



**Princeton ISD**  
**Athletic Handbook**

# **Princeton ISD Athletic Handbook**

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## INTRODUCTION

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 the potential skills and the desire to participate. The policies, procedures and regulations in this handbook are in compliance with school board policies and administrative procedures. They are designed to provide for successful experiences for students and the efficient operation of the athletic program. This handbook is an extension of the student handbook and shall be used by all principals, coaches, and players in grades 7-12. You, the student athlete, are accountable and responsible for all policies contained within this handbook. Individual coaches within their sport may add additional rules as long as they adhere to school policy.

## ATHLETIC VISION

The Princeton athletic vision; To be a **family** with **integrity** and **discipline** that **competes** with **pride**. The athletic vision is a blueprint to build our athletic programs. These core values will act as a foundation for success. More importantly, this is an excellent way to create a common ground for every athlete walking the halls in Princeton. Our goal as a staff is to integrate this vision and these core values into our individual sports. To challenge ourselves to look beyond our individual team members to find athletes in different sports living out our core values. More importantly, to create a family with Panther Pride across all athletic programs.

## PRINCETON ISD ATHLETIC PROGRAM

### High School and Middle School Sports

Cross Country – Boys and Girls  
Football - Boys  
Volleyball – Girls  
Basketball – Boys and Girls  
Soccer – Boys and Girls  
Wrestling – Boys and Girls  
Tennis – Boys and Girls  
Track – Boys and Girls

### High School (only)

Powerlifting – Boys and Girls \*THSPA/THSGPA Membership (Non-UIL)  
Golf - Boys and Girls  
Baseball/Softball

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION

The goal of the athletic program is to offer the opportunity of participation to all students. Interscholastic athletics fosters competition and cooperation. It also represents an area of great potential for teaching dedication, perseverance, courage, poise and practicing the pursuit of excellence. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics. It is the expectation of PISD that athletes will need to be in the athletic period. (Exemptions will need to be cleared by the Athletic Office) Participation in the Princeton ISD Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. **Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules, regulations, or standards of the athletic program are not followed. A sponsor, coach, or director may recommend that campus administration remove a student from their program for failing to meet expectations for behavior, academics, or other requirements for participation. Prior to recommending removal, the sponsor, coach, or director shall conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss their concerns and provide the parent or guardian a reasonable amount of time to address them with their student.**

### SELECTION OF TEAMS

The head coach of each sport will determine the players on each team. The selection of teams will include, but is not limited to: skill level, knowledge of sport, attitude, and experience in the sport.

### PRACTICE TIMES/SCHEDULES

According to UIL rules, school teams shall be prohibited from practicing team skills before or after school except during specified practice dates set forth by the UIL, and during the one allowable period during the school day. The respective coach in conjunction with the Athletic Director and other coaches of in season sports will arrange practice schedules for each sport. Attempts will be made to ensure that practice times for one sport will not interfere with practice times for a coinciding sport. Student-athletes competing in multiple sports may at times be subject to overlapping practice and game schedules. Conflicts will be resolved on a

case by case scenario. Each student athlete in multiple sports will designate their #1 sport and #2 sport to determine what sport to attend during game conflicts.

### **SELECT/CLUB SPORTS**

In the case of a non-school related athletic event conflicting with a school related athletic event, priority will be given to the school athletic event. **Missing a school related athletic practice or game for a non-school activity is unacceptable** and could result in suspension from participation in the following school athletic contest.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PRINCETON ISD STUDENT-ATHLETE**

All student-athletes have the responsibility to play to win, give their best effort, strive for excellence, and exhibit good conduct at all times in a manner that is a positive example to team members, fellow students, and the community. The fact that the individual has chosen to participate in interscholastic athletics is indicative that the student has taken into consideration the rewards, privileges, and pleasures attained from participation, in addition to the responsibility of following rules, regulations, and meeting the demands of being a student-athlete. The privilege of representing the Princeton ISD Athletic Program coincides with the expectations of the campus principal, coaches, teachers, parents, community and most of all, by fellow teammates and classmates. As a student-athlete, you are always on display.

**The responsibilities of a student-athlete include, but are not limited to the following:**

- The student-athlete will strive for excellence in all activities at all times while being a member of the Princeton ISD Athletic Program.
- The student-athlete will faithfully abide by all rules set forth in the athletic handbook.
- The student-athlete will abide by the practice schedules and complete workouts each day.
- The student-athlete will personally notify his/her coach when unable to attend practice and will miss practices only under extreme circumstances.
- The student-athlete will abide by the coach's directions, instructions and decisions. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
- The student-athlete will be responsible for the proper care of all issued clothing and/or equipment. The student-athlete will be required to pay for clothing and/or equipment that is lost, damaged or destroyed.
- The student-athlete will respect coaches, teammates, teachers, staff, administrators and classmates.
- The student-athlete will refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct of any manner.
- The student-athlete will comply with Princeton ISD Board Policies, and District code of conduct, and discipline management plan.

