goals.

Goals of the Varsity Program:

- . Refinement of skills to create a competitive interscholastic team
- . Sportsmanship on and off the field
- . Develop citizenship and leadership (school and community)
- . A quality experience for all athletes involved
- . Enjoyment of the game and of the team-building experience

Winning at all costs is not a concept that is promoted at the high school Varsity level. However, there is a higher expectation to win. Coaches will make team decisions that will affect individuals in the team differently in an effort to win, but not at the expense of the other goals.

Eligibility Policy

All students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities are required to abide by the eligibility rules set by the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) and Waskom High School. Athletics should compliment the academic program Waskom.

Athletic teams are extracurricular and subject to the eligibility rules as outlined below

Scholastic Requirements:

1. Eligibility shall be determined by six week grades. Students are eligible if they are passing all classes for those six weeks.
2. Students are ineligible if they are failing a subject or have an incomplete in a subject. Students have one week to make up the incomplete to become eligible.
3. Students may regain eligibility if they are passing all classes in the next three week grading period.
4. An ineligible student may practice with the team, however they may not travel, be on the sidelines or bench area or participate in games with the team during their ineligibility.

Age Requirements:

7th Grade- A student cannot be 14 on or before September 1
8th Grade- A student cannot be 15 on or before September 1
9th Grade- A student cannot be 16 on or before September 1
H.S. -A student cannot be 19 on or before September 1

Course Requirements for Eligibility:

7th Grade- Academically Promoted
8th Grade- Academically Promoted
9th Grade- Academically Promoted
10th Grade- 5 Credits
11th Grade - 10 Credits
12th Grade - 15 Credits

Physical Examinations

Students who are participating in interscholastic sports have to have new physicals entering their 7th grade year, 9th grade year, and 11th grade year. All other students participating in interscholastic sports have to have a Physical Exam, Medical History, Acknowledgement of Rules, and Steroid Release form filled out by parent or legal guardian and signed by that person on file. Waskom offers physicals each year in the spring for the upcoming year at no cost to the student.

Medical Insurance

Any athlete who goes to the doctor with an athletic-related injury should contact the coaches first. If at all possible. Forms must be filled out on each injury and this is difficult if the visit is not known. Difficulties in insurance coverage might also occur as the school insurance will not be liable for medical expenses, outside emergencies, without prior knowledge of the visit. The Waskom ISD provides your son/daughter with supplemental insurance each school year while he/she is participating in any school sponsored UIL event for grade 7-12. The coverage is supplemental to the primary insurance you provide. The policy only covers accident coverage while the student is participating in UIL athletics or activities sponsored by Waskom ISD. Coverage is in force during practice, scheduled games and travel in a school appointed and supervised vehicle, to and from the event. In the event of an accident claim forms can be picked up from the middle or high school offices.

No athlete may participate in practices or games until the insurance form, acknowledgement of rules form and the medical history form have been completed and returned to the head coach.

Lettering Policy

We will buy letter jackets for our athletes who letter in varsity sports. These jackets will not exceed \$60.00 in cost as is required by the UIL. The school may buy only one jacket for each athlete during their entire high school career. Any 9th-12th grader who letters in a varsity sport may be eligible for a jacket. There is no way to designate an objective amount of minutes or quarters to determine who does or does not earn a varsity letter in athletics. Some players would reach the minimum quantity of quarters or minutes without actually contributing a great deal to the success of the team. Lettering by playing time also excludes important considerations such as practice, leadership, team dedication, and off the field attitude.

Lettering Criteria:	Attitude:	Willing to sacrifice self for the good of the team.
	Ability:	Contributed to the team in practice and games.
	Attendance:	Consistently in attendance and punctual to all mandatory team meetings.
	Conduct:	Player is a good example of first class program on and off the field.
	Eligibility:	Player remained academically eligible throughout the season.

Athletic Policies

Dropping or Transferring Sports

In terms of quitting a sport, we hope that it very rarely happens. On occasion, however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Consult with your immediate coach and then with the head coach.
2. Report your situation to the athletic director.
3. Return all equipment that was issued to your coach.

The decision will be made based upon what is in the best interest of the student as well as the teams involved. The Athletic Department strongly discourages any such changes or transfers after the season is underway, and approval of such will be difficult to obtain.

Equipment

All school equipment issued to a student is the student's responsibility. The athlete is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Any loss or intentional damage to the equipment is the student's financial obligation. Students who do not return school equipment/uniforms will not receive report cards or transcripts, and will not be allowed to participate in activities until they satisfy their obligations.

