



Santo ISD

Athletic Code of Conduct

Mission Statement

Santo ISD Athletic Department will provide an athletic program that helps develop the whole person through education and competition. In addition, the program will allow student-athletes the ability to pursue and understand the values of hard work, commitment, leadership, sportsmanship, responsibility, accountability, decision-making, and teamwork.

Vision Statement

The Vision of Santo ISD Athletic Department is to provide athletic programs that will encourage and empower student-athletes to become better students, athletes, and leaders within the community.

Core Values

- **Toughness**- Not letting mental or physical adversity hinder our goal
- **Effort & Attitude**-Maximum exertion of energy that helps the program regardless of the circumstances
- **Accountability**-Carrying out your commitments to the program
- **Motives**-Driving force to be better for your team, family, and community
- **Servant Leaders**-Lead with selfless intent

Athletic Code

With athletics being the most visible activity of any school, we must strive to display dedication, character, class, sportsmanship, and citizenship. Athletics is not a right, it is a privilege—a privilege earned by upholding high standards and morals. Furthermore, to deserve this privilege, athletes are required to sacrifice time and to abstain from distasteful fashion and unhealthy lifestyles that can be harmful to self or others. Athletic guidelines must be made and followed by coaches and athletes to ensure appropriate behavioral standards. The coaches will use their judgment in dealing with matters interpreted as violations that may or may not be discussed in the athletic code.

Santo ISD is dedicated to producing competitive, successful, well-behaved, courteous, and respected athletes and coaches. It is the duty of all involved in athletics to emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical behavior and fair play.

Athletes must:

- treat officials and opponents with respect
- be loyal to coach, teammates, and school
- put academic success above athletic success
- not use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
- practice good sportsmanship at all times

- participate in multiple sports, if possible
- be neat and clean in appearance and presentable to the community
- not use profanity

Coaches will:

- be a positive role model for student-athletes
- treat officials and opponents with respect
- be good teachers, in and out of the classroom
- develop good citizens and athletes
- be courteous and fair to student-athletes
- provide a safe environment
- encourage participation in multiple sports

Parents should:

- treat officials and opponents with respect
- treat coaches with respect
- not expect a coach to converse with you before, during, or after a game or practice
- not act in a way which undermines the efforts of the coach
- emphasize team improvement and development over individual achievement
- be a positive role model for your son and/or daughter
- encourage participation in multiple sports

Parent and Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with a Coach:

1. The mental and physical treatment of your child
2. What your child needs to do to improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with a Coach:

1. How much playing time each athlete is getting
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Any situation that deals with other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue.

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and ask him to set up a meeting with the coach for you
3. Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting
4. Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them
5. Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest
 - a) These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it

Chain Of Command

If you meet with a coach and are not satisfied with the resolution, use the chain of command. Issues concerning the boys and girls should be addressed to the Athletic Director. If you are still not satisfied, you may contact the Principal on the campus on which your child attends and schedule a meeting with the principal and Athletic Director. If, at this time, you are still not satisfied, you may contact the Superintendent for resolution.

Student Athlete Discipline Code

The basic principle of conduct under which we will operate at Santo High School and Santo Junior High is:

- Conduct yourself in such a manner that you bring credit to yourself, your teammates, your family, and to Santo ISD. Never engage in any activity that can be construed as inappropriate for a Santo athletic team member.

Student-athletes will be held accountable for adhering to the rules set forth in this code of conduct, and for any rules set by the head coach of the sport in which the athlete is participating. All Santo student-athletes are expected to show compliance with all of the following regulations and guidelines:

1. Strict compliance with all rules and policies set forth in the Santo ISD Student Handbook
2. No use of tobacco (smoking, chewing, snuff, or other related products)
3. No use of alcohol
4. No use of any illegal drug or other controlled substance
5. No theft or vandalism. Do not take what is not yours. Take care of what has been provided to you
6. Regular and prompt attendance of all classes, and other required academic functions
7. Regular and prompt attendance of all practices, games, and team functions is mandatory
8. Display good citizenship and conduct at all times. This includes:
 - a) Displaying cordial behavior to visiting teams at all times
 - b) Displaying good sportsmanship
 - c) Respecting the integrity and judgment of officials, coaches, and fans
 - d) Avoid derisive action or words
 - e) Avoid all profanity, vulgarity, unruliness, obscene gestures, and taunting
9. Finish the season in good standing (as determined by head coach and/or Athletic Director)
10. Be financially responsible for all athletic equipment and uniforms issued
11. If any financial obligation is occurred during a season, the obligation must be paid in full before being eligible to compete in another sport
12. Must meet all school, district, and UIL rules and regulations concerning eligibility
13. Follow all additional rules established by coaches of individual teams

Violation of any of the above may result in any of the following:

1. Detention before, during, or after school
2. Disciplinary action by the coach of the individual team
3. Single or multiple game/match suspensions
4. Dismissal from the athletic team
5. Suspension from school
6. Expulsion from school
7. Arrest by local authorities

Any missed practice time or game time due to disciplinary action by the school is subject to additional disciplinary action by the individual coach based on team regulations and rules. If a student is suspended from school, and remains on the team, he/she may not attend practices, games, or any school function for the duration of the suspension.

