

2010 – 2011

**Needville Blue Jays
&
Needville Lady Jays**



Athletic Policy Handbook

“Blue Jay Pride Never Dies!”

Objectives

- Learn teamwork
- Develop self-discipline and respect for authority
- Understand the value of hard work and sacrifice
- Develop a strong desire to excel and win
- Learn goal-setting and its' rewards
- Enjoy the rewards athletics has to offer

Responsibilities of NISD

- Provide safe transportation to and from athletic events
- Provide excellent facilities to dress and train
- Provide safe equipment and supplies
- Provide clean, maintained athletic facilities

Responsibilities of NISD Coaching Staff

- Monitor the safety of athletes
- Encourage and help athletes maintain their grades academically
- Overseeing athletic tutorials when needed
- Scheduling contests and travel arrangements
- Responsible for the overall discipline of athletes
- Proper procedure of UIL needs including paperwork
- Teaching skills geared to all sports with integrity
- Teaching sportsmanship and respect for officials
- Helping take great care of equipment and facilities
- Be a positive school and community role model

Responsibilities of NISD Parents

- Give positive support to your child AND to their teams
- Encourage your child to attend all practices and contests
- Encourage your child to not miss practices for reasons other than serious illness and circumstances beyond your control
- Provide transportation home from practices, and to practices if needed
- To help furnish, if any, equipment the athletic department may not have

Athletic Code of Conduct

Athletics at NISD is a privilege, not a right. Each athlete is expected to follow guidelines and standards equal to and, at times, beyond that of a normal school student. Each athlete will be 100% accountable for his/her actions. The sole purpose of this handbook is to educate and orient our athletes with NISD rules and procedures.

Athletes are students first, and will be expected to show a solid effort in the classroom.

*If there are questions concerning this handbook, please feel free to call the athletic director, the women's athletic coordinator, or either of the junior high coordinators.

NISD athletes will:

- strive to become positive role models at school and in the community
- take pride in their appearance, in and out of school
- play extremely hard give supreme effort
- play by the rules and play clean, but hard, at all times
- stay drug free
- never give up, regardless of the circumstances
- learn the rules to their particular sport(s)
- be in excellent physical condition
- NOT use profanity
- be responsible for all equipment handed to them through the athletic department
- be on time for meetings, practices, and contests

Chain of Command

Parents, please, use the following chain of command when dealing with issues, problems, grievances, and other situations that may arise. This will help speed up the problem-solving process within the department:

	<u>1st Contact</u>	<u>2nd Contact</u>	<u>3rd Contact</u>	<u>4th Contact</u>
JH Girl Athletes	Team Coach	Jaime Mikulec	Ryan Roark	Karen Smart
JH Boy Athletes	Team Coach	Sterling Berry	Ryan Roark	Karen Smart
HS Girl Athletes	Team Coach	Amy Schultz	Ryan Roark	Richard Janacek
HS Boy Athletes	Team Coach	Ryan Roark	Richard Janacek	

Athletic Discipline Plan

- Normal daily problems that may occur will be handled by the coaching staff of that particular sport. These problems could include tardiness, attitude issues, locker and equipment issues, missed meetings, and missed practices. Missed contests could be sent to the next level for possible sanctions. The NISD coaching staff will be very firm, but very fair.
- Any discipline problem deemed “of serious nature” will be handled jointly, through the head coach and the athletic director and/or the women’s athletic coordinator. Any major violations where the law and school awareness becomes an issue can also be handled through the principal and/or the superintendent.
- Any offenses, deemed moderate to severe, will be handled case by case. No two problems are ever exactly the same. Case will be discussed only with the guardians of that particular athlete. We WILL NOT discuss issues dealing with athletes other than yours’.
- There is no RULE OF THUMB to any infractions, as there could be thousands of different circumstances that could arise. The NISD coaching staff will be very fair and use common sense. Any coach unsure of how to handle a particular problem will refer to the athletic director for guidance.
- If a unique problem occurs outside of school hours involving an NISD athlete, the athletic director can and will make a ruling, often times with the help of the building principal and/or superintendent.
- If caught stealing within the athletic department or school district, there will be a minimum suspension of 12 weeks and up to one year, depending on the situation.
- NISD athletic department has the right, beyond normal school drug policies, to suspend or dismiss any athlete caught with drugs or for failing drug test(s).

Athletic Period Enrollment

- All junior high athletes must be enrolled in the athletic period to be able to participate in athletics. Any possible exceptions will only be granted only by the junior high coordinator(s) and approved by the athletic director.
- High school students participating in ANY SPORT must be enrolled in the athletic period all year. Possible exceptions may exist when unique circumstances arise where class scheduling makes it impossible to be placed in the athletic period. These exceptions will be granted and approved by the women's athletic coordinator and the athletic director.
Football & Volleyball Seniors – After the fall season and fall semester, if you do not participate in a winter or spring sport, you will be obligated to move out of the athletic period at the end of the first semester. No exceptions.

Letter Jackets

Simply put, it is left up to the head coach of any sport to determine whether or not an athlete “letters” in that sport. When in doubt, the head coaches will take the high road and “letter” the athlete. Each athlete who “letters” for the 1st time will be given one letter jacket per high school career. Any lost or damaged jackets will be replaced at the cost of the athlete. Additional patches, besides the letter itself, will be purchased by the athlete. Athletes competing on the varsity level all season, free from disciplinary suspensions and grade eligibility issues, will automatically receive a letter jacket.

NISD Athletic Passes

The NISD athletic department will issue each athlete in good standing an athletic pass. This pass enables each athlete free admission to all NISD HOME contests. If an athlete loses or fails to produce the pass, he is expected to pay in full admission to home contests. These passes are non-transferable and will be taken up permanently if they are loaned to another non-athlete student.

These passes are no good for any out-of-town contest.

If an athlete quits, is dismissed from the program, or moves to another school, his pass will be taken up by the head coach or assistant.

Health & Insurance Information

- Physical exams are required, at least, every two years. They must be administered to incoming 7th, 9th, and 11th grade boys and girls. Physicals for all athletes must be current and on file with the NISD athletic department before an athlete is allowed to participate in any practice or game.
- All athletes are expected to attend injury treatments as set up by the head athletic trainer or coaching staff. This helps dramatically with the healing process.
- NISD provides supplemental insurance through the athletic department. Coverage of this policy goes into effect after the athlete's primary care insurance provider files their claim. Claims on school supplemental insurance cover only claims that are usual and customary.

Any information or questions regarding school athletic insurance should be directed to head athletic trainer Bob Marley @ 713-410-8041. “Doc” Marley will help you with insurance needs as much as possible.

Multi-Sport Athletes

The NISD athletic department will always encourage athletes to compete in multiple sports. **THIS MAKES OUR OVERALL PROGRAM STRONGER.** Coaches will not discourage any athlete from competing in multiple sports, especially during the same seasons. Coaches at NISD will work closely with one another to ensure harmony and sharing of athletes amongst the staff.

Any athlete competing in two or more sports simultaneously must let all of their head coaches know very early in the season as to what their “priority sport” is going to be. Then, if conflicts arise in practices and/or contests, that athlete will play in their “priority sport”. Coaches will work together in scheduling contests, scrimmages, etc. to ensure a minimal amount of multiple sport conflicts. It is highly recommended that parents be flexible when letting their children play multiple sports, yet be realistic about spreading their children too thin at one time.

Missed Practices / Contests

- If an athlete is going to miss a practice, that athlete or their parent (not a friend) must notify their head coach or positional coach before that practice. Numbers are as follows:
JH Girls Athletics: 979-793-4308 Ext. 1464
JH Boys Athletics: 979-793-4308 Ext. 1465
HS Girls Athletics: 979-793-4308 Ext. 1364
HS Boys Athletics: 979-793-4157 or 979-793-4308 Ext. 1999
- * No punishment will be given upon return to any athlete that misses practices or games due to illness or serious illness or death in the family. However, make-up workouts and/or punishment workouts will be done upon return for failure to call in ahead of time, missing practices for non-illness related reasons, and any other issues where the athlete did not make a conscious effort to attend or to call in ahead of time.
- Missing a contest for any other reason besides illness, family illness, or family death will result in probable suspension from the sport and from athletics in general. This will be handled case by case by the head coach and athletic director. We expect our athletes to make a commitment to their sport and not miss contests for reasons where absences can be avoided. This includes possible contests during Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break holidays.
- Overall, all parties involved (athletes, parents, coaches) should make the best commitment possible to ensure that practices, meetings, and contests are not being missed.

Dismissal / Quitting Policy

Commitment is the backbone to a highly successful athletic program. As the coaching staff and administration at NISD, we encourage athletes to “finish what you started”. Perseverance leads to long term success in life. Quitting is a habit, so we strongly encourage an athlete to never start that practice. Habitual quitting will not be a problem in NISD athletics because of the following:

- 1) Athletes are never respected as much once you quit – by peers, teammates, coaches, administration, and community.
- 2) The punishment phase and length is fairly severe.
- 3) Success breeds success. People want to be part of a winner.

Upon deciding to quit, any athlete will be given a 48 hour grace period, or cooling off period. At that time (or before then), the athlete will make a rational decision as to whether he/she still wants to quit. If still wishing to quit, the athlete must completely fill out an NISD Athletic Quit Form, have it signed by their parent(s) and themselves, then hand it back to their head coach or athletic coordinator. Once the paperwork is turned in and signed by all parties, the athlete is not eligible for

sport-specific practices for 60 SCHOOL DAYS. Failure to fill out a quit form properly will forfeit the athlete from participating in sports in the future.

Compromise “Quit” Rule – If there is a compromise between coach and athlete on good terms about leaving the team or sport, the 60-Day rule can be waived with approval from the athletic director. (This usually occurs only when both parties feel it is best for the overall team not to play any longer because of unusual circumstances.)

Needville ISD Athletic Quit Form



I, _____, have decided, after careful consideration to my coaches and teammates, to quit _____, which is the sport I am getting out of. I have been given a 2-Day (48 hour) period to fully evaluate my decision. I feel that is the best decision for me and my teammates. I understand that I cannot participate in practices or contests in any sport for 60 school days. I understand that by quitting again, I will most likely forfeit any future participation in NISD athletics altogether. I can return to NISD athletics after a 60-Day school window and return date has been established.

Athlete Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Head Coach Signature _____

Athletic Director Signature _____

Signed and Dated _____ - _____ - _____

