

Iredell ISD Athletic Handbook 2025-2026



If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact Luis Guereca, l_guereca@iredell-isd.com, 254-364-2411

Parents/Guardians:

After reading the Athletic Handbook, please sign and return

2025-2026
Iredell ISD Coaching Staff

Name

Primary Assignment

Luis Guereca

Athletic Director

- Head Varsity Football
- Head Varsity Golf
- Head Jr High Football
- Head Boys Jr High Basketball

Brittney Mitchell

- Head Varsity Girls Volleyball
- Head Jr High Girls Basketball
- Head Varsity Tennis

Tyler Tuel

- Head Varsity Boys Basketball
- Assistant Varsity & Jr High Football
- Assistant Varsity & Jr High Track and Field

Rodie Johnston

- Assistant Varsity & Jr High Football
- Head Varsity Girls Basketball
- Head Varsity and Jr High Track & Field

Iredell ISD Athletic Handbook

In order for any successful athletic department to run smoothly, all students, coaches, teachers and administrators must be aware of all rules and guidelines that apply to the athletic department. Therefore, this handbook has been prepared to present an outline of the athletic policy of the Iredell Independent School District. Members of the community, student-athletes, and the parents of those athletes are encouraged to read and become familiar with the contents of this athletic policy. While this handbook cannot possibly cover every instance that will arise in the day-to-day activities of the athletic program, it represents a good-faith effort to inform all of those involved in the athletic program about the guidelines that will govern their participation. The coaches of the individual sports reserve the right to issue additional sport-specific requirements as needed.

Please be advised that participation in this program is dependent on strict adherence to the policies found in this handbook. Communication is the key to resolving most conflicts. Therefore, all policy questions need to be directed to the head coach of the sport in question. If the head coach fails to resolve the issue to your satisfaction, then all questions need to be presented to the Athletic Director. The administration will become involved only after the coach and Athletic Director have had an opportunity to make a ruling. Iredell ISD Athletics believes that athletics plays a vital role in the educational system of Texas.

In athletics, students learn the values of good citizenship, integrity, honesty, commitment, leadership, unity, confidence, and discipline. Participation in sports also allows our athletes to experience social growth and emotional maturity. Athletic competition teaches our young men and women how to be a gracious winner or to be dignified in defeat. Athletic participation truly complements the academic goals of the district. The taxpayers of Iredell indirectly pay for everything used in the school system. This tax money provides the athletic department with equipment and builds and maintains modern athletic facilities. It is only proper that athletes take the best possible care of school property. If damage to equipment or facilities is intentional or if school-issued items are lost, the athlete involved will be expected to pay for their repair or replacement. Athletes should take care of all uniforms, equipment, and facilities as if those things belonged to the athlete.

All students who are eligible under UIL rules may participate in all sports offered. (Note to Parents) Athletes must have the following forms on file to participate in athletics:

1. Physical Evaluation (Medical History Form completed annually)
2. Illegal Steroid Use Parent and Student Notification Agreement
3. Consent for treatment of minor
4. Acknowledgement of Rules
5. Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form Illegal Steroid Use
6. Concussion Acknowledgement Form

Iredell I.S.D. is a member of the University Interscholastic League, and all requirements of the UIL will be strictly enforced and fulfilled. Five of these requirements are:

- Each athlete must accumulate five credits each year.
- Each athlete must maintain a passing average in each subject during the school year.
- Each athlete must pass a doctor's physical examination when required by the UIL
- Each athlete must have a signed statement from one of his/her parents stating that emergency first aid treatment can be rendered in case of an accident.
- All students must comply with the rules and regulations of the coaches of the sports in which they participate.

