

**Canutillo Independent School District
Alderete Middle School
Athletic Handbook**



Who's The Best? We Are!

Mission Statement

Canutillo I.S.D.'s purpose is to provide high quality educational experience that will inspire and prepare all students to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to become effective leaders and productive citizens.

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CANUTILLO ISD MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The purpose of athletics is both educational and recreational. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many students as possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the participants as the primary consideration. A well-organized and well-conducted athletic program can have a positive influence on the morale of the student body. It can also be an important phase of good community and school relations.

The athletic program will operate by the following:

1. Open all sports to all students enrolled at the appropriate level.
2. Establish eligibility requirements for students which include approval from a physician, satisfactory academics, school citizenship records, and parental approval.
3. Give every eligible student an equal opportunity to be a member of a squad; however, membership on a squad does not necessarily guarantee participation in games/events.
4. Outfit all teams with appropriate equipment.

CANUTILLO ISD MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

All students shall be given a wide range of opportunities for development beyond the academic program. We believe that athletics are an integral part of the educational process offering many opportunities for mental, social, and physical growth.

Participation in athletics as an athlete, cheerleader, scorekeeper, manager, or student athletic trainer is a PRIVILEGE offered to students; IT IS NOT AN INHERENT RIGHT. Participation in any of these programs demands a major commitment to be prepared mentally and physically to perform their chosen tasks to the best of their ability.

ATHLETE CODE OF ETHICS

- A. Demonstrate proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
- B. Eliminate all possibilities which lead to destroy the best values of the game.
- C. Demonstrate the values derived from playing fairly.
- D. Show courtesy to opposing teams and game officials.
- E. Establish a friendly relationship between visitors and hosts.
- F. Respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- G. Understand and accept the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
- H. Show leadership, initiative, and good judgment during practices and games.
- I. Develop skills and ability without sacrificing personal safety.
- J. Represent the school and community in a positive manner.
- K. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote physical, mental, moral, social, and the emotional well being of the individual.
- L. Remember that athletic contests are games, not matters of life or death.

GOALS OF THE CANUTILLO ISD MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

It shall be the goal of the Canutillo Schools to provide and to teach each student participating in the athletic program the following:

1. A feeling of positive self-worth and an attitude of self-discipline.
2. An opportunity to develop their full physical, mental, and emotional potential.
3. An opportunity to participate in competitive situations with and against others in preparation for a competitive society.
4. A sense of responsibility to the school, team, coaches, teachers, and community.
5. Develop and use a standard of values and ethics which demonstrates sportsmanship and a positive representation of their school and community.

GENERAL REGULATION OF ATHLETICS

It is understood that it is impossible to have a regulation for every possible circumstance. Coaches will have specific rules to follow in their specific sport. Coaches shall use discretionary judgment in their dealings with individual situations not covered by a specific written regulation or policy.

1. Students are subject to the general laws and regulations of the community, school board, and their individual school.
2. Students, by participating in the interscholastic athletic program, agree to abide by and be subject to these regulations and to those of the University Interscholastic League (UIL).
3. All participants are expected to be present for all team practices or activity meetings.
4. Students need to have the following forms correctly completed prior to trying out, practicing, or competing for a team.
 - UIL Physical Examination, UIL Medical History
 - UIL Acknowledgement of Rules
 - CISD Release of Liability and Parental Consent, Insurance/Emergency Contact
 - Warning/Agreement to Obey Instructions/Release/Assumption of Risk and Agreement to Hold Harmless, CISD Asthma Medication Self Administration
 - UIL Illegal Steroid Use – Parent and Student Notification Form
 - Accident Insurance Information.
5. It is the responsibility of the students and their parents to assure that the student abides by all the regulations and procedures.

CANUTILLO ISD MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICIES

1. Academics:

Student athletes must have a passing grade in all classes in order to participate in, travel with, or be on the sidelines during a UIL sponsored activity. Students who do not have passing grades must attend all practices and meetings that are called by the head coach. A student may be required to attend a study hall that is established for those student athletes who are not passing. Repeated loss of eligibility or poor grades is justification for removal from a team.

