

**WELLMAN-UNION ISD
2021-2022
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**



Mission Statement of THE Wellman-Union Athletic Program:

The purpose of Wellman-Union Athletics is to establish and maintain sports teams that build young men and women of CHARACTER, ACCOUNTABILITY, TEAMWORK, and SACRIFICE. Our athletic program aims to create WINNERS on and off the field of play while producing LEADERS of the future. The ability to represent THE WU in sporting events is an honor, a privilege, and a gift that athletes and coaches alike must strive to uphold.

- The goal of athletics is to promote respect, integrity, and sportsmanship to our teammates as well as our opponents.
- The rules outlined in this handbook are designed and intended as a guide to successful participation.
- As a student athlete or parent, you will be expected to understand and abide by these rules and the team's rules.
- Failure to abide by our Athletic Code of Conduct will result in consequences laid out by your coaches and Athletic Director.
- It is your responsibility as a student-athlete to follow these rules and guidelines.

Character

-Respect- is non-negotiable, offering your full respect to any and all members of the Wellman-Union ISD school as well as our opponents is mandatory. You are expected to represent your school as a Leader, using the tools you have been given to further the progress of our Athletic Program. Each and every student-athlete is required and encouraged to embrace their unique abilities to lead their teammates and classmates on and off the field of play. All members of the athletic program will be held to the standard of Integrity: "Doing what is right, even when nobody is watching you".

-Sportsmanship- Good sportsmanship is encouraged and expected from our players, fans and spectators at all times during athletic events. Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship may result in removal from the event and or future events. Always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship:

- The good name of Wellman-Union ISD is more important than any contest won by unfair play: Cheer for your team and not against the opponent.
- Be supportive of all athletes, coaches, and officials before, during, and after all contests
- To your best ability, accept decisions of officials without dispute

-QUITTING- At WUISD we believe that there is a role for everybody, we expect our student-athletes to commit fully to their team during season as well as the off-season. IF a time comes that a student-athlete repeatedly fails to meet the standards and expectations of their coaches and program they may face consequences including removal from the team or the Athletic program. In the case that a student-athlete makes the decision to forfeit their opportunity to represent WU Athletics there is a protocol that is expected to be followed:

- If a player decides to quit the team that they are on, they will be expected to schedule a meeting with their respective Head Coach before quitting.
- If the player chooses to quit within the 1st 2 weeks of the season, they will not be held responsible for "make up" work to remain in athletics.
- If the player quits after the 2 week window, the coaches and AD will meet to create guidelines for that player to remain in athletics at the discretion of the Athletic Staff considering factors such as, but not limited to: Medical Exemptions. If the athlete has not been able to maintain good standing in the program at the time of quitting, they may be removed from athletics until further notice.
- Including, but not limited to a set amount of physical "make up" work to rejoin the athletic program and be allowed to play in the next sport of their choosing

Accountability

-NOT OUR STANDARDS- Wellman-Union has a long history of tradition and excellence, this tradition was built through a process. It took years of dedication, commitment, and hard work. As a Wellman-Union athlete you must continue to strive to uphold this high standard of excellence. Once you have become a member of this program you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes in this community.

- The use of vulgar or profane language is unacceptable anywhere and at any time
- A member of an athletic team is to be well groomed
- The coach shall set the standard for dress as it pertains to his/her sport
- The clothing worn at competitions must be worn in a neat and mannerly fashion
- Exhibit appropriate behavior at all times
- Student-Athletes must remain in accordance with the Student Handbook regarding dress code and personal appearance at all times

-UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR- such as & not limited to the following will result in discipline actions:

- The use of tobacco (smokeless tobacco included), alcohol, drugs, vaping, theft, fighting, bullying, hazing, sexual misconduct, criminal activity, cussing, and other behaviors detrimental to the student and/or athletic program
- In-season coaches and administration will handle issues such as but not limited to these under a “3 Strikes” basis
- Increased punishment for each offense will be implemented by the in-season Head Coach to prevent future issues
- After “3 strikes” within a school calendar year or repeated violations, the result may be removal from the team or athletics altogether
- If a student is removed from athletics, they will be required to wait one calendar year to reapply for their position within the program.
- All appeals must be directed to the Athletic Director from the student

-CLASSROOM- Inability to follow teacher guidelines in the classroom/at school sponsored events may result in actions being taken regarding the student-athletes standing in athletics. Any issues resulting in discipline such as detention, in school/out of school suspension, etc. will be reviewed by the in-season coach and Athletic Director to decide whether further consequences are necessary. Coaches and teachers will work together when deciding discipline measures for a student-athlete. Teachers are responsible for the handling of their classroom. However, in cases where repeated classroom issues or violations have occurred, a student-athlete’s standing in the Athletic Program may be impacted or jeopardized.

Teamwork

-TEAM ACTIVITIES- To build and maintain a successful athletic program, all student-athletes will be taught to have a “team first” mindset. Your teammates, coaches, and the best interest of the team and athletic program should factor into your decision making, actions, and reactions at all times. A coach reserves the right to make team building activities such as but not limited to: Team Meals, Community Outreach, Service Projects, etc. encouraged or mandatory within reason. Once a student-athlete is part of a team they are expected to travel with the team to and from games unless previously discussed with the coach and a note is given from a parent/guardian to the coach no later than the required period set forth by the Head Coach.

-ROSTER DECISIONS- WUISD strongly believes that every person has a role that can contribute to a successful team atmosphere. While each individual may possess unique skills, it is the team- working together for one ultimate goal- that will decide the success of the program. WUISD Athletics is an opportunity for all eligible student-athletes to compete at a high level and honor the history and tradition of our school. However, with each team we strive to promote healthy competition against the opponent as well as amongst ourselves. With competition comes decisions made by a coach regarding who is best suited to play on which teams. In the case that coaches must hold tryouts to maintain their ideal number of players on their team, the head coach will be required to have an in-person conversation with players who have not made the team. The coach will then encourage and attempt to find them a different role within the program.

-EQUIPMENT- Once a Student-Athlete becomes a part of a team they may be given school issued uniforms and equipment.

- These items are property of WUISD unless purchased by the family of a student-athlete, these items are to remain on school property at all times unless instructed otherwise by a coach.
- Each team member is responsible for any damaged or lost uniforms and equipment.
- Replacement or compensation to the program or the school must take place before the conclusion of the school year.
- Coaches may instill discipline measures for misplaced, damaged, or lost items necessary to the program.

-TEAM DISCIPLINE- As each team moves forward in their process of obtaining and maintaining sustainable long-term success there will be times when discipline may include an entire team for the poor decisions of a few. This is not to punish the team for one team members failure to meet expectations but to further prove the team first mindset, we win together, we lose together. These decisions may also be in regards to upkeep of locker rooms, gyms, buses, etc. Doing things as a team as opposed to an individual format increases time spent together, as well as growth during adversity and struggle.

Sacrifice

-YEAR ROUND COMMITMENT- In the best efforts of WUISD to produce long term success on and off the field of play, the highest level of commitment is strongly encouraged. This includes creating opportunities for our student-athletes to improve upon their overall skills as a student-athlete year-round. With this in mind, it is required that any member of the Athletic Program be a participating member of two sports of their choice within the school year.

- Female Athletes must participate in 2 of the following sports: Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field to remain in Athletics.
- Male Athletes must participate in 2 of the following sports: Cross Country, Football, Basketball, Track & Field to remain in Athletics.
- An athlete is not limited to only 2 sports- Powerlifting, Golf, and Tennis are also offered at WUISD. However, these sports will not meet the criteria of the 2 sport requirement.
- In certain cases, the Head Coach of a Sport may make it mandatory for their team to participate in a sport such as Track & Field in accordance with maintaining year-round commitment to the program.

Any student-athlete who is not in season with their sports must immediately join the off-season program of lifting and conditioning in preparation for their next sport. A student-athlete choosing to leave athletics to join a class such as PE will follow the same guidelines as a player who has quit a team after the 2 week window. They must serve their 1 calendar year removal from athletics before reapplying to join the athletic program.

-SUMMER WORKOUTS- In addition to the year-round athletic policy:

-All student-athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in any and all available school sponsored camps, summer workouts, leagues, tournaments, etc.

- While many of these may take place over the summer, a student-athlete is asked to SACRIFICE in every attempt to elevate themselves, their teammates, and the athletic program as a whole.
- Summer events, practicing healthy nutrition/sleep habits, group film studies, team organized activities, etc. is voluntary
- A player should not be “punished” for not attending voluntary events
- However, student-athletes who maximize the opportunities offered to them earn the trust and respect of their coaches and will naturally translate to trust and respect during the season.

-PARENT COMMUNICATION-

As a parent of our student-athletes you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your student-athlete. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete's program. The Athletic Department of WUISD desires to increase the responsibility of our JH/HS student-athletes regarding communication. A coach should make efforts to send out any announcements or updates that are important to their program. Announcements, hand-outs, bulletin board postings, etc. are considered to be a sufficient means of communication- It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to deliver additional information to parents/guardians. We expect communication from a coach to be handled through the Team App when communicating to their team. Announcements may also be made through social media or the Wellman-Union ISD school app.

Communication you should expect from your student-athlete's coach:

- Expectations your coach has for your student athlete and the team
- Location and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements
- Team rules, regulations, and guidelines
- Information regarding forms & procedures necessary for participation in Athletics

Communication Coaches should expect from student-athletes:

- Notification of any conflicts of schedules in advance
- Injury or circumstances that may endanger the athlete when participating
- Warning of a Tardy, Absence, or conditions preventing participation (A parent note for a medical condition is permissible for 48 hours from delivery of the note. After that, a note from a licensed healthcare provider must be provided to remain withheld from participation.)
- Updates on any issues or struggles a student-athlete may be having in the classroom

Appropriate Conversations for a parent to have with the coach during scheduled meetings:

- The treatment of your student athlete mentally and physically
- Ways to help your athlete improve
- Concerns about your student athlete's behavior
- Concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of your student athlete

Issues not appropriate to discuss with the coaches

- Playing Time
- Team Strategy
- Play Calling
- Other Student Athletes

Under no circumstances is it necessary or permitted for a parent/guardian or other outside member of the Athletic Program to approach or engage a coach before, during or after a game. Each coach is allowed a teacher conference period that will be used for any parent meetings. Coaches are directed to not engage in any sports related meetings outside of their conference period.