Behavior Management Policies

Note: All incidents subject to the four strike policy will be reviewed by the Athletic Director. The AD and his representatives reserve the right to make decisions in regards to the policies below and the student-athletes involved on a case-by-case basis and may make the decision to deviate from the policy below in extreme or extenuating circumstances.

Major Offense Disciplinary Action – 3 Strike Policy:

Major offenses include but are not limited to the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, hazing, theft, vandalism, possession of synthetic urine, or other serious violations of the law or rules. Violations are cumulative during the junior high years and again during the high school years. A student who receives one strike during their time at the junior high level will start anew once they enter high school. However, a second offense during junior high will result in a 1 year suspension—even if that suspension results in lost time during the freshmen year. A junior or senior who commits a 2nd offense will forfeit part or all of his or her senior year.

STRIKE 1 – 1st Offense

The student-athlete will be suspended for two games in respective sports that only compete once a week. In sports that compete twice a week the student-athlete will be suspended for a total of four games. In sports that compete in tournaments, a tournament will only be counted as one game in terms of suspension. All student-athletes who commit a strike will be required to complete 20 miles of physical conditioning that will be monitored and observed by the head coach of that sport before school or after practice. If the physical conditioning is not completed in its entirety by the end of the suspension, the student-athletes suspension will then be extended until the conditioning is complete.

STRIKE 2 – 2nd Offense

The student-athlete will be suspended for four games in respective sports that only compete once a week. In sports that compete twice a week the student-athlete will be suspended for a total of eight games. In sports that compete in tournaments, a tournament will only be counted as one game in terms of suspension. All student-athletes who commit a strike will be required to complete 40 miles of physical conditioning that will be monitored and observed by the head coach of that sport before school or after practice. If the physical conditioning is not completed in its entirety by the end of the suspension, the student-athletes suspension will then be extended until the conditioning is complete.

STRIKE 3 – 3rd Offense

The student-athlete will be suspended for 8 games in respective sports that only compete once a week. In sports that compete twice a week the student-athlete will be suspended for a total of 16 games. In sports that compete in tournaments, a tournament will only be counted as one game in terms of suspension. All student-athletes who commit a strike will be required to complete 80 miles of physical conditioning that will be monitored and observed by the head coach of that sport before school or after practice. If the physical conditioning is not completed in its entirety by the end of the suspension, the student-athletes suspension will then be extended until the conditioning is complete.

STRIKE 4 – 4th Offense

Suspension from all extracurricular athletics for 1 calendar year. The Athletic Committee comprised of pertinent coaches and administrators will determine if the athlete may remain in the athletic period during their suspension or if they will be removed all together.

Note: At the conclusion of the suspension, the Athletic Committee will review admittance back into the athletic programs. Committee will take into account discipline records, academic records, behavior patterns, and other pertinent information to help them make an informed decision. Admittance back into the program will range from full admittance, probationary admittance, or denial based on committee recommendations.

Minor Offense Disciplinary Action

Penalties assigned to minor offenses will be addressed by the head coach. Examples of minor offenses may include but are not limited to:

1. Use of profanity
2. Wearing jewelry in practice or games
3. Wearing inappropriate attire for practice or games. Proper practice gear must be worn at all times. Wear only what has been issued to you.
4. Inappropriate hair cuts or colors. Hair should be kept neat and no unusual haircuts are permitted.
5. Being late to practices, games, travel arrangements, and any other team functions
6. Inability to keep your locker and locker room clean
7. Inappropriate behavior, misconduct, or ejections from contests is unacceptable (These instances will be reviewed on a case by case basis)
8. Inappropriate behavior, misconduct, and/or academic issues in the regular classroom setting

Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action will be handled by the head coach of the sport that is in season or the off-season coordinator if the athlete is out of season. Minor offenses are punishable by physical conditioning as deemed appropriate by the coach. Repeat offense may result in suspension, parent conference, athletic probation, or other as deemed necessary by the head coach.

