

Milano ISD Athletic Department

Policies and Guidelines

Milano ISD Athletic Department believes that all students should be allowed to participate in athletics; however, participation requires extra time, effort, and dedication. The coaches are willing to encourage and help all students strive for success but are not willing to sacrifice the efforts of the other athletes to help someone who is not willing to abide by MISD standards. **It is stressed that participation in athletics is a PRIVILEGE and not a right.**

Athletic Standards

The following areas are judged to be of significant importance in the establishment of the type of athletic program desired at MISD.

Behavior:

- Proper dress and appearance, good grooming, and personal cleanliness
- Abstinence from alcohol, tobacco (including tobacco alternatives) and drugs
- Pursuit of physical fitness through training, adequate rest, and proper nutrition

Citizenship:

- Exemplary conduct both on and off campus
- Adherence to school and community rules
- Respect for individuals and property
- Appreciation of scholarship and academic achievement

Team Responsibility:

- Common goals and group loyalties
- Subordination of self-interest to team values
- Self-discipline and personal sacrifice for team goals

Attendance

1. Athletes must be enrolled in and actively participating in the athletic period for a designated period of time prior to participation in a sport. Special circumstances can be worked out with the athletic director.
2. Athletes that have more than three unexcused absences may be reviewed by the athletic director. Continued attendance problems may result in dismissal from the athletic program.
3. Athletes assigned to full day ISS **may** practice with their team after school but **may not** participate in competition on the day(s) of the assignment. This includes the final day of the ISS assignment. After that it will be up to the coach to determine when the athlete will return to competition. Athletes assigned to partial day ISS may receive consequences at the discretion of the coach.
4. Athletes assigned to DAEP **may not** practice with their team and also **may not** participate in competition during their assignment, including the final day of the DAEP assignment. After that it will be up to the coach to determine when the athlete will return to competition.
5. Any assignment to ISS or DAEP will be reviewed by the athletic director and the coach and may result in dismissal from the athletic program.

Behavior

1. Athletes will actively participate in the off-season program.
2. Any athlete desiring to participate in a sport and is not required to be in the athletic period will have to meet with the athletic director and coach to discuss the requirements that must be met in order to participate.
3. Students will not be allowed in athletics if they are not participating in a sport.
4. Athletes will dress out daily in order to participate in workouts.
5. Athletes are responsible for any and all equipment issued to them. MISD must be reimbursed for any lost or destroyed equipment.
6. Athletes will be expected to follow all rules of MISD as written in the Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook.
7. Athletes will comply with academic and athletic rules set forth by the UIL.
8. If an athlete quits a sport, the student may not participate in after-school activities relating to another sport until the completion of the sport they quit. Special circumstances may be reviewed by the athletic director.
9. If any athlete is suspended from competition, only weeks that include at least one contest will count towards the suspension. Scrimmages are not considered a contest so suspended students may participate at the discretion of the coach.
10. Athletes who fail two consecutive grading periods will not be allowed to attend after-school practice until they become eligible.

Cell Phone/Social Media

Any of the following behaviors could jeopardize a student's privilege to participate in junior high or high school athletics. Student athletes and their parents should avoid the following:

1. Derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, teachers or any representative of Milano ISD. Also, derogatory remarks about other team athletes, coaches, teachers, or any representative of another district.
2. Demeaning statements about or threats to any third party.
3. Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, bullying, hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances or any other inappropriate behaviors.
4. Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
5. Indicating knowledge of an unreported felony, theft or felony criminal damage to property.
6. Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation, regardless of whether the violation was intentional or unintentional.
7. In addition, student athletes should avoid taking, possessing, or distributing lewd, pornographic, or any images of a sexual nature on any electronic device.

Drug Policy

The MISD Athletic Department is committed to the belief that the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs, including steroids and other similar substances, are detrimental to athletic performance and in no way endorses or condones the use of any illegal substance. Participation in the MISD athletics constitutes an agreement by the athletes to remain drug, tobacco and alcohol free during all phases of eligibility including vacations and summer breaks. Any athlete that violates this agreement will receive punishment, will be suspended from athletic participation, and may be removed from the athletic program.

All athletes will be drug tested. Any athlete refusing or failing a drug test will be removed from athletics participation for one calendar year and will be subject to the random drug test each time it is offered from that point forward. In the event that a student has a third positive drug test, they will be removed from the athletic program for one calendar year. The student will be required to pass two random drug tests before returning to the athletic program.

If an athlete knows that he/she has a problem with one or more prohibited substances, the athlete should voluntarily speak to the athletic director about a substance abuse program. The athlete will be required to complete a substance abuse program approved by Milano ISD and have a negative drug test before being allowed back to athletic participation. The student is responsible for the cost of the substance abuse program. Furthermore, the student will be subject to the random drug test each time it is offered from that point forward and must maintain their negative status.

Athletic Awards

In order to earn a letter, an athlete must meet the following criteria:

- Athletes must participate at the varsity level for at least 50% of the season.
- Athletes must attend practice on a regular basis.
- Athletes must contribute to the team to the best of their ability.

The final decision for giving a letter will be made by the head coach of each sport. The policy is designed to allow athletes, regardless of their athletic skill level, to letter in recognition of their contribution to the team. **If an athlete quits or does not complete a sport, the student forfeits all athletic awards for that sport.**

In order to earn a letter jacket from Milano ISD, an athlete must earn a minimum of **six** points. Two points are earned for lettering in a varsity sport and one point is earned for participation.

Athletic Travel Policy

1. School buses will be used to transport all athletic groups whenever possible. When a school bus is not practical because of distance, size of group, etc., other forms of transportation will be used with parent notification.
2. Ineligible athletes cannot travel with the team.
3. All eligible athletes must travel with the team. No student is allowed to drive to the site of a contest when outside of MISD. All athletes will return home with the team unless a parent (**only the student's parent**) requests that the student ride home with them. A Parent Release Form, available from the coach, must be filled out prior to taking the student.
4. In special circumstances when a student needs to ride home with someone else's parent, a Parent Release Form must be completed prior to leaving for the contest and prior approval by the athletic director and coach must be obtained.
5. In the event of an overnight trip, any action that is deemed inappropriate during the course of the trip will result in disciplinary action that could include being sent home from the event and/or dismissal from the athletic program.
6. Coaches may set more specific guidelines for their sport when traveling.

Parents and Fans

In order for the athletic program to be effective, it is imperative that the adult support group be in accord. The athletes must hear and observe consistent remarks and behaviors that demonstrate good sportsmanship.

1. Support all athletes through attendance, positive remarks, and positive behavior while in the presence of the athletes.
2. Respect officials under all circumstances.
3. Respect coaches and school personnel. In the event of a problem, use good judgment and good timing. Do not meet with a coach directly after a contest. Set up a conference the next school day. Go to the head coach of the sport as the first step and then to the athletic director if the problem persists.
4. Remember that the rewards of participation are realized long after athletes have finished their high school efforts.
5. Remember that student athletes are teenagers and are doing their very best.
6. Promote healthy and legal behaviors.