Attendance at Practices/Games

Coaches will monitor attendance and may have team consequences for missed practice or game time. After 3 unexcused absences there will be a meeting with the student to determine continued participation. Absences due to suspension will be unexcused.

Travel

All students must travel to and from activities on transportation provided by the district. Only under special circumstances, with previous arrangements, will this policy be waived. Students may be released to their own parents after games/activities upon signing a travel release form or note given personally to the coach/advisor. Students will not be allowed to travel with parents of other students without signed approval from the Athletic Director **the day prior** to the event.

Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities

A student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. We understand that each student shall be the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities. To help accomplish this the Athletic Department will attempt to schedule events so as to reduce the chance of conflicts. It is the student's responsibility to notify the advisors, coaches, and faculty members involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

When a conflict arises the adults involved (coaches, advisors, etc.) will work out a solution. A decision will be based on the following criteria:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The importance of each event to the student.
3. The contribution the student can make.
4. How long each event has been scheduled.
5. Talk with parents.

Attendance at School

Students must be in school and in class to participate in extracurricular activities.

- **Excluding athletics, students must be in class two full periods to participate in an athletic event that day.**

Students suspended from school are not allowed to practice or participate in contests from the time the suspension is issued until it is completed. Students receiving an in-school suspension are not allowed to participate in a contest until the in-school suspension is completed.

Hazing

Texas statute defines injurious hazing as "any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student enrolled in a public school." It is our feelings that injurious hazing activities of any type, on or off school property, by any student, staff member, group, or organization affiliated with the schools, are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited. No student or athlete shall plan, encourage, or engage in hazing activities. Violators of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension from school and/or athletics, expulsion, or other appropriate measures.

Substance Abuse

We have a duty to encourage responsible behavior to keep our student/athletes safe. The following policy was developed to encourage our athletes to make decisions that will keep them safe and as role models, promote others to make safe decisions as well.

Possession/Consumption/Use/Arrests

1. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, and other mind altering substances by athletic program participants is prohibited.

Positive Test Results-First Offense: The student shall be suspended from after-school participation in all extracurricular activities for a period of 30 calendar days. During the suspension period, the student may be tested up to three times. If the student tests negative, he or she shall be reinstated to full participation after the 30-day suspension period is completed. Additionally, the student will be required to participate in a drug awareness program and counseling during the suspension period.

Second Offense: The student shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the current school year. The student shall continue to be tested periodically during the suspension period. The student shall be tested at the beginning of the next school year and must test negative to be reinstated to the extracurricular program. During this suspension period, the student may be required to attend drug awareness and counseling outside of the regular school program.

Third Offense: If a student tests positive for a third time, he or she shall be removed from participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of his or her high school career. Positive test results shall be cumulative in grades 8-12 and the sequences of consequences will be followed.

Students who voluntarily participate in the program shall follow the same testing program. Drug awareness and counseling shall be available to these students.

Refusal to submit to testing by students who are participating extracurricular activities shall be considered the same as positive test. Consequences shall proceed as above.

2. Any athlete arrested for a felony offense will be suspended from contests until proven innocent.
3. Any athlete arrested for a misdemeanor may continue to play until proven guilty. If proven guilty, the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and school administrator will make a decision regarding continued participation, taking into consideration the individual involved and the nature of the offense. Should said student be arrested a 2nd time, he or she may be suspended for the duration of the school year.
4. Any athlete who causes, in the opinion of the Athletic Director, embarrassment to the Waskom Independent School district that does not involve arrest or law enforcement involvement may be suspended at the discretion of the Head Coach and Athletic Director. Each case will be handled on an individual basis.

Waskom ISD works in conjunction with the UIL on steroid testing and follows the UIL guidelines on any infractions. UIL 512-471-5883

Squad Selection

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to have as many students as possible participate in the athletic program while at Waskom, our coaches try to keep as many students as they can

without unbalancing the integrity of the sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment and other factors will be some of the determining factors as to the most effective squad size for a particular sport.

Tryouts

Choosing the members of our athletic teams is the sole responsibility of the coach. Before trying out, coaches shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team.

- Extent of tryout period
- Criteria used to select the team
- Number of players/participants to be selected
- Practice commitment if they make the team
- Game/contest commitment

When it is necessary for a coach to cut, the coach will personally inform each candidate and a reason(s) will be cited.

