

Martinsville ISD Athletic Handbook

2019–2020 School Year



MARTINSVILLE ISD ATHLETIC PROGRAM

UIL (University Interscholastic League) PARTICIPATION Martinsville ISD offers participation in the following sports programs under the auspices of the University Interscholastic League – Austin, Texas: Middle School (Grades 7-8) Cross Country Basketball Track High School (Grades 9-12) Basketball Cross Country Softball / Baseball Track Golf Tennis

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. Participation in the Martinsville 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.

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. Junior High and High School sub-varsity team members will receive adequate playing time based upon performance and meeting expectations. Members of varsity teams are not guaranteed playing time.

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 athletic activity is unacceptable and could result in a suspension from participation in further school athletic contest(s).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MARTINSVILLE 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 an 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 MISD Athletic Program coincides with the expectations of the campus principal, coaches, teachers, parents, community, and most of all, by fellow teammates and classmates. As student-athletes, 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 MISD 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 any clothing and/or equipment that is lost, damaged or destroyed. Issued clothing should not be worn outside of athletic participation (practice/competition). Exceptions may include "game-day" dress.

- Most importantly, the student-athlete will represent Martinsville ISD to the best of his/her ability to set an example to the community of the values and expectations promoted within the school district. Student-Athletes will be expected to:
- Respect coaches, teammates, teachers, staff, administrators and classmates.
- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct of any manner.
- Comply with Martinsville ISD Board Policies, the District code of conduct, and discipline management plan.

The MISD 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 students who have the desire to participate. The athletic program is a vital part of education. The rules, regulations, and standards set forth in this handbook are designed to provide for the efficient operation of such a program. The student athlete will be held accountable and responsible for all policies contained within this handbook and for any additional expectations set forth by the Head Coach.

MARTINSVILLE ISD ATHLETIC PROGRAM RULES & REGULATIONS ATHLETIC SUSPENSION

The Athletic Director/Coordinator 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 a major infraction of the standards set forth in this athletic handbook. The Athletic Director/Coordinator 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/Coordinator, and the campus Principal when infractions warrant suspension from athletic activities. The Martinsville 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, followed by the Athletic Director/Coordinator, the Principal, 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/Coordinator.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES/TARDIES

Student-Athletes are expected to be dressed and on time for all practices and competitions and remain for the duration of the practice or competition. It is the student athlete's responsibility to notify the coach if he/she must miss a practice or competition. By becoming a member of the Martinsville ISD Athletic Program, you are making a commitment to the program. *An unexcused absence from a game will result in suspension from the next scheduled game. As with any other activity, please be aware that excessive tardiness or absences will result in a loss of practice/instructional time. This loss of time could subject the student athlete to loss of playing time or even dismissal from the team. Sport-specific drills and conditioning may be required for any tardy or absence at the discretion of the Head Coach. A student-athlete who is absent from school on the day of an athletic competition, for reasons other than a school-related absence, will not be able to participate. Exceptions to this rule include: unforeseen circumstances deemed unavoidable by school administration or previously scheduled doctor's appointments (non-illness related). In the event of a student-athlete being ill, Martinsville ISD holds the safety of the student-athlete as its top priority in the situation.

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 Athletic Director up to and including suspension from athletic competitions.

DRESS CODE

All Athletes will be required to follow the Martinsville ISD Board approved dress code found in the student handbook. In addition ear rings will not be worn by male athletes. In accordance with UIL rules and regulations, for safety reasons, student athletes are not allowed to wear jewelry of any kind during athletic competition. 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, or any personal styles deemed inappropriate by the coach, secondary principal and or athletic director.

DROPPING/QUITTING A SPORT

It is the philosophy of the MISD Athletic Department that student-athletes should finish what they begin. An athlete may not quit one sport to play another sport. The following procedures should be followed in order to drop/quit a sport:

- Examine the situation before a decision is made.
- Talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached. (A parent conference may be required)
- If the decision to quit is made by a student-athlete in grades 9-12, the student athlete must check out of the sport through the Athletic Director/Head Coach.
- All clothing/equipment issued to the student-athlete must be returned in the same shape as it was when it was issued to the athlete. Payment for any lost or damaged clothing and equipment will be required. This matter must be resolved before a student-athlete begins participating in his/her next sport.
- A student-athlete that decides to quit one sport to join another must wait until the first sport has completed its season before they are allowed to participate in competitions, unless released by the Head Coach of the sport they quit. The student-athlete may practice with the team only during the Athletic period. Coaches in conjunction with the Athletic Director/Coordinator, reserve the right to prohibit any athlete from joining a team or sport if that athlete has routinely failed to complete seasons in other sports that they have started, whether due to conduct, attitude, or poor academic performance. Routinely quitting sports may result in dismissal from the athletic program.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Drug-Testing

The District requires drug testing of any student in grades 7–12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities or requests a permit to park a vehicle on school property.