## **PRINCETON ISD ATHLETIC PROGRAM RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **DRUG TESTING POLICY**

All participants of extra-curricular activities will follow the Princeton ISD School District's Drug Testing Policy. The parent and the student will sign all rules and regulations, before a student is tested.

## **Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug use**

Exemplary behavior is expected of PISD athletes. There is no acceptable reason for tobacco, alcohol, e-cigs, vapes or illegal substances to be used by any PISD student-athlete at any time, nor are there acceptable reasons for PISD student-athletes to be present where illegal or controlled substance activities occur at any time. Any athlete found to be involved with e-cig, tobacco, alcohol, vapes, controlled or illegal substances, through confession or being caught by a law enforcement officer, administrator, or faculty member will be suspended or dismissed from the athletic program depending on the severity of the incident.

## **ATHLETIC SUSPENSION**

**The Athletic Director may suspend or place on probation for the duration of the term, duration of the seasonal activity or the duration of the school year any student-athlete for major infraction of the standards set forth in this athletic handbook or student code of conduct.**

The Athletic Director empowers the coaching staff to enforce and maintain all policies and standards described in the Athletic Handbook. Communication will be maintained between the coaching staff and the Athletic Director when infractions warrant suspension from athletic activities. Princeton ISD Athletic Directors will follow UIL guidelines regarding ejections and apply the appropriate disciplinary decision defined by each sport. (See UIL Addendum below.)

UIL Addendum:

(A) Football. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game. (*Exception: Disqualification/ejection as a result of a targeting foul does not require the player to miss the first half of the following game.*)

(B) Other Team Sports. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus all of the following game. Soccer exception. This section does not alter the current point penalty structure for soccer player ejections, as required by National Federation of State High School Associations soccer playing rules, that is outlined in the soccer coaches' manual

However, if in the opinion of Princeton ISD Athletic Directors, the ejection is determined to be unsportsmanlike, the following consequences will apply.

### **Student-athletes ejected from a school-related event**

Individuals ejected or removed by an official from a contest or event will be subject to the following discipline:

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Student-Athlete will be suspended in accordance with UIL Addendum above.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	Student-Athlete will not participate in the next three contests or events.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	Student-Athlete will not participate in any extracurricular activities the remainder of the school year.

The punishments are on a continuum and include all contests or events in which a student participates.

**Scrimmages and practices do not count as contests or events; only games will count.**

### **Parent, Fans, Coaches, Sponsors ejected from a school-related event**

Individuals ejected or removed by an official from a contest or event will be subject to the following discipline:

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense | Fan, Coach or Sponsor will not attend the next contest or event.  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense | Fan, Coach or Sponsor will not attend the next three contests or events.  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense | Fans will not attend any extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year.<br><br>Coach or Sponsor will be dismissed of their coaching or sponsoring duties. |

The punishments are on a continuum and include all contests or events in which the individual attends.

**Scrimmages and practices do not count as contests or events; only games will count.**

### **ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES/TARDIES**

Student-Athletes are expected to be dressed and on time for all practices and competition and remain for the duration of the practice or competition. It is a student-athlete's responsibility to notify the coach if he/she must miss a practice or competition. Unexcused absences may result in suspension from a game, additional unexcused absence may result in suspension or removal from the program.

### **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Student-Athletes must maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record by giving respectful attention to classroom activities and by treating teachers, administrators and fellow students with respect. Tardiness, horseplay, fighting, disrespect, juvenile behavior, etc... are not acceptable and may result in punishment from the coach of the in season sport or the Athlete Director up to and including suspension from athletic competitions or removal from the program.

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

A student is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school, if the student receives a grade lower than 70 on a scale of 100, in any academic class (nine-week grading period). An identified advanced class (Honors and AP) will meet a grade of 60 on a scale of 100 (nine-week grading period). Additionally, students may lose eligibility after the first six-weeks of the year. The grades of the ineligible student shall be reviewed at the end of each three-week period following the date on which the ineligibility began. The ineligibility is removed if the student's grade in each class is 70 or higher at the end of the three-week grading period. The principal shall make the determination concerning the student's eligibility.

A student that is ineligible under the "no pass – no play" rule may practice or rehearse with other students. **Ineligible students shall not travel with the school organization to a contest, sit with them, wear uniforms, or participate in any way during the student's ineligibility.**

Ineligible students do not regain eligibility immediately. They must wait seven days after the end

of the grading period. Students, who were eligible, do not lose eligibility until seven days after the end of the grading period. Students who pass all courses for a nine-week grading period remain eligible throughout the next nine-week grading period. Semester grades are not used in determining eligibility. Dual credit/college courses do not affect eligibility due to the grading structure being a semester grade only.