PHILOSOPHY OF IREDELL ISD ATHLETICS

The primary goal of Iredell ISD athletics is to foster the physical, academic, and moral development of all athletes in the program. It is our belief that the benefits of athletic participation extend beyond the courts and fields of athletic competition into the challenges of life. Therefore, we must strive to instill the self-discipline, character, work ethic, and cooperative skills that will give our athletes the best chance to succeed in any endeavor and will develop in them a positive and healthy self-esteem. We feel that this can best be achieved through a fair and impartial implementation of the Athletic Handbook, establishing and conveying clear and defined expectations, the use of achievement-oriented and enthusiastic coaching methods, and an organized and collective approach to coaching. We believe that coaches must be teachers, motivators, and positive role models and must demonstrate that they genuinely care about their athletes and their profession. We recognize the importance of professional development, a close relationship with administrators, teachers, student-athletes, and the community, and the provision of clean, well-maintained facilities and equipment. We advocate the equality of all students regardless of race, gender, and economic condition. Winning will always be an important catalyst for our program, but our most important benchmark for success is the development of athletes who are prepared to face any competition or challenge with their best efforts.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

1. To represent the school and community with character and good sportsmanship. Other communities, as well as our own, judge our school by the conduct and attitudes of our athletes, both on and off the field.
2. To be responsible to the other members of the team. Giving less than his/her best effort is letting their teammates down.
3. To be responsible to his/her family.

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4. To be responsible to the younger students in the school system by providing an example to follow. He/she should always remember that they are important role models to younger athletes.
5. To strive for academic success along with athletic success. To continue to participate and remain eligible, the athlete must meet all eligibility standards set by the school and the state.
6. To adhere to all school policies and all athletic policies.
7. To train properly and refrain from activities that are potentially harmful to their bodies.

Iredell Athletic Alcohol & Drug Policy

Iredell ISD strongly discourages the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Not only is it illegal for minors to use or abuse these substances, but it is highly detrimental to athletic conditioning and performance on the field and in the classroom. *This includes the use and/or possession of E-cigarette/Vape products.* As such, our policy is as follows:

Consequences of alcohol/drug offenses and/or positive drug test results

First Offense:

Upon a first offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for 30 school days, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended for 30 school days, following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results. During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices that occur during the school day but not in any competitive activities, performances, or activities outside of the school day. Completion of 10 miles before being allowed to compete in any competition. A minimum of two miles per day is required until they have completed the 10 miles.

Second Offense:

Upon a second offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for 60 school days, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended for 60 school days, following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results. During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices that occur during the school day but not in any competitive activities, performances, or activities outside of the school day. Completion of 20 miles before being allowed to compete in any competition. A minimum of two miles per day is required until they have completed the 20 miles.

Third Offense:

Upon a third offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended for one calendar year.

- All Other Offenses: Discipline determined by a committee consisting of Administration, Coaches and one Teacher

Repeated violations could result in permanent loss of athletic privileges.

Letter Jacket Policy

Students who participate in the Iredell varsity athletics program in a minimum of one sport for two or more full seasons will receive a letter jacket from the school.

Athletic “Fun Day”

Only those students who participated in a full season of a sport will be allowed to attend the Athletic Department’s year-end “fun day.”

Iredell Athletic Attendance Policy

Students participating in a sport must be in attendance during the school day. The following policy has been instituted:

- Athletes must follow all rules set by the athletic department of the Iredell ISD and the U.I.L. to participate. (**Students must attend school a minimum of 4 periods on the day of competition to compete**) Doctor's notes for well-patient visits will allow less than 4 class periods for participation.
- The coaches, in the best interest of the team, determine playing time. Classification, practice participation, etc., are important but not the only determining factors.
- ***** “In-school” refers to any event that requires a student to miss any class time

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES

Physical Examinations –Physical exams are required in the 7th, 9th, and 11th-grade year before a student-athlete can participate in any sport. Please advise the coach if an athlete possesses any physical disabilities or limitations. If 6th grade is eligible for participation, physical and other UIL forms are required for them as well.

DROPPING A SPORT

First-time participants in a sport will have one week after the first game/scrimmage to choose not to participate in that sport with no consequences. If the athlete quits during the season, they will be given a 24-hour grace period to think over their decision. If they decide to return during the grace period, the makeup conditioning (as an unexcused absence will need to be done for any practices missed, and they formally apologize to his/her team. If they choose not to return during the grace period, they will be required to run 30 miles in 10 consecutive school days before playing another sport.

