



TROJANS

Athletic Handbook

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The Coldspring-Oakhurst C.I.S.D. Athletic Handbook contains a general statement of the administrative regulations governing the overall athletic program. Provisions of this Athletic Handbook may be expanded, modified, or revoked only by action of the Principal, Superintendent, or the Board of Education. If any of the provisions of this Athletic Handbook conflict with federal or state laws, and regulations, or board policy, those provisions are superseded by applicable law or board policy. The provisions of this Athletic Handbook are severable, and the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability of any provision will not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the other provisions.

The Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated Independent School District believes that the district athletic program should be an integral part of the total educational process.

The mission of the COCISD Office of Athletics is to insure and enhance the quality of life for youth by providing competitive activities. The pitting of one's skills, knowledge, and talent against friendly opponents is a means of learning one's own strengths and weaknesses.

Good contests properly supervised, give youthful competitors the opportunity to gain self-confidence, improve skills, exhibit good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity. Sports programs help the participant to develop physically, morally and mentally.

Athletic offerings within the district are competitive and diversified, thereby allowing students the opportunity to realize their full potential relative to growth and development. All programs are designed not only to teach athletic skills, but also to instill good character and teach sound values.

It is felt that the success of the athletic program sets the tone for the entire school year. It builds a positive self image for the individual athlete, the team, the school, the community, and most importantly, for Coldspring-Oakhurst C.I.S.D.

It is our final goal that sports activities will produce young men and women who will be able to enter the community and become constructive contributing members of society: citizens that will leave their mark on this world by making it a better place for future generations.

Bryan Barbay
Director of Athletics

EXPLANATION OF ATHLETICS

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Locations and times of practices and contests
- Team requirements, e.g., practices, special equipment, off season conditioning

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

As your children become involved in the athletic programs of Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. Examples of these situations include the treatment of your child, ways to help your child improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much, when, or where you may desire. It will be the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. **Examples include team strategy, other student-athletes, playing time, etc.**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. **There will not be a conference regarding playing time without the student-athlete and coach present.**

When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

The following items must be turned in to the Athletic Department before participating in any practice or game in any extracurricular athletic activity.

A. Physical Examination

A physical examination is required every year for student's 7th, 9th and 11th grade. The physical form is available from the Athletic Secretary or the Athletic Director. Use only the approved UIL form to record physical examinations. Club or organization forms will not be accepted. The physical covers all sports for a one-year period. The athletic trainers will schedule a group physical during May of the preceding school year for all junior high and high school athletes.

B. Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes:

- (1) UIL Acknowledgement of Rules
- (2) Personal student and parent information
- (3) Transcript Release (every Sophomore, Junior and Senior will have to sign this release in order for their transcripts to be released to colleges and/or college recruiters)

The packet should be filled out completely! Do not leave any requested information blank!

C. Acknowledgement of COCISD Athletic Handbook

The student-athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the Handbook Acknowledgement card. It should then be returned to the Athletic Department. This shows receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies contained in the Athletic Handbook.

D. Academic Eligibility

A student in grades 9 –12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number of credits in state-approved courses:

- a. Beginning the ninth grade year – must have been promoted from the eighth to the ninth.
- b. Beginning the tenth grade year – must have at least 5 credits towards graduation.
- c. Beginning the eleventh grade year – must have at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.
- d. Beginning the twelfth grade year – must have 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.

A student participating in UIL activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (other than an identified honors or advanced class). This suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period; the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal to or greater than 70.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The administration of the Athletic Program should provide **every** boy and girl the opportunity to participate in any sport. Students and parents are responsible for making sure that they are knowledgeable of tryout procedures and individual requirements for being in all sports. No student in any grade should be deprived of the opportunity to try out or participate in any sport if he/she has met the head coach's off-season and previous participation requirements. (Note: Athletes who have quit or dropped out of the program will not be allowed to come back out their senior year. The only way a senior will be allowed to enter either program is if he transfers from another school)

The general administration of the Athletic Program is the direct responsibility of the Athletic Director. This includes the arrangement of all schedules, time and place of playing games, selection of officials and the general management of all matters pertaining to the Athletic Program. In carrying out this program, each head coach in the department shall attend to details of their respective sports.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

1. Coaches' Rule

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. The rules pertaining to a particular sport must be explained in writing by the coach at the start of the season. The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules. Copies of all team rules are on file in the Athletic Office.

