

Prosper ISD Athletic Regulations & Expectations

It is the desire of the administration and coaching staff of Prosper ISD that being an athlete will be an integral part of his/her secondary educational experience. Being a PISD athlete is a privilege and is one that carries with it many responsibilities. As athletes in PISD, our young people have an image to reflect and uphold. That image is one of positive leadership, character, responsibility, and great competitive spirit. Participation in the educational athletic program and/or University Interscholastic League contests is not a right but a privilege. No student is required to take part in athletic contests or activities. Therefore, it is imperative that all students participating in athletics understand the regulations that can be found below while conforming to the rules therein. Student athletes failing to follow these regulations or failing to live up to the Prosper ISD Student Code of Conduct, Random Student Drug Testing policy and/or the Co-Curricular policy can have athletic participation privileges removed by the supervising coach.

The following regulations will be in effect for all athletes in PISD, both on and off the field of play, in order to be eligible to participate in any competitive sport practice or program directly related to improvement in sport.

On the Field or Court

1. The athlete must refrain from the use of profanity or resorting to illegal tactics. Temper fits, flagrant rules violations, etc, will not be tolerated.
2. He/She must learn that both winning and losing are a part of the game and that you have to win or lose with class and emotional maturity.
3. Total Respect for officials is an absolute must; any disrespect from athletes or fans will not be tolerated.
4. Any behavior contrary to the above mentioned or any other act, which is not conducive to good sportsmanship, may result in disciplinary action at the coach's discretion, which may include removal from the contest.

Personal Appearance and Grooming

Participation in educational athletics is a privilege, not a right; therefore, there are certain standards which must be maintained.

1. **Uniformity:** Athletes travel quite frequently to other schools, towns, communities, restaurants, etc., as representatives of PISD; therefore, they should be groomed in a manner in which our community, school and sponsors will be proud. We expect our athletes to set the example for our school in the area of grooming and personal appearance.
2. **Dress:** The athlete should be neatly dressed and in compliance with all PISD& UIL policies.
 - a. **Hair:** All athletes who represent the Prosper Independent School District, will be properly dressed and hair will be neatly cut per the Student Code of Conduct. No haircuts or hair color (including the use of feathers in any form – clipped, banded, or attached permanently) outside of the UIL Guidelines or Student Code of Conduct will be allowed for playoffs or any other contests. This includes males bleaching their hair blonde, mohawks, or cutting numbers/designs in their hair, etc. Long hair must be pulled back out of the student athlete's face during practices and competitions.
 - b. **Jewelry:** No jewelry will be allowed during practices or games. New piercings must be removed during practice and games. Not only is this a safety issue, but it is also in accordance with UIL rules for practice and competition.

Eligibility

The UIL No Pass No Play rule requires all athletes to maintain a 70 in all classes each 9 weeks in order to participate. You must be on grade level in order to participate at the beginning of the school year.

7th - 9th = Promotion

10th = 5 credits

11th = 10 credits

12th = 15 credits

Coaches will do a credit check at the beginning of each school year to ensure the proper number of credits has been obtained the previous year.

Disrespect to Teacher or Coach

Any act of disrespect by a student athlete to his/her teacher, support staff, coach or member of school administration will be handled on an individual basis. Punishment will be up to the discretion of the coach.

The Following Rules apply to all Athletes at all times:

1. **Athletic Passes** The Prosper ISD Athletic program will issue Player Passes to those athletes participating in each sport. Head Coaches and Middle School Coordinators will place a Prosper Athlete sticker on the back of the athletes' Student ID. The following stipulations shall apply to the passes:
 - a. Free admission is allowed only when the pass is presented. Without the pass, the athlete must pay the standard student admission charge.
 - b. Use of the pass may be revoked if an unauthorized person uses the pass or the holder of the pass displays unsportsmanlike conduct at any contest.
 - c. Passes will be issued to admit athletes to Prosper ISD athletic events only.
 - d. If any athlete drops from a sport, the coach of that athlete must take up the player pass as a part of the issued equipment.

2. **Tobacco use, drinking of alcoholic beverages and abusive drugs** will not be tolerated in athletics at any time during his/her school career. Punishment will be in accordance with the PISD Co-Curricular Contract. Also, PISD requires that all participants in athletics for grades 7-12 undergo random drug testing in accordance with the PISD Random Student Drug Testing Policy.
3. **Theft:** Taking things from other players, students, school, etc will not be tolerated. Consequences will be determined on a case by case basis and discipline is up to coach's discretion.
4. **Hazing/fighting/bullying** or any physical harm to another student may result in consequences including but not limited to a potential loss of athletic privileges. Discipline is up to coach's discretion.
5. Athletes assigned to **ISS (In School Suspension)/ OSS (Off Campus Suspension) or administrative behavioral placements** may lose all extracurricular privileges for each school day served in said placement. Additional consequences for all student athletes will be left up to the Coach's discretion.
6. **Social Media Expectations** Student-athletes are high-profile representatives of the Prosper Independent School District, and their behavior is subject to scrutiny by their peers, the campus, community, and the media. The actions of a single student-athlete can reflect positively or negatively not only on the individual student-athlete, but also on his or her team and coaches, the Athletic Department and the entire school campus. Therefore, student-athletes are expected to represent themselves and PISD with honor, dignity and integrity at all times – including when interacting on social networking websites and in other online environments. The popularity of social networking websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Vine, YouTube, Instagram, Blogspot, etc.) has grown tremendously during the last few years. These websites can serve as valuable communication tools when used appropriately. The use of social media, however, has the potential to cause problems for both the student-athlete and the school environment. Almost anything a student-athlete posts on a social networking site may be viewed by others, and both the media and the general public are more likely to view the profiles of student-athletes than the profiles of other students.