Eligibility for UIL Participants For The First Six Weeks

UIL participants are eligible to participate in contests during the first six weeks of the school year provided he/she has passed the number of courses, from the prior year, required by state law and the state board of education.

After The First Six Weeks Of The School Year

A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any class (other than an identified advanced class) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan, (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for three school weeks. An ineligible student must practice, however. The student regains eligibility after the seven calendar day waiting period has ended following a grading or the three school weeks evaluation period when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes, other than those that are advanced.

All schools must check grades for all participants at the end of the first six weeks of the school year. From that point, grades are checked at the end of the grading period whether it is three or six weeks in length. Students who pass remain eligible until the end of the next grading period. All activity coaches and directors are responsible for obtaining official grade reports from the individual the principal designates as the keeper of official grades before the student represents the school. This provision applies to all grading periods. It also applies to all three-school week evaluation periods for ineligible students.

2. Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all academic classes. Good attendance and good grades go together. Unexcused absences or ditching class will not be tolerated. Excessive absenteeism may be grounds for removal from a team/athletics.

Students who are assigned to ISS are there because of actions that are in violation of the student code of conduct. They must serve their time in ISS and will practice before or after school everyday they are in ISS. However, they may not be taken out of ISS during the regular school day or participate in any game or contest while in ISS. Any future assignment to ISS may be grounds for removal from a team/athletics.

3. Dress Code:

Canutillo student athletes will follow the dress code established by the Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees. Each student athlete is expected to represent Canutillo in proper dress and manner. The coach reserves the right to determine the dress code when traveling to, or participating in any athletic contest.

4. Attendance at Practice and Athletic Contests:

In order for a team or individual athlete to compete their very best, they must practice the skills that are needed for their sport. Student athletes will be at every practice, game and meeting that is called by the head coach unless prior arrangements have been made. School issued excuses will be required for missed practices. If you must miss a practice, game or meeting contact the head coach. Having someone from your family call or sending a message with a friend will not be accepted as a valid excuse. It may be necessary for you to make up practices that were excused, if the coach is concerned about your physical condition due to lost practice time. Repeated missing of practice, excused or unexcused, may result in a game suspension(s) or dismissal from the team/athletics. Students who become ineligible because of grades during a season will continue to practice with the team.

A team's practice may be either open or closed. If the coach has open practices, parents may watch, but not interfere with the practice. A coach may close a practice to help the team focus on an upcoming opponent or team strategies, etc. This is not meant to exclude others from supporting the program, but is necessary at times to focus on the team. If the coach has closed the practice only team members, coaches, managers, and athletic trainers may attend.

5. Quitting a Team/Dismissal from a Team

A player should be encouraged to finish every sport he/she starts. However, certain sports are not for everyone. An athlete that quits a sport will be permitted to go to another sport. The coaches of the respective sports must mutually agree to allow the student move. Permission may also be given by the athletic coordinator, assistant principal, or principal, with extenuating circumstances.

At times it may be necessary for a coach to dismiss a player from a team. He/she may be a detriment to the team, or because he/she cannot follow the policies or procedures of the team, school, or school district. This will not be a "snap" decision. A great deal of thought is always given before deciding to dismiss an athlete from a team. You, the athlete, and your parents then have the option to speak with the coach. If not satisfied, then the athletic coordinator may be sought out. If not satisfied, the assistant principal, then possibly the principal may be contacted. When appealing a dismissal, please do not skip any of these steps in the chain of command (see section 11).

6. Travel and Meals:

- A. Only persons directly associated with teams shall be transported and fed. Those persons considered to be directly associated with athletic teams are the assigned coaches, travel team members, managers, athletic trainers, student athletic trainers, scorekeepers, bus driver, and approved chaperones.
- B. All school rules and district policies are in full effect during all home and away events regardless of the location.
- C. In the process of traveling to, during, or returning from any away event, no side trips may be made unless the proper authorization has been received prior to the trip. Accepted routes of travel are as follows: from school to the event and back, from event to eating location and/or event. Malls, parks, movies, etc., are prohibited without prior authorization from the proper school official.
- D. All students must travel to and from all away events with their teams in a school sponsored vehicle. Unusual situations should be addressed to the appropriate administrator.
- E. Students, in certain unusual situations, may continue on to another destination with their parents or legal guardians if they meet the following requirements:
 - 1. Prior to the trip the participant must present the coach with a written request from the parent or legal guardian.
 - 2. The participant's principal and coach must approve the request.
 - 3. The parent or legal guardian must make personal contact with the coach when they pick up the student.
 - 4. Written request must be presented to the coach at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled event.
- F. A student's general conduct shall in no way be disrespectful or disruptive in eating establishments.
- G. Any violation regarding travel or eating establishment rules will lead to punitive action by the coach, athletic coordinator, assistant principal, or principal.

7. Tobacco, Alcohol, Illegal and Mind Altering Drugs

The use of TOBACCO, in any form, possession of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ILLEGAL DRUGS, and MIND ALTERING SUBSTANCES (including the smell thereof) is prohibited while under school authority. Use of said substances while under school authority may result in the immediate expulsion from a team or activity. Physical conditioning of athletes is of great importance for the success of any athletic program. Any substances that hinder athletic performance should be avoided at all times. If a coach determines that an athlete has been using tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs, thereby jeopardizing their performance level, it will be necessary for the safety and well being of the student to sanction him/her from the next scheduled event or remove him/her from the team/athletics.

8. Hazing

Hazing in athletics will not be tolerated. "Hazing" is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in organization whose members are or include other students. (Canutillo ISD-FNCC (H) Hazing is a level IV disciplinary offense which include those acts of misconduct that seriously disrupt the educational process, endanger or seriously affect other students, and perhaps violate the law.

Level IV Disciplinary Options for hazing, as outlined in the CISD Code of Conduct, may include one or any combination of the following:

1. Any discipline technique outlined in Level III
2. Suspension from school not to exceed three days at a time and suspension from extra-curricular activities.
3. Citation by law enforcement personnel.
4. Alternative education placement
5. Reassignment of classes
6. A student may be expelled if the student:
 - A. Continues to engage in serious or persistent misbehavior that violate the code of conduct or AEP classroom rules after being placed in an alternative education program for disciplinary reasons.
 - B. Engages in criminal mischief under Penal Code 28.03, if the conduct is punishable as a felony, whether committed on or off school property or at a school related activity, (intentional or knowing damage to school property resulting in a loss of \$1,500 or more)

9. Injuries, Treatment, and Insurance:

In the event of an injury, C.I.S.D. has an athletic trainer who is licensed by the State of Texas Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers. Each year the athletic trainer is required to earn continuing education units by attending clinics and seminars. This ensures the trainer is up-to-date in his/her field of study. The school district has made it possible for our training rooms to be equipped with up-to-date equipment and materials that are used only for the treatment of injuries sustained in athletics.

When you are injured the first person you need to see is the coach and notify the athletic trainer. The athletic trainer can then decide what course of action is necessary. The athletic trainer also has access to doctors, their expertise, and facilities. Let the athletic trainer use these resources to help you.

Whenever a student athlete receives medical treatment from a doctor written documentation by the physician must be provided to the athletic trainer regarding the status of the injury. Return to participation release and any other information regarding his/her medical condition and participation in athletics must be presented to the athletic trainer before practice and/or competition can resume.

In accordance with HB 2038 “Natasha’s Law” the athletic trainer, as a part of the district’s concussion oversight team, has final say as to the return to play status after an athlete has sustained a concussion.

In accordance with HB 1688 any student athlete with asthma must provide written permission from their parents and physician when self-medicating before participating in an athletic event (physical packet).

The C.I.S.D. has a basic insurance policy that covers anyone who is taking part in U.I.L. sponsored athletic activities. The athletic trainer is the expert. If there are any questions regarding the insurance, please consult the athletic trainer.

Note: The athletic trainer is on site for every home sporting event held at Alderete Middle School. If your child is injured at another school the injury must be reported to the athletic trainer as soon as possible.

