MEADOW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Athletic Director: Blake Jackson

604 4th Street Meadow, TX 79345 - (806) 539-2246 - www.meadowisd.net

Purpose of the Athletic Program

The purpose of the Meadow ISD athletic program is to develop student-athletes who demonstrate character, accountability, and commitment while striving for excellence in competition, academics, and citizenship. Athletics are an extension of the educational mission of the district and are intended to complement the academic experience. We want student athletes to be known for doing things ***The Meadow Way***.

Participation in athletics is a **privilege**, not a right.

Grounds for a Violation

The intent of the Athletic Policy is to uphold a high standard for our students and empower them to make sound decisions amidst temptation and peer pressure. The Athletic Director, athletic coaches, and campus administration will investigate activities that fall within the following guidelines.

In order for a student to be considered in violation, any one of the following conditions, but not limited to, must occur:

1. The student or the student's parent(s) self-report or admit to a violation*
2. A Meadow ISD staff member observes and reports the student violation.
3. A law enforcement report or citation** is filed. (Examples of citations would include, but not limited to, DWI - driving while intoxicated, DUI - driving under the influence, MIP - minor in possession and MIC - minor in consumption).

Note: external photographs, videos, or other print or electronic media cannot be used as the sole source of evidence of a violation.

*When a student and their parent(s) self-report a violation that also identifies other students that may have participated, the campus administrator will immediately contact the parents of the other students.

**Any member of an athletic organization is expected to notify the head coach immediately upon any arrest or citations other than general traffic violations. Failure to notify the coach responsible for the team or activity may result in suspension or dismissal from the athletic program. Local law enforcement agencies often report to campus administration when students are cited and all citations are publicly posted.

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Cumulative Nature of Violations

Violations under the Athletic Code of Conduct are cumulative throughout the student's enrollment in grades 9-12 at Meadow ISD. Violations that occur in grades 6-8 may carry over into high school depending on the nature and severity of the offense.

Administrator Discretion

The violations and consequences found within this policy are to guide the decision-making process in a consistent manner. As each student and each set of circumstances are unique, there is a level of administrator discretion required throughout the process. It is at the Athletic Director's discretion to reevaluate any decision that is made under this policy, as well as reinstate students to athletic activities and programs.

Appeal Process

The student and/or parent has the right to appeal a student's loss of participation in athletic activities through the MISD Board Policy FNG (Local). Disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal.

ISS and DAEP Policy

If the student athlete has ISS on a day of a game, meet, or event, he/she will not be allowed to participate until the time served and make-ups are completed. Practice will be allowed before or after school but not while the student is in ISS.

- Each day of ISS = 2 miles up to 20 miles - completion of the miles is required before the athlete can participate in competition.

An athlete who has DAEP will follow the same rules as ISS, except the athlete cannot participate in practices during the term of DAEP.

- DAEP is an automatic 40 miles - completion of the miles is required before the athlete can participate in competition.

Dress Code & Appearance

Meadow ISD athletes act as representatives of the school and community and therefore are required to exhibit a well-groomed and appropriate appearance. This appearance will be exhibited the ENTIRE school year (not just when the athlete is in season). All athletes will abide by the MISD Student Handbook in addition to the athletic code of conduct.

Athletes are expected to comply with the following rules in order to participate at Meadow ISD

1. On game days, varsity athletes are expected to try to dress as a team. The head coach of the team will make this decision. This is part of having team unity and school pride.
2. School issued workout apparel should not be worn outside of the normal workout routines. (Ex. at school, at home, or on the weekends around town)

Transfer Students

Any student who transfers in with a record of offenses found within this policy will maintain those offenses and transition to the equivalent level within this policy. Furthermore, any transfer student who commits an offense in violation of this policy may face revocation of their transfer status at the discretion of MISD Administration.

Locker Room Conduct

The only use for cell phones in the locker room is for music, before or after games.

Parents **are not allowed** in locker rooms at any time without permission from the head coach.

Athlete expectations extend to the locker room. Coaches will not tolerate horseplay, bullying, hazing, and other similar behaviors. Athletes are expected to keep their spaces clean and tidy

Quitting or Removal from Teams

Quitting is a negative character trait that is highly discouraged. In the case of an athlete quitting or being removed from a team, he/she will be removed from the athletic program and may only be reinstated with the following requirements:

1. Approval from the in-season Head Coach and the Athletic Director.
2. The completion of 25 miles.

Athletes will be given a trial grace period through the first two weeks of competition before the requirement will go into effect.

Sport Participation

There will be no sport specialization. All athletes will be expected to participate in both a fall sport and a spring sport. As a smaller school district, this expectation helps ensure strong participation and support for all sports offered in our athletic program.

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Illegal Substance Policy

Discipline for major offenses, including a positive drug test for illegal substances, will include the following:

- **1st Offense:** 10 miles of running under the supervision of the head coach of the sport in season and suspension for 10 calendar days. All conditioning must be completed before the athlete will be allowed to participate in an athletic contest. Running during practice will not count toward the 10 miles. The student will also be referred to the school counselor. The student will also be placed on the drug testing list for a calendar year.
- **2nd Offense:** 30 miles of running under the supervision of the head coach of the sport in season and suspension for 30 calendar days. All running must be completed before the athlete will be allowed to participate in an athletic contest. Running during practice will not count toward the 30 miles. The student will also be referred to the school counselor and be required to do 15 hours of community service. The student will also be placed on the drug testing list for the reminder of the student's athletic involvement in Meadow ISD.
- **3rd Offense:** The athlete will be dismissed indefinitely from all Meadow ISD athletics.

Illegal Substances

If any athlete is found to have in his/her possession or is under the influence of an illegal substance during practice, at games, or traveling to and from a game, or at school, he/she will be suspended or removed from athletics for up to one calendar year and be referred to the school counselor. Parents will be notified of such action.

Chronic Absences

Athletes are required to be at practices. If an athlete will miss practice, it is their job to let the coach know that they are going to miss and the reasoning for missing. There will be extra conditioning for missed practices. After 5 missed practices, there will be parent contact from the Head Coach of that sport or Athletic Director. Chronic Absences may result in removal from the team. See Athletic Attendance Policy for more information.

Length of Hair

Hair should be well groomed. Hair on all athletes should be in line with the Student Handbook.

Facial hair and earrings

These will not be worn by male athletes to or from athletic events at any time. Female athletes will not wear any facial piercings to or from athletic events at any time. Athletes will not be allowed to wear them in any games in accordance with NFHS rules.

Athletic Bus

Athletes are required to ride the athletic bus to and from athletic events. Students will be allowed to ride home with parents if proper communication with the head coach is made. Students that have a special situation arise should make sure it has been pre-approved with the Head Coach or Athletic Director. Be a part of the team.

Chronic ineligibility

This can be grounds for dismissal from athletics. Students may be removed from athletics and prohibited from participation in the athletic programs of Meadow ISD for serious or persistent misbehavior that substantially disrupts the athletic program. The Coach or Athletic Director may immediately suspend a student. If a student fails a nine week, they will be required to run one mile each practice. They cannot participate in practice until they have completed their mile.

Athlete's Promise to MISD Athletics

As an athlete participating in the Athletic Program at Meadow I.S.D., I promise to read, understand, support, and abide by the Athletic Code of Conduct. It is my desire to be a contributing part of the Meadow Athletic Program, and to make it the very best possible.

Athlete's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____