## **DISCIPLINE**

All extra-curricular activities are extensions of the educational program of Princeton ISD. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a constitutional right. Participation is contingent on the student maintaining eligibility and an acceptable behavior record in the school district. Each participant is subject to the discipline management plan and student code of conduct of the school district. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each extra-curricular participant to be aware of the student code of conduct and discipline management plan of the district.

Placement in In-School Suspension (ISS), **will allow** the student to participate in after school practice or rehearsal during their time in ISS. *(Students will not be allowed to participate in **games or contests** during their days in ISS, unless it is their final day in ISS. For example, a student placed in ISS Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, will be eligible for participation in an extra-curricular activity on Thursday at the end of the school day.)* **Any further disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the athletic director or sponsor of the activity.**

Placement in the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), out-of-school suspension, or expulsion will not allow students to participate in extracurricular for the same dates the disciplinary action is in force. **(This includes practice or rehearsal time).**

The student will be eligible to participate at the end of the school day on the last day of their discipline. Disciplinary actions resulting in removal from the student's regular education program are determined on a first available date basis. Extra-curricular schedules will not be taken into consideration for disciplinary placement.

If a student has not completed their time in DAEP prior to summer, they are not able to participate in summer programs for any activities, until their time is completed at the start of the new year.

## **CRIMINAL CHARGES**

Depending on the severity of the charges (including serious misdemeanors) and the outcome of the case, a student-athlete may be suspended for one or more games, dismissed from the sport for the remainder of the season, or dismissed from the athletic program for the remainder of the year. If the student-athlete is not found guilty or all charges are dropped, then the student-athlete will be reinstated into the athletic program.

## **DRESS CODE**

In addition to following Princeton ISD Board approved dress code (found in the student handbook) student athletes have additional expectations in regard to hairstyle and jewelry. In accordance with UIL rules and regulations, for safety reasons, student-athletes are not allowed to wear jewelry of any kind during athletic competition unless authorized by the UIL. Student-athletes will also be required to maintain a hairstyle

suitable for athletic competition. Suitable may be defined as (1) not impairing vision (2) suitable in length as to not create a safety hazard (3) not promoting disunity (shaved insignias, symbols, alternative colors).

### **DROPPING/QUITTING A SPORT**

When a student quits a sport during the season, they will not be able to participate in another sport until the current sport regular season is complete. This includes practice or games. They are permitted to workout during the class period. If a student decides to not play a sport prior to the season, the athlete can go to another sport with no recourse. Before an athlete is allowed to quit or drop, the coach needs to contact parents and discuss the athletic change. An athlete that quits one sport and is seeking to join another sport within athletics will be at the discretion of the two involved head coaches.

### **TEAM TRAVEL**

All regular school transportation rules and regulations apply when on an athletic trip. All varsity student-athletes are expected to ride the transportation provided by Princeton ISD to and from all competitions. The approval of the head coach must be obtained for a student-athlete to return home with his/her parent/guardian, and this will only occur upon completion of a Princeton ISD Athletic Department Travel Consent Form. The Athletic Department strongly urges that all student-athletes leave with a parent/guardian only in emergency situations. Head coaches of each sport will determine if they will allow Sub-Varsity players to travel home after an away contest. Jr. High athletes will be allowed to ride home from away athletic events with a parent/guardian signature on a travel consent form. These forms can be downloaded from the school website.

Student-Athletes will follow the dress code for all bus trips, if not dressed in the team uniform before leaving the school. Head Coaches reserve the right to set the expectations for travel dress code to other campuses. The coaching staff retains the right to ban the use of any radios, electronic games, cell phones, etc... on away bus trips.

### **Social Media**

It is important that students do not use social media inappropriately. Examples of inappropriate use include but are not limited to: bullying, threats, demeaning comments, references to alcohol/drugs, posting inappropriate pictures, etc.

Athletic staff will use the following procedures when inappropriate social media posts/behavior are made:

1 <sup>st</sup> Event	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Event	Sponsor directed consequences
3 <sup>rd</sup> Event	Suspended for 1 contest/game/performance
4 <sup>th</sup> Event	Suspended for the remainder of the semester

### **HAZING**

“Hazing” is against the law and will not be tolerated. “Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off school property directed against a student by one person, alone, or acting with others, that endangers the mental and/or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being

initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students. Under Education Code 37.152, a person commits an offense if the person commits any of the following:

1. Engages in hazing;
2. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing to occur;
3. Recklessly permits hazing to occur;
4. Has first-hand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student, or has first-hand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge to the Principal or the Athletic Director.

### **AWARDS AND LETTERING**

The school letter is among the highest awards the school bestows; the highest, of course, is the diploma. Athletes may receive from the school only one major award (a jacket) during their high school career. In order to letter, you must be on a varsity team and satisfy the requirements stated below. Sub-varsity athletes will receive certificates provided they are recommended for the award by their coach as a result of having shown good citizenship and character, attitude and attendance, in addition to having adhered to the policies contained within this handbook.

Varsity awards will consist of letter jackets. The school furnishes these major awards to each athlete who meets the qualification for lettering.

#### **Guidelines for lettering:**

- UIL rules will be followed in regard to the cost of jackets.
- No participant will receive more than one letter jacket during their high school career.
- Athletes will receive a jacket in the sport in which they letter first.
- The jacket will have no marking of patches on it except the letter. All other patches will be the responsibility of the athlete.
- Letter jackets will be the same for all sports.

#### **Qualifications to letter:**

Each coach will keep records of student participation in each sport. Such records will be used as a basis for determining whether a student qualifies for a letter. The athlete must complete the sport in order to letter or receive any post district award. Below are the criteria to letter in each sport offered at Princeton High School:

- Football must play in 20 varsity quarters to letter.
- Basketball must play in 60 varsity quarters to letter.
- Volleyball must play in 15 varsity matches to letter.
- Softball must play in 30 varsity innings to letter.
- Track must score a point in a major meet and attend 4 meets or qualify for the regional meet.
- Cross Country must run in 4 varsity meets.
- Powerlifting must lift in 3 varsity meets or be a regional qualifier.
- Tennis must play in 5 varsity meets including district.
- Golf must play in 5 varsity meets including district.
- Soccer must play in 25 varsity halves in a year.

- Wrestling must fulfill 2 of the following: compete in 60% of the varsity matches, record a team point at the district meet, or compete in the district meet.
- Managers must work at least 2 sports a year to letter.
- Athletic Training Students must work at least 3 sport seasons to letter.

**Exceptions to lettering qualifications:**

A participant may letter at the coach’s discretion if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to the team. Exceptions may include playing on a team for four years and never lettering, a letterman who is injured and is unable to complete the season, or a specialist of some type.

Note: Any student who has qualified for an award but has quit or been dismissed from the squad for disciplinary reasons will not receive an award

**NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION**

Prior to participation, a student-athlete must have the following on file:

- Pre-Participation Medical History and Examination form (UIL form only)
- Parent Consent Form (Includes the following)
  - Acknowledgment of
    - Emergency Contact Information
    - Non-Prescription Authorization
    - Hipaa Release
    - Parent/Guardian Permit
    - Assumption of Risk & Release of All Claims
    - Helmet Warning
    - Athletic Insurance Coverage
    - Emergency Heat Stroke Protocol
    - Medical History
    - Corrective Vision
    - Permission to Treat
  - Concussion Acknowledgement Form (UIL form only)
  - Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form (UIL form only)
  - Parent/Student Steroid Agreement Form (UIL form only)
  - Acknowledgement of Rules (UIL form only)
  - Princeton ISD Athletic Handbook acknowledgement form
  - Strength & Conditioning Release Form
  - UIL Previous Athletic Participation Form (if applicable)
  - UIL Foreign Exchange Student forms (if applicable)

The school district cares about the well-being of student-athletes; however, the school district does not assume liability for injuries incurred in athletics.

The Athletic Director empowers the coaching staff to enforce and maintain all policies and standards described in the Athletic Handbook. Communication will be maintained between the coaching staff, the Athletic Director, and the campus Principal when infractions warrant suspension from athletic activities.

The Princeton Independent School District does not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, national origin, age, sex, economic status, or handicapping condition in employment, promotion, or educational programming. Student-athletes and parents are expected to follow the chain of command and first confer with the coach in question, then if necessary, the Head Varsity Coach of the Sport, followed by the Athletic Director and finally the Superintendent of Schools when an athletic concern exists. All academic concerns should be initiated with the teacher and then the campus Principal. Concerns addressing both athletic and academic matters should be addressed to the campus Principal and Athletic Director.

***Thank you for taking the time to review the policies of the Princeton ISD Athletic Department. Please contact the Athletic Director or any member of the coaching staff with additional questions or concerns regarding the contents within the Athletic Handbook. Please sign the acknowledgement form attached below and return it to a member of the coaching staff.***

**PRINCETON I.S.D. ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

I understand the policies and procedures of the Princeton I.S.D. Athletic Department, I am also aware of the consequences for violating said policies. If at any time I have questions regarding the handbook, I will address these questions to the Head Coach/Athletic Director. I understand that the Athletic Director and coaching staff will enforce these policies, procedures, and consequences.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand the policies and procedures of the Princeton I.S.D. Athletic Department, I am also aware of the consequences for violating said policies. If at any time I have questions regarding the handbook, I will address these questions to the Head Coach or Athletic Director. I understand that the Athletic Director and coaching staff will enforce these policies, procedures, and consequences.

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_