10. Disruptive Conduct/Conduct Unbecoming of a Student Athlete:

Student athletes are expected to follow the student Code of Conduct outlined in CISD policy. Student athletes are role models for the school and community. Any negative actions committed by a student athlete while on or off school property may be grounds for team and/or school discipline. These actions can include, but are not limited to; vandalism, criminal arrests, fighting, inappropriate public displays of affection (PDA), and gang activity. Student athletes shall refrain from any activity that is a violation of Texas law or that negatively reflects upon themselves, their team, their school, or their community.

11. Parent Coach Relations/Communication:

Communication

1. Student athlete to Coach
2. Parent to Coach
3. Parent to Athletic Coordinator
4. Parent to Assistant Principal
5. Parent to Principal

The Student Athlete and Coach

If an athlete has an issue about their experience on a team they must first approach the coach to discuss the issue. The athletic experience at Canutillo Schools provides the opportunity for young people to develop communication skills with adults, and those in positions of authority. In this case, the student athlete and coach must develop a mutual respect and understanding that allows them to discuss issues openly and honestly, while striving to gain a better understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities.

The Parent and Coach

***Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**

1. The treatment of your child mentally and/or physically
2. Ways to help your child improve individually and as a team player
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

***Issues not appropriate for parents to discuss with coaches:**

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other students or coaches
5. Coach's skill or knowledge of the sport

There are situations that require a meeting between the coach and the parent. For this to take place, it is important for both parties to have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue.

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. If you are unable to reach the coach, contact the athletic coordinator to arrange the meeting.
3. Do not confront a coach before, after, or during a contest or practice.
4. Focus on the issue(s) at hand.
5. If a resolution cannot be found, the athletic coordinator can be contacted for a meeting.
6. If step 5 is unsuccessful, the athletic coordinator will set up a meeting with the assistant principal.
7. If step 6 is unsuccessful, the assistant principal will set up a meeting with the principal.

12. Equipment and Facilities:

The Canutillo School District spends a great deal of money each year to see that its athletes have the best equipment possible. Once equipment is checked out to the students it becomes the student's sole responsibility to take care of it and keep it clean. If the student loses equipment, he/she will pay for it. The gyms, fields, and dressing rooms must also be cared for. The same rules apply to these facilities. Destruction of any property will not be tolerated.

All athletes must return all of the equipment from one sport that was checked out to them before they are allowed to receive a uniform or equipment in another sport. If any of the equipment is lost or stolen the athlete will have to reimburse the school for the cost of the equipment before they are allowed to receive a uniform or equipment in another sport, or before a student checks out, or is promoted out of school. *Athletes will not be allowed to play in any other game/contest until uniforms and/or equipment is returned or paid for.*

13. Awards:

The types and number of athletic awards will be set by each school's athletic coordinator, administration, and coaches. These standards will be in accordance with UIL standards, and regulations.



PARENTAL/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT
(READ CAREFULLY)

As the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) we fully realize, are aware, and understand that our son/daughter may sustain serious and possibly fatal injuries, regardless of the protective equipment provided, as a result of athletic participation.

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature

Date

Home Phone

Business Phone

Cell Phone

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

We the parents or legal guardians of _____ have read and understand the Canutillo ISD Middle School Athletic Handbook and are willing to assist the coach/sponsor in the enforcement of these procedures. We are willing to abide by the procedure requirements, regulations, and responsibilities. We have read, considered, and understand the above statement regarding the possible physical consequences of athletic participation and do hereby give our permission for the above named student to participate in the Canutillo ISD Middle School athletic program.

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature

Date

I, (PRINT YOUR NAME) _____
Grade _____

Have read and understand the Canutillo ISD Middle School Athletic Handbook and the above statement regarding the possible physical consequences of athletic participation. I am willing to abide by the rules and regulations of these procedures and understand that serious injuries can be sustained as a result of my participation in athletics.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent Note:

Please sign and return this page to the proper coach. Failure to return this form will disqualify your child from participation.