2. Discipline Techniques

- **Discipline yourself, so that others won't have to!!!**
- Each situation may require a different type of discipline. Whatever type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become better persons. Failure to accept this on the part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program. The different discipline techniques listed below may be used alone or in combination for Student Code of Conduct and Non-Student Code of Conduct violations. The listing is not intended to be a list of progressive sanctions.
 - Oral Correction
 - Counseling by coaches
 - Home-visits by head coach
 - Parent-Coach conference with Athletic Director
 - Behavioral contracts
 - Withdraw of privileges such as participation
 - Techniques or penalties identified by individual coach of sport
 - Dismissal from team or program

3. HAZING

“Hazing” is against the law and will not be tolerated in the Athletic Department. “Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students. Under Education Code 37.152 a person commits an offense if the person commits any of the following:

- a) Engages in hazing
- b) Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing
- c) Recklessly permits hazing to occur

- d) Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student, or first-hand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the Principal, Athletic Director, or designee.

4. Academics

All Students are required to remain academically eligible to participate. Remember No Pass – No Play Repeated academic suspensions may result in dismissal from the team.

5. Attendance

Be in class. Be on time. If you must miss an athletic period or practice, be sure that it can't be avoided. If you must be absent, call and talk to one of the coaches (936-653-1127), the Athletic Director (936-653-1123), or the Athletic Secretary (936-653-1115) before athletic period or practice. You will be required to make up work missed. Repeated absences may result in dismissal from the team.

6. Squad Selection

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

7. Cutting

Choosing the members of athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those squads. Prior to tryouts, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

- A. Extent of tryout period
- B. Criteria used to select the team
- C. Number to be selected
- D. Practice commitment if they make the team
- E. Game commitments

8. Injury or Illness

If you must leave school because of illness, contact or come by the Athletic Office, coaches' office, or training room. If you are ill or injured, we don't expect you to work out, but if you are at school, we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group or team unless given special permission by your head coach or one of the trainers.

9. Respect for Others

Coaches should receive "Yes Sir / Ma'am" and "No Sir / Ma'am" responses from players when talking to them. Players in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, officials, spectators and support groups. Treat others as you would want to be treated.

10. Promptness

Always be on time. On trips, the bus will not wait. After the final bell rings, you do not have time to waste; go directly to your sport. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

11. Disciplinary Removal

If it becomes necessary to consider removing a student from a team or the athletic program, the coach of that team will notify the Athletic Director. The student will have an opportunity to confer with the coach and the Athletic Director. Parents will receive notification and be invited to attend the conference.

12. Dress and Appearance

Athletic participation is voluntary upon the part of the student, and by entering the program, the athlete agrees to abide by the spirit, rules, and regulations, which pertain to athletes. One of the most important rules is that athletes must maintain a neat appearance at all times. You should be very professional in uniform and out. Your appearance away from the field house or gym, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program. Everyone will wear his/her uniform in the same manner. No one will be different. We will furnish your equipment, so do not bring your own. Men and women will wear attire requested by the head coach. Grooming and dress will be explained in detail to the athletes and will be enforced by the coaches. No jewelry of any kind will be worn during practice or games. Athletes are public relations ambassadors for their school and such serve as role models for other students.

13. Quitting

Anyone quitting a sport after a trial period (usually after the first contest) will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the sport quit is completed or unless the head coaches of both sports agree that the student would be better off in the other sport. The Athletic Director may, at his discretion, make an exception to this rule when an event outside the control of the athlete or his/her family causes the athlete to drop a sport. A clear understanding is to be reached by the Athletic Director and the athlete at the time the sport is dropped. Anyone walking off the field or gym floor during a practice or game will be considered by the coach to have quit that team. Any athlete will be allowed to quit one sport in their high school career, quitting for a second time in any sport will be cause for dismissal from the athletic program for the remainder of their high school career.