School-sponsored extracurricular activities for which testing is required include UIL activities and other extracurricular activities approved by the Board.

A student participating in these activities or requesting a parking permit shall be randomly tested for the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol throughout the school year.

The purposes of the drug-testing program are to:

- Prevent injury, illness, and harm resulting from the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol;
- Help enforce a drug-free educational environment;
- Deter student use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol; and
- Educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol.

The District shall provide each parent and student a copy of the drug-testing policy and consent form prior to the student's participation in an affected activity or receipt of a parking permit.

Before a student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or to receive a parking permit, the student shall be required annually to sign a consent form agreeing to be subject to the rules and procedures of the drug-testing program. If the student is under the age of 18, the student's parent or guardian shall also sign a consent form. If appropriate consent is not given, the student shall not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or to receive a parking permit.

Drug test results shall be used only to determine eligibility for a parking permit and participation in extracurricular activities. Positive drug test results shall not be used to impose disciplinary sanctions or academic penalties.

Nevertheless, nothing in this policy shall limit or affect the application of state law, local policy, or the Student Code of Conduct. A student who commits a disciplinary offense shall be subject to consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Drug test results shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only to the student, the student's parents, and designated District officials who need the information in order to administer the drug-testing program. Drug test results shall not be maintained with a student's academic record. Results shall not be otherwise disclosed except as required by law.

The Board shall contract with a certified drug-testing laboratory to conduct testing of students' urine samples.

Testing laboratories shall not release statistics regarding the rate of positive drug tests to any person or organization without consent of the District.

The District shall make available to students and parents a list of the exact substances for which tests will be conducted.

The drug-testing laboratory shall test for the presence of alcohol, performance-enhancing substances, including anabolic steroids, marijuana, cocaine, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, phencyclidine (PCP), methadone, barbiturates, propoxyphene, amphetamines, opiates, and metabolites of any of these substances.

Personnel from the drug-testing laboratory shall collect urine samples under conditions that are no more intrusive than the conditions experienced in a public restroom. When selected for testing, a student shall be escorted to the school's testing site by a District employee and shall remain under employee supervision until the student provides a sample. A student shall produce a sample within a closed restroom stall. A District employee of the same gender as the student shall be present when any samples are collected.

Random tests shall be conducted on as many as 12 dates throughout the school year.

No less than ten percent and no more than 25 percent of the students participating in the program shall be randomly selected for each random test date. The drug-testing laboratory shall use a random selection method to identify students chosen for random testing. Students shall not receive prior notice of the testing date or time.

A student who refuses to be tested when selected or who is determined to have tampered with a sample shall be deemed to have a positive test result and shall be subject to the appropriate consequences depending on previous positive test results, if any.

If a student is absent on the day of the random test, a sample shall be collected on the next random testing date.

An initial positive test shall be confirmed by a second test of the same specimen before being reported as positive.

Upon receiving the results of a positive drug test, the District shall schedule a meeting with the student, the student's parent if the student is under the age of 18, and the coach or sponsor of the extracurricular activity, as applicable, to review the test results and discuss consequences.

The student or parent shall have three school days following the meeting to provide a medical explanation for a positive result.

If the student wishes to return to participation in extracurricular activities or have a parking permit reinstated after any applicable consequences, the student must be retested at the end of the period of suspension and have a negative test result; following that, the student shall be retested on the next three random test dates so long as the student wishes to participate in extracurricular activities or park a vehicle on school property.

The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

Consequences of positive test results shall be cumulative through the end of the current school year.

- Upon a first offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended, for 10 school days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.

During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices.

- Upon a second offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended for 30 school days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.

During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices.

- Upon a third offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended, for 1 complete year.

During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices.

If a student's suspension from participation in extracurricular activities and parking privileges is not completed by the end of the semester, the student shall complete the assigned period of suspension during the following semester or during the first semester of the following school year.

A student or parent may appeal a decision made under this policy in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). The student shall be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities or reinstatement of parking privileges while the appeal is pending.

It is the philosophy of MISD Athletics that our interscholastic and extracurricular programs shall be drug and alcohol free. The basis for this is founded upon and by the following: 1. Use of drugs and alcohol is illegal for school age students. 2. Abuse of these products has been shown to create short and long term health and safety risks. 3. Students using these products may not be capable of fulfilling commitments and responsibilities toward themselves, teammates, and school. 4. Use of these products can diminish the student's mental and/or physical performance. 5. Student-athletes should be positive role models who demonstrate pride and honor to their school, community, and family. 6. Student-athletes will be held responsible and accountable for their behavior and choices they make. Education regarding drug, alcohol, and steroid abuse may be provided throughout the course of a student-athlete's involvement in the athletic program by members of the coaching staff. The NCAA, UIL, and National Federation of High Schools publish and distribute to coaching staffs information regarding the dangers of substance abuse.

ELIGIBILITY/GRADES/TUTORIALS

The Martinsville ISD coaches and administration shall determine each student's eligibility according to UIL rules and regulations as specified in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. Martinsville ISD strictly adheres to these rules and regulations. UIL, the State Board of Education, and the Texas Education Agency rules are strictly enforced. Each student-athlete must realize that he/she is a "student" first and an "athlete" second. The student-athlete must give sufficient time and energy to his/her academic courses to insure acceptable grades

to meet the UIL requirements for participation. Student-athletes that do not maintain passing grades or who are missing assignments may be subject to suspension from athletic competition at any time. Coaches may check student-athlete averages at any time within a grading period. Student athletes will be required to attend tutorials if their Progress report shows a 75 or below in any subject.

FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT

Student-athletes are expected to take care of all facilities and equipment at all times. Normal wear and tear is expected, misuse and vandalism is not.

GAME CONDUCT/SPORTSMANSHIP

The MISD Athletic Program stresses exemplary behavior and attitude during practice and competitions. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Student-athletes should be positive role models for students and the community. Student-athletes will be respectful to other contestants, fans, and to all coaches and officials. Technical fouls, penalties for unsportsmanlike or flagrant conduct, and ejections will not be tolerated.

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LETTERING

Student-athletes may receive from the school only one major award during their high school career (UIL). Martinsville ISD awards one letter-jacket (jacket, letter, and sport symbol only) to a student-athlete during their high school career. In order to letter in a sport, the student-athlete must be on a varsity team and satisfy the requirements stated in the "Lettering guidelines" of the student handbook.

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/Student Acknowledgement of Rules form (UIL form only) • Illegal Steroid Use form (UIL form only) • UIL Previous Athletic Participation Form (if applicable) • UIL Foreign Exchange Student forms (if applicable) • Emergency Contact Information Form

PARTICIPATION WHEN ILL OR INJURED

Any student-athlete that is injured during the course of the season or has an illness of a minor nature and is unable to participate due to this injury or illness must continue to follow all expectations, rules, and regulations, if the student-athlete wishes to remain a part of the team. Injured student-athletes will not participate but will be required to attend all practice sessions and sit with the team during competitions. Failure to attend practices and competitions can result in dismissal from the team. Athletes learn from each practice session, whether they are actually working out or simply observing.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Student-athletes should not leave personal items, especially jewelry or money, in areas unsupervised. The Athletic department will issue the athletes a lock to secure their personal belongings. Martinsville ISD and the Athletic Department are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

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 insure 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 schedules. The sport in competition season has priority. Conflicts between two sports in competition season will be handled by the head coaches of those sports. 8

TEAM TRAVEL

All regular school transportation rules and regulations apply when on an athletic trip. All student-athletes are expected to ride the transportation provided by Martinsville ISD to all competitions. The approval of the head coach must be obtained for a student-athlete to return home with his/her parent/guardian.

UNIFORMS

Student-athletes will be issued a set of practice clothes that may include but not limited to shirt, shorts, sweats, or wind-suits. These clothes will be worn during participation in athletic practice or competition only. At the end of the season/year, the issued clothes will be returned. Student athletes will pay a replacement fee for all clothing or equipment not returned at the end of the year. Student-athletes will not be allowed to participate at the next grade level until outstanding fines are paid in full. Consequences for not being dressed out in proper practice attire will be at the discretion of the head coach.

Thank you for taking the time to review the policies of the MISD 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.

(Parent/Guardian & Athlete Copy)
MISD ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I understand the policies and procedures of the MISD 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/Coordinator and coaching staff will enforce these policies, procedures, and consequences.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

(Return this copy to the Athletic Department)
MISD ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