The Athletic Department has developed this Student-Athlete Social Networking Guideline in order to:

- (i) provide recommendations and suggestions for student-athletes to help them use social media in a safe and responsible manner
- (ii) outline important rules that student-athletes must follow when using social media

Important Suggestions & Recommendations Regarding Social Networking Sites

Some students mistakenly believe social networking websites have a veil of privacy about them and assume their profiles are viewed only by a close circle of friends and fellow students. To the contrary, the content on most of these sites is accessible by anyone in the general public unless security and privacy features are used. The public nature of these websites has created personal safety and personal welfare concerns. For example, student-athletes have been stalked or sexually harassed and assaulted as a result of their Facebook profiles. Fans of opposing teams have taunted student-athletes based on information obtained from social networking sites. Student-athletes also should be aware that potential employers and graduate school admissions officers now regularly screen applicants by conducting "Google" searches of an applicant's name and by reviewing the applicant's social networking profiles. Students are being passed over for interviews and denied admission to universities based on the content of their profiles.

Student-athletes should be very careful about what personal information they share on the internet.

For their own security, protection and welfare and that of their teammates and friends, the Athletics Department strongly recommends and advises student-athletes to:

- Keep phone numbers, physical addresses, birthdates, current whereabouts, travel plans and other personal information strictly confidential. This information should not be contained in a student-athlete's personal online profile.
- Limit the access of others to e-mail addresses and screen carefully those whom a student-athlete may accept as "friends" on a social networking site.
- Use whatever security and privacy features are available to restrict the ability of others view a student-athlete's site or to post pictures, messages and other content on a student-athlete's site.
- If an individual contacts a student-athlete via a social networking site and the nature of the contact makes the student-athlete concerned for his or her safety or uncomfortable in any way, the student-athlete should immediately contact a parent, a coach, or a campus administrator.

Rules Regarding Social Networking Sites/Electronic Communications

Participation in PISD Athletics is a privilege and not a right. As a condition of being a student-athlete in PISD, student-athletes must abide by the following rules related to the use of the internet and social networking sites:

1. Any postings or communications via social networking websites which disrupt either the educational or athletic environments or which advocates the violation of any school or team policy would be unacceptable.
2. Student-athletes may not post online or send via text any pictures, information or other content that might cause embarrassment to themselves, fellow student-athletes, teams, coaches, the Athletics Department or the campus (examples: obscene images or language, nudity, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs, sex, or illegal activities).

3. Student-athletes may not post any content that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual, teammate, coach, faculty member, or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
4. Student-athletes may not post any content online that would constitute a violation of the PISD Student Code of Conduct.
5. Student-athletes may not post any information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the Athletic Department or the school which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).
6. Student-athletes are required to abide by all laws related to the use of the internet (including state and federal privacy laws such as FERPA and HIPPA), and student-athletes are personally liable for any violations of those laws.

Student-athletes in PISD are required to abide by rules set forth in these guidelines

7. **School Equipment:** The athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. The athlete shall not wear or use school equipment for personal use. Equipment may not be removed from school property without permission from his/her coach
8. **Quitting:** A student/athlete who decides to quit one sport and enter another will be ineligible for participation in another sport until the end of the season for the sport for which he/she has quit, or unless the head coaches of both sports mutually agree to the student/athlete's participation. A student/athlete quitting a sport after the first contest will forfeit any award for that sport.
9. **Practice and Game Regulations:** A coach must be contacted ahead of time if an athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing any type of practice or game will result in an appropriate type of make-up work. If a student has an unexcused absence, they will be suspended the following corresponding number of events/games in middle schools. In high school, it is the head coach's discretion. No electronic devices will be allowed during practices or games, these may be allowed on the bus ride only, is applicable.
10. **Parent/Doctor's Notes:** We will accept a parent's note for an athlete to sit out of practice due to an illness/injury for a maximum of three days. After three days a note from a doctor or Athletic Trainer will be required indicating the injury and anticipated inactivity. If after the three days we do not have a doctor's note, the absences will be counted as unexcused absences and consequences will be assessed according to coach's discretion.
11. **School Athletic Expectations:** All school practices and games will take priority over any activities or events outside of school. A student can participate on a select / club team while participating on a school team; however, missing a scheduled school event to participate in a non-school event will count as an unexcused absence.
12. **Travel:** All athletes in Middle School and High School represent the community, school and coaches. All athletes will travel to the competition with their team. High school students will also return on the bus unless an emergency type situation occurs or prior arrangements have been made with the Head Coach. Middle school students will be picked up by their parent/guardian at the site of their in town games.
13. **Middle School Athletic Grades:** Athletes are graded on a 20 points per day rubric resulting in a weekly average. Each day's grade will be based on 10 points for participation (attitude, work ethic, coach ability, being on time, etc) and 10 points for dressing out in the proper campus athletic workout attire. Failing to dress out appropriately is equal to an unexcused absence.
14. **Tutoring** and any re-tests – all reasonable efforts should be made to schedule these outside of practice time.
15. **Concerns or problems** will be addressed in this order:
 - a. Athlete/coach
 - b. Athlete/parent or guardian/coach
 - c. Athlete/parent or guardian/coach/athletic coordinator

Athletics is a privilege, not a right. Student athletes are held to higher standards and will be expected to meet all athletic requirements. Therefore, non-compliance with any athletic requests will be subject to disciplinary actions.

By signing below you acknowledge that you have read and understand the PISD Athletic Regulations and Expectations.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____