Hazing

Hazing is defined by the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language as follows: (1) *To persecute or harass with meaningless, difficult, or humiliating tasks; and (2) to initiate, as into a college fraternity, by exacting humiliating performances from or playing rough practical jokes upon.*

In the athletic programs at Santo, we have many traditions that we want to pass along to our underclassmen. None of these traditions involve putting your hands on an underclassman in an inappropriate way, nor do they

involve handling someone's personal possessions. Any athlete found to be involved in a hazing incident will be subject to discipline as detailed in the Code of Conduct section of the High School Student Handbook. The student-athlete will also be subject to the 3-strike policy as detailed in the athletic code.

Any teacher, administrator, or other person employed by the District, or any student who observes any other student engaged in any form of hazing, or who has reason to know or suspect that student or students intends to engage in hazing, shall report that fact or suspension to the designated campus discipline person.

Felony Offense Disciplinary Action:

Any athlete found to be accused of a felony will be suspended from athletics. This is not an assumption of guilt, but rather an attempt to provide the student-athlete with an opportunity to clear his or her name. Students will be reinstated when the case is either dismissed or the athlete is found not guilty. If found guilty, see above policy for Strike 3.

Missing Practices, Games, and/or Other Team Functions

An athlete should consult with his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with severely. Policies regarding absences will be determined by each sport's head coach. Sudden illness or some other unavoidable emergency would be a good reason for missing, but should be communicated with the coach staff.

Vacation Policy

Vacations and/or out-of-town trips that are taken by players during the season and result in the player missing practices and/or games are highly discouraged. Athletic schedules are pre-arranged and are often determined by the district in which the sport competes. Competitions are often conducted during school holidays. You must honor your obligation to your team. When an absence due to a vacation is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- Be accompanied by his/her parents/guardians while on vacation
- Contact the head coach prior to the vacation
- Be willing to assume consequences related to their status on that squad as a starter, backup, reserve, etc.
- Complete any extra physical conditioning before being allowed to compete again
- Other consequences at the discretion of the head coach and/or Athletic Director

Quitting In Season

Every student who starts a sport should finish it. As a general rule, however, an athlete who is in good standing with the athletic program and wants to quit one sport in order to move to another may do so if mutually decided upon by the head coach, Athletic Director, and player. An athlete not in good standing as deemed by the head coach and/or Athletic Director will also be allowed to quit and transfer to another sport. However, that athlete will be suspended for a number of contests in the new sport equivalent to the number of competitions that are left on the schedule of the sport he or she is leaving.

If an athlete is competing in two sports at the same time and chooses to quit one sport, the case will be reviewed by the Athletic Director, and any action if necessary will be determined at the discretion of the Athletic Director and all pertinent head coaches. No student who has been declared academically ineligible will be allowed to quit one sport and transfer to another until the first sport has completed its season. All cases and situations are subject to review by the Athletic Director and/or the athletic committee and in all cases final

approval must be granted by the Athletic Director before an athlete may quit a sport. In extreme cases a parent conference may be deemed necessary at the request of the head coach and/or Athletic Director.

The formal process for quitting a sport is as follows:

- Step 1: Conference with head coach of sport
- Step 2: Written explanation explaining reasons for quitting (signed by head coach)
- Step 3: Formal Conference with Athletic Director
- Step 4: Conference with parents (if applicable)

Individual Sport Rule

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports with the approval of the Athletic Director. Penalties will be designated/handled by their respective coach(s). Participants and parents will be informed in writing before the season of any additional policies regarding that sport.

Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as their schedule will allow during their interscholastic years. Undoubtedly, students who participate in multiple activities will find themselves in a position of conflict of responsibilities. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid a continuous conflict. Students should be proactive in notifying coaches and sponsors of inevitable conflicts as they arise. Multi-sport/activity athletes may need to be creative with time schedules in order to be able to devote the appropriate practice time to honing their skills. Coaches will work with students in creating an effective practice schedule to accommodate conflicts.

When conflicts do arise coaches will meet and work out a solution so that the student is not caught in the middle. Conflicts will be resolved based on the following:

- School sponsored events take precedence over activities not sponsored by the school
- Relative importance of each event
- District vs non district; district vs playoffs
- How long each event has been scheduled
- Talk with parents or guardians

Academics and Athletics

Extracurricular activities are a privilege afforded to the students at Santo ISD. Student athletes will be held to a higher standard than that of the regular student. They are expected to adhere to the rules mentioned in this handbook, as well as, meeting all academic criteria set forth by the University Interscholastic League.