Closing Statements

While the purpose of this booklet is not to cover every possibility that might occur in our athletic program, we do hope to let each person who is concerned about our program know what we expect of the athletes. We feel that if parents and athletes alike understand our policies, conflicts are not as likely to arise. We urge every parent to help us to guide your child in the proper direction. Your influence is a valuable aid to us as we attempt to do this. We will spend almost as much waking time with your child as you will and we desperately need your help in supporting us, the program and it's policies. If anyone, parent or athlete, has any questions about our program or beliefs, please feel free to come and talk with us. We want the involvement of the parents and we feel very strongly about what we are trying to do. We want to keep as many people as possible in our athletic program, but we only want those who are dedicated to doing their best. We will not accept anything less.

Cats Win!!!

Whitney Keeling
Athletic Director

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Dear Parent:

On July 20, 1999, the Board of Education adopted a policy requiring drug/alcohol testing for all students who participate in athletic extracurricular activities in grades eight through twelve.

With the continued rise in substance abuse nationwide, Waskom Independent School District feels that we must do all that we can to ensure, to the extent possible, that our children have the opportunity to participate in athletic competition in a safe/drug-alcohol free environment. The testing program, although required for all athletic participants, will be available to any student in grades eight through twelve who chooses to participate on a voluntary basis.

The drug testing policy is not intended to be used as a disciplinary tool. It is intended to serve as a deterrent and intervention strategy. In the event of a positive test, the campus principal will immediately notify you and schedule a conference. No report will be made to law enforcement and no alternative school assignment will be made as a result of a positive test. All test results will be kept confidential. The student will be suspended from athletic activities for a period of six weeks (50 calendar days) for the positive test. During the suspension period, the student will be provided counseling and drug awareness information. At the end of the suspension, the student will be reinstated to full participation in the athletic activity if he/she provides a negative test.

The enclosed parent permission letter should be signed and returned to the school as soon as possible. Any student not returning a signed permission slip will be excluded from all athletic extracurricular activities until such time as the permission slip is returned.

If your student does not participate in athletic activities, but you would like for him/her to be included in the drug/alcohol testing program please sign and return the permission letter. Your student will be included at no cost to you.

A complete copy of the substance testing policy can be obtained from your child's principal. Hopefully, with parents, students, and the school working together, we can stem the tide of ever increasing drug and alcohol use by our children.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's principal or contact me directly at 687-3361. Working together we can make a difference for the students of Waskom ISD. We appreciate your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Jimmy E. Cox

Superintendent

Enclosure: Parent Acknowledgment

Student Acknowledgment

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, as a parent or guardian of
_____ a minor student enrolled
in Waskom Independent School District and participating in extracurricular activities or as a
volunteer to the drug/alcohol testing program, hereby agree to the following:

I understand the School District's policy regarding substance abuse. I understand that if he/she give a
biological specimen, herein, it will be tested for drugs and/or alcohol. I understand that the giving of
biological specimen, herein requested by the District, is a condition of my child's continuing
participation in extracurricular activities.

I understand if a test of my child's specimen reveals an unexplained presence of a drug and/or
alcohol, the District will suspend my child from participation in extracurricular activities for 30 days.
I authorize the officers, employees, and agents of the designated third party testing agency (to be
designated by the District) and the District to communicate among themselves for official purposes,
my child's drug and/or alcohol test results both orally and in writing, and to communicate such test
results at any District administrative proceedings. I also authorize the officers, employees, and agents
of the testing agency and the District to have continued access to my child's biological specimens for
the purpose of any analysis or study that may be necessary, and require the results to be
communicated to me prior to any District administrative proceeding or suspension from
participation.

I hereby agree to my child giving biological specimen.

Parent's Printed Name

Parent's Signature

Student's Printed Name

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Social Security Number

Student's Identification Number

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Please sign, date, and return this form to the registrar's office along with the signed parental consent form before participating in extracurricular activities or clubs.

I have received and read a copy of the District's substance abuse policy. I understand that this policy is part of the District's rules and that it applies to all District students who elect to participate in extracurricular activities and/or who choose to be a part of the drug/alcohol testing program on a voluntary basis.

Printed Name

Social Security Number

Signature

Date

Witness' Signature

Date

I am participating in this program as: (check one)

_____ a student involved in extracurricular activities

_____ voluntarily

Extracurricular activities I am involved in are:

