

## **MINERAL WELLS ISD ATHLETICS**

The athletic department has designed an athletic philosophy and a discipline policy program for both High School and Junior High athletics. This policy will explain the goals, regulations, and standards and the responsibilities of our athletes.

Our School Board, Superintendent, Principals, and Coaching Staff believe that participation in athletics is a privilege. Mineral Wells athletes must follow our guidelines. Athletes, in our opinion, should be role models and leader of the school. Athletes represent the school and the community. We believe this representation is very important.

If you have any questions concerning the handbook for policies, please contact the Athletic Director at (940) 325-4408.

## **MINERAL WELLS ATHLETIC POLICY**

The privilege of representing the Mineral Wells Athletic Program causes many things to be expected of our student athletes by their principals, coaches, teachers, parents, community, and most of all by their teammates and classmates. Athletes, as well as coaches, are always on display; they are judged by the company they keep. Their actions in everyday life are important.

The fact they have chosen to participate in Interscholastic Athletics is indicative that they consider the rewards, privileges, and pleasures which they will receive from this participation to be worth the price they must pay in meeting their responsibilities, following rules, and meeting the demands which are made upon them as student athletes.

## **CLASSROOM:**

Mineral Wells student athletes must realize they are students first, athletes second.

1. We will meet all the U.I.L. requirements for participation.
2. We will treat all teachers, administrators, and school personnel with respect.
3. We will maintain proper behavior and good citizenship in all classes and subjects.
4. Tardiness and unnecessary absences are unacceptable.

## **CAMPUS BEHAVIOR:**

Mineral Wells athletes will involve themselves in activities for the betterment of the school and for the good of their fellow students.

1. We will maintain proper dress and appearance as defined in the student handbook and in conjunction with school policy.
2. We will refrain from fighting and juvenile behavior in and around school facilities.
3. We will not wear bandanas or any attire with gang affiliation.
4. We will maintain proper public relationships with our girlfriends/Boyfriends. Kissing in any fashion, or embracing each other with suggestive gestures will not be tolerated.

## **DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT:**

There a few reasons for which players can be dismissed from the team or the athletic program.

1. If they are caught using any substance that is harmful to their bodies.
2. If they repeatedly get into trouble at school.
3. If they are disrespectful to coaches, teachers, or administrators.
4. If they fail to show up to workouts or games.
5. If they are caught doing things that do not represent Mineral Wells Junior High and/or High School or the athletic department in positive manner.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINERAL WELLS ATHLETES**

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

A student must be in a school through the attendance period in order to participate in an activity that day. An exception would be made if the student had an approved medical appointment. In the case of a medical excuse, the student must present to the attendance supervisor a signed statement from the doctor regarding the absence.

If a student athlete is absent the last school day of the week and the athletic competition is on a non-school day, the student must bring to the coach a signed statement from the parent/guardian that permission is given to participate. It is recommended that the coach contact the parent regarding the absence.

A student athlete who has been injured and has received medical treatment cannot participate again until cleared by a date indicated by the student athlete's physician.

### **PRACTICE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

All student athletes must notify the coach if they are going to miss a practice for any reason. This is the responsibility of the athlete or his/her parents, not friends. Excessive absences or failure to report absences may result in dismissal from the team or athletic program.

#### **Justifiable Excuses**

1. Illness or injury
2. Death in the immediate family
3. A.C.T. or S.A.T testing
4. U.I.L. competition by prior arrangement

### **PRACTICE RULES:**

Any of the following habits demonstrated by the student athlete during workout on a repeated basis can and will be dismissed from the team or athletic program:

1. Poor attitude in practice
2. Habitual bad attitude during practice
3. Tardy to practice
4. Sullen mood
5. Procrastination
6. Not giving 100% effort in drills
7. Not making an effort to improve weak areas pointed out by the coach

## **TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual's property is not tolerated.

First offense: The student will be counseled by the head coach and athletic director where a decision regarding further competition will be made or the punishment determined.

Second offense: The student will be suspended for 365 days.

2. If a student athlete starts a sport, he/she is expected to complete the season. If a player decided to quit during a season, he/she may be allowed to play another sport but he/she will not practice with the new sport until the season of the sport he/she quit is completed.
3. When a student athlete has to serve time in DAEP, ISS or expulsion for severe misconduct or inappropriate behavior at school he/she will receive the following:

ISS: Corrective measure initiated by the coach.

Expulsion: Corrective measure initiated by the coach.

DAEP: Immediate suspension for the duration of the DAEP assignment.

Also corrective measure initiated by the coach.

4. Student athletes are responsible for getting plenty of rest. Do not stay out late, especially get a good night's sleep before a game. This continued offense is subject to dismissal at the head coaches' discretion.
5. Any student athlete causing problems among team members will be dismissed from the team. We will not tolerate any player who is trying to fragment the team.
6. Lying to a coach, administrator, or teacher is a serious matter. If a student athlete is caught lying:

First Offense: Corrective measures initiated by the coach.