In order to be eligible on a yearly basis, students must pass a minimum number of core classes as determined by the UIL and not exceed the maximum age limits. At the end of each six-weeks grading period, any student who fails any class will be determined to be academically ineligible for a three-week period and will not be allowed to participate in and/or travel to any contests.

At the conclusion of the three-week period the student's grades will be checked. If the student is passing all classes he/she may resume full participation as determined by the head coach. A student who still has a failing

grade in ANY of their classes will remain ineligible for another 3 weeks at which time the process will be repeated.

Coaches of individual sports at Santo ISD may choose to implement academic enhancement procedures to assist and aid students who display deficiencies in the area of academics. These procedures will be left up to the head coach and may include, but are not limited to:

1. Before or after school study halls
2. Peer tutoring sessions
3. Probations
4. Physical “reminders”
5. Parent conferences
6. Suspensions

Removal from Athletics

1. Habitual missing of practices/meeting, not cooperating with the other members or coach, not maintaining the required grade average, and/or displaying a poor attitude toward one’s responsibilities as a participant may lead to removal and/or replacement.
2. If a student is placed in ISS (In-School Suspension), D.E.A.P. (Discipline Alternate Education Placement) or is suspended for any Student Code of Conduct disciplinary offense, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any games or practices while serving his/her suspension. Any practices or games missed due to disciplinary measures will be made up with appropriate conditioning activities before the athlete may resume normal athletic functions.
3. A second placement in ISS, suspension, D.A.E.P., or any combination of the three during the school year will result in suspension and /or dismissal from extra-curricular activities for a given time to be determined by the Athletic Director
4. Consequences for infractions occurring while the athlete is out of season may be enforced the next season that the athlete chooses to compete. This may mean a carryover from one year to the next and is at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

NOTE: Student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish codes of conduct—and consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

Player Participation Policy

It is important to understand that participation on an athletic team is a privilege and not a right. All athletes that wish to participate in team sports (i.e. Football, Basketball, XC, Baseball, Softball, and Track) must go through off-season. A student-athlete who wishes to join a team sport who has not been involved in athletics will go through one year of off-season before they can participate in the sport that is desired.

Being on and maintaining one’s membership on the team means accepting all the responsibilities of an athlete. However, unlike some other organizations, equal or guaranteed playing time does not exist. In an effort to win, a coach will use players best suited to the conditions or demands of the contest at that time.

Every coach has the responsibility and authority for deciding on rosters, positions, and playing time for the teams within his or her program. The criteria for establishing these parameters are developed by the head coach in conjunction with the Athletic Director. It is also important to remember that there are no guarantees. Players from the previous year's junior varsity, for example, do not automatically make the varsity squad the following year. Each year is in and of itself.

Sub-varsity levels and teams should promote learning and player and team development. Varsity demands that higher skill levels have been attained and that athletes are striving for competitive excellence in their sport.

On the 7th, 8th, 9th, and JV levels every suited up team member will play/participate in varying degrees in each contest, assuming they have met all other team requirements. At these sub-varsity levels coaches will do everything in their power to win the contest, however, playing time for each athlete and team development will be the primary focus.

Each varsity athlete will have an individual role on his/her team. That role may be as a starter, a substitute or other designated position. Participation will be as directed by the head coach of each sport and is not guaranteed. At the varsity level a coaches performance is based, at least somewhat, on his or her ability to win. Therefore, playing time will be determined by the head coach of each sport. There are no guarantees at the varsity level for playing time and/or positions. Coaches will accommodate all players when competition allows.

It will be every coach's goal to ensure that every athlete in his or her program(s) has a positive experience. This does not guarantee an absence of disappointment, but it does lend itself to coaches developing the total athlete and more importantly the total person.

Lettering Policies – Athletics

*Participant must have completed the season as a varsity member in good standing and meet UIL requirements to be eligible for consideration.

Football, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball

- Must play in at least 75% of the total quarters, periods, and/or innings

Cross Country

- Participant must place 12th or better in one-half of invitational meets and/or advance past district

Track

- Participants must score at least 10 total points in invitational meets or advance past district

Golf, Powerlifting, Tennis

- Participant must place in two invitational meets or qualify for the regional meet

Managers/Trainers/Statisticians/Record Keepers

- Be in attendance at regular workouts and games or events for two years

**Head coaches reserve the right to recommend awarding a letter to a participant because of extenuating circumstance such as an injury or because the participant was elevated from junior varsity status to varsity status*

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late in the season. Any letters or awards given that do not meet the above-mentioned criteria must obtain the approval of the Athletic Director.