14. Conflict in Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about participation in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsor and coaches involved when a conflict does arise.

When a conflict arises, the sponsors and coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on the following:

1. The relative importance of each event
2. The importance of each event to the student
3. The relative contribution the student can make
4. How long each event has been scheduled
5. Talk with parents

Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either faculty sponsor or coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity in a

timely fashion so as not to place an unreasonable burden on the team, coach or sponsor.

15. Travel

All athletes represent the community, school and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a proper manner. **When missing classes because of an athletic event, it is the responsibility of the athlete to see his/her teacher the day before the missed classes.** All work shall be made up at the convenience of the teacher. All athletes making a school sponsored trip shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. Students may return home with the parent or guardian when the parent or guardian presents a written request to the coach. On school athletic trips, students will only be released in person to their parent or guardian. If an athlete is injured in a contest away from home, the above policy may be altered to meet the circumstances.

16. Vacations

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged and while family values will always take precedence over program requirements, parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be conflicts. In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- A. Contact the head coach prior to the vacation
- B. Practice one day for each practice or contest day missed prior to resuming competition (contest day will count as a practice day)
- C. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, etc., for the time missed.

17. Club Sports

A club is a sports program outside of school that is not affiliated with U.I.L. athletics. We are very fortunate to live in a community where the high school can be the main focus. We feel our athletes' obligations are to their school team first. We will not excuse our athletes to miss a school contest or practice for a club event. If an athlete pursues club participation he/she must:

- A. Contact all head coaches of sports at the school in Which he/she is participating in.
- B. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their Status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, or even dismissal for the time participating in club activities without approval of all head coaches involved at the school.

18. Tobacco – Alcoholic Beverages – Use of Illegal Drugs

There will be no use of tobacco products, drinking alcoholic beverages or use of illegal drugs at anytime (calendar year) for that student who desire to take part in the Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD Athletic Program. The consequences for violation are part of each sport's Discipline Covenant.

19. Theft

Taking things that do not belong to you, especially taking from your teammates will NOT be tolerated. A player caught will be dismissed from the team. We ask that you do not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing room. **Lock your lockers at all times!!!**

20. Criminal Activity

Any activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD Athletic Program will not be tolerated. Such activity may result in dismissal from the program. The consequences are also part of each sport's Discipline Covenant.

AWARD POLICIES

U.I.L rules prohibit athletes from accepting anything of value other than as listed in these policies. All athletes must strictly adhere to all training, attendance, conduct, discipline and appearance rules set forth by the coaches for the entire school year before being considered for an athletic award. All scholastic eligibility rules established by the School Board, the University Interscholastic League and Texas Education Agency must be met. It must be clearly understood that the coach recommends an athlete for an award. Award criteria will be set in each sport. The criteria will be clearly explained before the start of each individual sport. Letters of recommendation for awards will be submitted to the Director of Athletics for final approval. The Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD Athletic Department will fit

for jackets and order twice per school year. This procedure will be done in December and May.

Schools may give one major award jacket, not to exceed \$75.00 in value, to a student during high school enrollment at the same school for participation in one of the U.I.L. interschool competitions. One additional symbolic award, not to exceed \$10.00 in value, may be presented for participation in each additional U.I.L. activity. The \$10.00 award shall not be given to a student for an activity during the same year that the major award is given for that activity.

INSURANCE

Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD strives in providing each and every student athlete with the best care that it can afford. Each year we hope to avoid injuries but unfortunately that is something that cannot be controlled. The reality is that all medical expenses resulting from an athletic injury are inherently the parent's responsibility. **Parents are advised that their personal insurance will be the primary policy responsible for injuries to a student.** Therefore, Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD has elected to purchase an insurance policy for all UIL sanctioned participants **which will act as a secondary policy for injuries to students.** Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD also provides all students the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy with the current insurance company under contract at a minimal cost. We encourage all parents to check with the Head Athletic Director for details to see if this is something that may benefit them.

LISTED BELOW ARE TWO (2) SCENARIOS THAT A PARENT AND/OR GUARDIAN MAY FIND THEMSELVES IN WHEN THEIR CHILD IS HURT DURING AN ATHLETIC EVENT AND MUST FOLLOW IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR OUR "EXCESS" COVERAGE.