-BOOSTER CLUB- WU Athletics receives funding and support from the hard work of the Wellman-Union Booster Club volunteers. The Booster club reserves the right to approve or deny requests by a coach/team if the team does not provide parent participation in the Booster Club. We encourage all parents to get involved with our Booster Club as they are a key member of our success the Athletic Program. If the Booster Club deems that parent support and Booster Club involvement of a team does not reach their requirements for sponsorship, they are not required or obligated to help fund team needs.

-ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY- WU Athletics works under the regulations and standards of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) for all High School athletic programs. We will abide by the eligibility standards given on the UIL website for any issues or questions regarding the academic eligibility of a student-athlete. However, in cases where the standard and expectations of WUISD are not being met, WUISD reserves the right to place specifications on a student-athlete or team's eligibility requirements.

-TARDIES/ABSENCES- If a player is absent from school, they will not be allowed to participate in practice or games that day. An excused absence (Communicated to the coach no later than the morning of the absence) on a minimal basis is how any and all absences should be handled. An unexcused absence (Either not communicated properly or deemed an unnecessary absence by the coach) will be treated as conduct detrimental to the team. Any absence from practices (before, during, or after school) or games may lead to make-up conditioning work. Misleading or false information regarding tardies or absences may be grounds for removal of the team. Each student-athlete is required to treat their position on the team the same as a professional in their workplace:

Show Up Every Day. Show Up On Time. Communicate.

-LETTERING REQUIREMENTS- To receive a letterman jacket or additional letterman patches for a season, the student-athlete must meet the following requirements.

- The Student-Athlete has remained in good standing with the coaches during the year
- The Student-Athlete has remained in good Academic standing during the season
- The Student-Athlete has participated in Varsity athletics during the season, meeting the requirements put forth by the Head Coach of their respective sport
- Managers or injured athlete's may receive the same Lettering Reward from a sport if they follow the same guidelines as a student-athlete
- WUISD reserves the right to withhold a jacket if our standard is not upheld at any time
- The final say in Lettering eligibility will be decided by the Athletic Director

Each sport season will bring wins and losses, growth and struggle, joy and pain. WUISD and the Athletic Program asks that Athletes, Coaches, Fans, Parents & Families, Faculty & Staff and all other participating members give their greatest efforts to daily represent "THE WU" with:

CHARACTER—ACCOUNTABILITY—TEAMWORK—SACRIFICE

STUDENT & PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent and Student-Athlete: Review this contract carefully, complete information as requested, affix signatures, and return the completed contract/permission form to the school.

The student-athlete and his or her parent/guardian have received and read the Student Contract.

Based on this information, the student and parent/guardian understand and stipulate to the following:

1. I/We understand the eligibility regulations required for participation.
2. I/We affirm that the student has satisfied all of the eligibility requirements
3. I/We affirm that the student will exert effort to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. I/We understand there is potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury associated with participation in a sport.
5. I/We affirm that the student will not participate in hazing at any time, of any nature.
6. I/We, as a participant or spectator, will exhibit a high level of sportsmanship at contests.
7. I/We will follow appropriate procedures in communicating concerns to coaches.
8. I/We affirm that the student will abide by all team and participation standards.
9. I/We affirm that the student will not use, nor be in the vicinity of steroids, illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco unless medically prescribed for a specific condition or illness.

Permission to Participate

I/We hereby authorize and consent to our child's participation in Wellman-Union ISD Athletics.

We understand that the sport(s) in which our child will be participating is potentially dangerous, and that physical injuries may occur to our child requiring emergency medical care and treatment.

I/We assume the risk of injury to our child that may occur in an athletic activity.

I/we agree to release and hold harmless Wellman-Union ISD Faculty & Staff, its members, the Superintendent of Schools, the principal, all coaches, and any and all other of their employees from any claims, costs, suits, actions, judgment, and expenses arising from our child's participation in WUISD athletics.

I/We hereby give our consent and authorize WUISD consent on our behalf and on behalf of our child, to emergency medical care and treatment in the event we are unable to be notified by reasonable attempts of the need for such emergency medical care and treatment.

Please affix signatures below and return to the school.

Print Parent or Legal Guardian Name _____

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

Coaching Contact Information

Kody Bell: Football, Basketball, Golf
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Crista Gray: Cross Country, Basketball, Tennis
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Landry Kidd: Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field
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Cade Patterson: Football, Basketball, Track & Field
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Sky Rojas: Cross Country, Powerlifting, Track & Field
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Brian Sepkowitz: Football, Powerlifting, Track & Field
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Taylor Dillard: Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field
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