Second Offense: Corrective measures or dismissal from the sport.

7. No student athlete shall be involved in the use of tobacco in any form:

First Offense: Corrective measures by the coach.

Second Offense: The student athlete will be removed from all extracurricular activities for a period of 365 calendar days.

8. Possession or use of alcohol, drugs or related substances:

First Offense: Corrective measures by the coach.

Second Offense: The student will be removed from all extracurricular activities for a period of 365 calendar days.

9. Selling or distributing any drugs or related substances:

First Offense: Immediate suspension from the athletic program for 365 calendar days.

Second Offense: Immediate removal from the athletic program for the rest of his/her eligibility.

10. Involvement in or conviction of any type of criminal activity.

First Offense: Corrective measures by the coach.

If the student athlete admits guilt, pleads guilty, or is found guilty of a misdemeanor, the student will be suspended for a time that is suitable for the crime. The student has to be found innocent not to be punished by the Athletic Department. The student will be declared guilty with an adjudicated of delinquent conduct, deferred prosecution, or deferred adjudication. The student will also be removed for 365 calendar days for a second misdemeanor offense. A student that admits guilt, pleads guilty, or is found guilty of a felony will be removed for 365 calendar days. The student is also removed for 365 calendar days if they receive any type of deferred adjudication, or deferred prosecution for a felony.

11. Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

First Offense: Corrective measures issued by the coach.

Second Offense: Conference with the coach and parents, possible dismissal from the athletic team or athletic program.

12. Missing a game or contest unless excused by the coach.

First Offense: Conference with coach and corrective measures issued.

Second Offense: Possible dismissal from the athletic team.

13. A student who is under an indictment for a felony shall not be allowed to participate in any school contest. This action shall not be considered a presumption of guilt, but rather it affords the accused the time and opportunity to clear his/her name. The student athlete may be allowed to remain a member of the organization as a suspended member, but shall not be allowed to represent his/her school in any contest while under suspension.

### **OTHER SPORTS:**

Each student athlete is encouraged to participate in every sport they wish to play. If an athlete wishes to compete in two sports with the same season, arrangements will be made.

### **LETTERING POLICIES:**

The awarding of the school letter to a student is giving that student the second highest honor of the school is capable, the highest, of course, being the diploma.

Athletes may receive from the school only one major award during their high school career. In order to letter, they must be on a varsity team and satisfy the requirements state below. After receiving the one major award, letter certificates or similar awards (called minor awards by the U.I.L.) shall be given by the respective coach each time an athlete letters in any sport.

The athlete must be recommended by the coach of that sport. In making recommendations for varsity awards, the coach must take into consideration the following:

1. Conduct: As explained in this policy
2. Attendance: In order to letter, athletes must attend scheduled practices and contests
3. Participation: Fulfillment of specific criteria for each sport as determined by the coach of that sport in cooperation with the athletic director.
4. Finishing the Season: Being eligible and in good standing.

There may be other criteria set by the head coach of each sport.

## **TRAVEL:**

1. Mineral Wells athletes will travel to and from all out-of-town contests with the team. Players will not be allowed to travel to or return from a game with their parents with the following exceptions\*:
  - A. Illness or injury.
  - B. Planned out-of -town trip which will save travel time for the athletes family

\* Exceptions must have pre-approval with the parents and the coach
2. Athletes will dress neatly and properly on all trips. Each head coach will specify the attire for his or her team. School dress codes will be enforced. No earrings will be worn by male athletes on a trip.
3. The use of personal listening devices,(such as iPods, Walkmans, etc...) are allowed at each coaches discretion.
4. Athletes will conduct themselves properly on the school bus or in any school vehicle.
5. Athletes will conduct themselves with dignity and proper manners while eating in restaurants. They should respect all property of the eating establishments. The team will enter and leave as a unit, and everyone will remain seated until the coach indicates they may leave.
6. Athletes will be informed of departure and appropriate return time for each trip by the coach. It is the student athlete's responsibility to be on time for all departures and to inform their parents of the time to pick them up after the contest. All times may vary each date because of the travel distances, game times or unavoidable circumstances. Teams will return as soon as possible.
7. Parents, family members, and/or friends will not be allowed on bus trips unless prior arrangements have been made with the head coach.

## **MINERAL WELLS ATHLETE CONTRACT AND PLEDGE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do agree as a condition of my being involved in the Mineral Wells Athletic Program, that I will abide by the rules in the Athletic Handbook and the policies of Mineral Wells ISD. I further agree that I will not partake in the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs as long as I am a member of the Mineral Wells Athletic Program.

Athlete's  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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