- I. If the parent and/or guardian carry primary insurance on the student the following steps should be followed:**
 1. All injuries must be reported and documented by the Athletic Director or one of his assistants.
 2. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
 3. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury.

4. Parents and/or guardian must show proof of insurance when claim form is filled out.
5. Parents and/or guardian will submit itemized bills in a timely fashion from all doctors, hospitals or other providers that rendered services to the student athlete.
6. Insurance company will pay on what ever the primary insurance has not covered. Please do be aware that the “supplemental” coverage may not totally pay all the remaining balances.
7. Parents and/or guardian are asked to submit a copy of all correspondence from the “supplemental” insurance company to the Athletic Director in a timely fashion.

II. If the parent and/or guardian does not carry primary insurance on the student the following steps should be followed:

1. All injuries must be reported and documented by the Athletic Director or one of his assistants.
2. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
3. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury.
4. Parents and/or guardian must submit itemized bills in a timely fashion from all doctors, hospitals or other providers that rendered services to the student athlete.
5. Insurance company will become primary and pay on reasonable and customary charges of any athletic related injury. Please be aware, any balances remaining after the insurance has paid, the parent and/or guardian is responsible for the entire amount of balances.
6. Parents and/or guardian are asked to submit a copy of all correspondence from the “supplemental” insurance company to the Athletic Director in a timely fashion.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated Independent School District provides an athletic program for the benefit of the students in this school district. We believe that participation in a competitive athletic program can provide students an opportunity to learn responsibility, dedication, leadership, hard work, and respect for rules, respect for authority and many other qualities. The rules are established to promote these qualities and to help build and maintain a strong athletic program. A respected and competitive athletic program provides the best opportunity for our students. It is recognized that some of the expectations for athletes exceed the expectations for the general student body. Athletes are expected to follow the established rules. Violations of the rules will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. The facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining what actions will be taken. Students may be dismissed from the athletic program for violation of the rules.

*If you are arrested or charged for possession of or under the influence of an illegal drug.

The consequences for the above action will be:

1st Offense – Suspension **immediately upon the arrest or charge and will be suspended for a period of one (1) year after any final disposition of the case that found that the student had engaged in the conduct charged.**

(This is a “NO TOLERANCE” policy)

*Use of alcohol will not be condoned. This includes, but is not limited to, being issued a citation for Minor in Possession, Driving While Intoxicated, Under the Influence, **or at any time a coach or school district administrator have credible evidence that a student has violated this policy.**

*If you are arrested or charged with any criminal activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD Athletic Program.

The consequences for the above actions will be:

1st Offense – 2 week suspension from the sport or 50 tires. The tires must be complete before the athlete will be eligible to participate in the next contest.

2nd Offense – Expulsion from that sport for the remainder of the season.

*Any activity which is considered disrespectful on the field or in the school environment will not be tolerated.

The consequences for the above action will be:

1st Offense: 1 week suspension from the sport and conditioning

2nd Offense: 2 week suspension from the sport

3rd Offense: Expulsion from that sport for the remainder of the season.

In school or school sponsored trips refer to the handbook and apply the policies that have been established by the school board.

I have read and agree to the above contract.

Date: _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Athletic Director’s Signature

Parent’s Phone Number

Head Coaches Signature

PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This COCISD Athletic Handbook has been drawn up to help you gain the greatest possible benefit from your participation in athletics.

The school is in need of your help and cooperation. It is important that every parent and student athlete understands the policies of the Athletic Department and follows the rules and regulations set forth in the handbook. The handbook will be explained to you by the coaches.

Your signature acknowledges receipt and review of the Athletic Handbook **and acceptance of the terms and conditions for participation in athletics in Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD.**

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Coldspring Trojan Athletic Phone List

Athletic Director 936-653-1123

Athletic Secretary 936-653-1115

HS Boys Office 936-653-1127

HS Girls Office 936-653-1131

JH Boys Office 936-653-1158

JH Girls Office 936-653-1161