If a student who has participated in a sport in the past at Iredell ISD decides to quit during the season, they will be given a 24-hour grace period to think over their decision. If they choose not

to return, they will be required to run 30 miles in 10 consecutive school days before playing another sport. If the student has decided they want to return during the season to the sport they quit, they will be required to run 30 miles in 10 consecutive school days before playing another sport. Mileage must be completed before the student can participate in a game or scrimmage.

Quitting is an undesirable habit to acquire. On occasion, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport. The procedure for dropping a sport is the following:

1. Discuss the situation with the head coach of the particular sport
2. Check in all equipment issued. Anything missing will require the school to be reimbursed.

A student quitting a sport during the season may not practice or compete on a team for another sport until the sport that was dropped has finished its entire season (a season is defined by UIL rules as to the first day a student may compete and extends until the last game.) Upon dropping a sport, the student-athlete will still remain in the Iredell athletic period. In junior high, student-athletes who drop a sport will also remain in the athletic period. If the athlete chooses to leave the athletic period, he/she will not be able to participate in athletics.

EQUIPMENT

School equipment checked out by the athlete is his/her responsibility. All equipment will be taken care of and kept in good condition. School-issued equipment and practice clothing are to remain at school. Do not wear practice clothing or practice equipment home. School-issued equipment is required to be worn during the workout phases of the program. The athletic department will launder equipment when possible. School-issued equipment is never to be taken home without permission from the head coach.

SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS - NO PASS/NO PLAY

To be eligible to compete in extracurricular activities, a student must pass all subjects in which the student is enrolled. A failing grade (below 70) will eliminate a student from competition for a three-week period. At the end of the three-week period, all grades will be checked, and if all grades are above 70, then the student-athlete will regain eligibility.

24-Hour Rule

Parents/guardians must wait a minimum of 24 hours after the conclusion of an athletic event to speak with a coach about an issue they would like to discuss during the coach's conference period.

ATHLETIC TRIPS

Due to the value of teamwork and camaraderie, Iredell ISD athletes are strongly encouraged to travel as a team, win or lose. Therefore, it is considered important that athletes travel both to and from athletic contests with the team in school transportation unless other arrangements have been made prior to the trip. Parents may request to have a student return home with them following a contest, provided that the parents pick up the student in person and the student is not returning to Iredell ISD. It is preferred that the parent provide prior written notice (preferably by e-mail) that the athlete will return home under their care from the contest. A student may not be released to anyone other than the parents or legal guardian unless there are extenuating circumstances. Only in extenuating circumstances can a student be released to an adult other than the parent/guardian. While traveling on school transportation, athletes will abide by the following:

- 1) All riders will assist in cleaning up vehicles after each trip.
- 2) Absolutely NO PROFANITY WILL BE ALLOWED. THIS WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION. Athletes are viewed as role models for younger students.
- 3) Athletes are expected to dress in good taste while representing the school. Attire must follow the Iredell ISD Dress Code. The supervising coach may expect a "higher standard" of both conduct and dress.

POLICIES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

The basic principle of conduct under which Iredell ISD students will operate is to conduct yourself in such a manner that will bring credit to yourself, your teammates, your family, and to Iredell ISD. Never engage in any activity that can be construed as inappropriate for an Iredell ISD athletic team member.

Iredell ISD discipline guidelines and consequences are as follows:

- Athletics is a privilege, not a right.
- Each student-athlete will act in such a manner that will bring pride and honor to Iredell Independent School District. This includes school trips, competitions, restaurants, classrooms, and any other time that you are representing Iredell Independent School District. **(Ejection from a game will result in a one-game suspension.)**

- Any student-athlete that has been placed in DAEP will be required to make up conditioning as an unexcused absence from workout for every day that they are in ISS or AEP and shall be completed before returning to his/her athletic team or the athletic program.

Any absence from the athletic period and/or practices or games due to DAEP and or ISS is considered to be an unexcused absence.

Acknowledgment of Receipt of Athletic Handbook

My child and I have received a copy of the Iredell ISD Athletic Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year. I also understand that all student-athletes will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in this handbook as well as the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this handbook, I will direct those questions to the Athletic Director at 254-364-2411.

Student's name (*print*): _____

Student's signature: _____

Parent's signature (*print*): _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____