

# **BRYAN ISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK**

## **2008-09**

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Harry Francis, Athletic Director – Bryan ISD

# FOREWORD

This manual contains the basic policies and procedures that guide the operation of the Bryan Athletic Department. All personnel associated with the Athletic Department should read and study this guide in order to administer their specific aspect of the overall program in a proficient and proper manner.

Understand that athletics is designed to accommodate students who have the ability and emotional stability to handle competition. One of the difficult tasks faced as a coach is making the judgment as to who should be selected to compete in this program. Students are not obligated to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. It should be stressed that being a member of an athletic team is a privilege and not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coach has the authority to revoke the privilege when rules are not followed. The head coach of each team will decide on playing time and roster size. Our athletic programs at the Varsity level are designed to compete at a level to challenge for a District Championship and post-season play. We will strive to play all athletes at the sub-varsity level in each contest.

We are all aware that being involved in athletics demands a lot of time and dedication from coaches and players alike. The purpose of this program is to provide opportunities to these students to pursue and understand the values of attitude, commitment, responsibility, accountability, work ethic and team. The operational basis of the program is designed for each student to be challenged in these values through the day-to-day process of being in this program. We all want an athletic program that will be a compliment of the Bryan Independent School District and we ask that all of you involved work hard to make this a reality.

**Harry Francis**  
Athletic Director  
Bryan Independent School District

## **ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

The athletic program shall have as its primary purpose a wholesome development of the boys and girls. All policies, objectives, relationships and activities shall be governed by this student-centered philosophy.

The athletic program should be a program of competitive interschool athletics based on rules and regulations set up by the University Interscholastic League and the Texas Education Agency. All coaches should have a thorough knowledge of these rules, particularly those governing the sports with which he/she is involved.

Athletics is an integral part of the educational process and, as such, the control of and the responsibility for the athletic program should rest entirely with the school authorities.

All athletics is beneficial and each sport should receive equal emphasis in season.

Every effort should be made to encourage boys and girls to participate in as many sports as possible. Any coach who encourages an athlete to specialize in one sport to the detriment of another shall be held accountable to the athletic director and the administration.

All persons connected with the athletic program must exemplify all those traits of character, citizenship, sportsmanship, honesty and emotional and moral stability that should be instilled in the participants of the program.

## **OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS**

School athletics has a tremendous potential for meeting the needs of our youth. Competition and cooperation have long been prized by our American athletic programs. An intensive, well-balanced program of interscholastic sports should therefore be offered to all students. Interscholastic athletics for the physically gifted represents an area of great potential for practicing the pursuit of excellence.

It is therefore the goal of the athletic program to offer this 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 this required for graduation. It is stressed that this is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coach has the authority to revoke the privilege when rules are not complied with. These special standards for athletes will provide the security of authority that youth needs. The athletes will know what they can do and what they cannot do. They will realize that the school wishes him to reach the highest possible achievement level, both in interscholastic athletics and in their own life.

The following areas are judged to be of significant importance in the establishment of the type athletic program necessary to achieve objectives as mentioned above :

**Behavior:**

- Proper dress and appearance, good grooming and personal hygiene
- Abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and drugs
- Pursuing physical fitness through training, adequate rest and proper nutrition

**Citizenship:**

- Exemplary conduct, on and off the campus
- Adherence to school and community rules
- Respect for individuals and property
- Appreciation for scholarship and academic achievement
- Patriotism

**Team Responsibility:**

- Common goals and group loyalties
- Subordination of self-interest to team values
- Self-discipline and personal sacrifice for team goals

Our program must serve, and be worthwhile to the following:

- a. the athlete
- b. the student body
- c. the faculty
- d. the community

## **PARTICIPATION**

- A. All Contribute to Program  
There can be only one boss of an athletic team and that is the head coach. It must be clear to the players and staff that the head coach is the boss and has the final and absolute authority. However, both staff and players should feel that they can make suggestions and that they can discuss their feelings about any particular subject. All suggestions are welcome, but if may not be timely or fit into the total plan to follow each suggestion. We must show all players and coaches how they contribute to the overall success, creating a sense of pride in belonging to the team. Each individual must not see himself/herself as just a member of the team, but as a team member who is contributing to winning. Coaches can feel pride in a system if they have some say in it. They can also feel pride in the accomplishments of their individual coaching units. The coaches in charge of particular groups should do the majority of the coaching, planning, motivating, guiding, and selecting of starting personnel within their groups. On the field/court the non-starters must get attention and they must be coached. This is sometimes difficult to do, and out of necessity, they will not get the coaching a starter does; however, when their time comes to play, they should have had adequate coaching.
- B. Playing Numbers  
We will attempt to play lots of people during a game. The goal of all sub-varsity teams will be designed to play everyone at contests. The goal at the Varsity level is to compete for District Championships and post-season play. Playing time is determined by the head coach and will vary due to game situations. If players know they will play in a game, their practice, performance, and concentration will be more intense. By playing lots of people in a game, we will keep ourselves fresher for the final quarter and perhaps wear down our opponents with manpower. If we have injuries, the replacement is more likely to have had vital game experience.
- C. Respect For All  
Off the field/court, all coaches and their spouses, should be made to feel a part of the success of the program. It is important that the spouses be dedicated to what the coach is working toward. We must develop an attitude that all the people in our program are treated with respect and are equal off the field/court.

## **EDUCATIONAL AIMS**

The staff should motivate athletes to:

1. acquire self discipline and control.
2. accept imposed discipline.
3. think for themselves.
4. become winners.
5. work with others for the common cause.
6. play the game hard and fair and within the rules.
7. acquire self-confidence under pressure and a sense of values for later life.

In order for our program to be successful we must have, on the part of coaches and players, these ingredients.

1. tremendous enthusiasm and morale
2. discipline
3. loyalty
4. conditioning

## PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES & CRITIQUES

### I. DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our philosophy of discipline is that it begins in the home and is primarily the responsibility of the parents. The coach's role in any situation dealing with discipline should be in adjunct to and not apart from the role of the parents. Keeping this tenet in mind, we have arrived at a policy of discipline that involves all three interested parties - the coach, the parents, and the athlete. All parties will be aware of this policy in advance of any season and all decisions concerning discipline will be handled fairly and equitably. The welfare of the athlete in question will be of significant importance, second only to the welfare of the program and the team involved.

### II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility requirements for interscholastic sports are set by the TEA and the UIL. All coaches must know and adhere to these rules.

### III. ATTENDANCE RULES FOR SQUAD MEMBERS

Team members have the responsibility to attend every practice session and every team meeting. They must understand that team practice depends on their participation. In most drills, they will need their teammates to work with and against to help them improve. Their teammates deserve their help too! If it is necessary to miss practice, the Head Coach must be notified before the practice begins. Acceptable reasons for missing practice or meetings are listed below. Absence for other reasons will be considered very serious and a violation of our discipline policy. The head coach will decide if the absence is excused.

- A. sick - either stayed home or left school during the day
- B. emergency in immediate family
- C. attending other school or club function -- every effort should be made to avoid conflict.

### IV. DISMISSALS FROM THE SQUAD

Any decision by a coach to dismiss a student from the squad for disciplinary reasons has a twenty-four-hour deadline and must be prefaced by the athletic director being notified. If the athlete or parent can present sufficient proof within the twenty-four hour period giving the coach reason to alter his/her decision, the athlete may be reinstated. If not reinstated, the athlete must turn in all equipment issued to him/her and may not participate in that sport again that year.

When an athlete drops out of one sport with the intention of participating in another sport, he/she may not participate in the second sport until the season of the first sport is over unless released by the former coach and accepted by the receiving coach. The only exception to this procedure will be authorized by the athletic director.

Students are expected to complete the school year in the sport or sports in which they are accepted. If they choose not to complete the school year or are dismissed from the team, the consequences will range from having to try out for that sport the following year to not being allowed to compete in that sport the following year. Students and/or parents must contact the head coach to ensure they understand the consequences prior to quitting any sport. Clear communication helps everyone to understand each other's position. Parents should not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. Request a time to meet with a coach. If the coach can't be reached, contact the Campus Athletic Coordinator or Athletic Director.

# BRYAN ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

