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The principal and athletic director retains the right and privilege to issue penalties for acts of discipline not specifically stated herein and to alter any penalties, as he/she considers necessary. Furthermore, the principal and athletic director reserves the right to amend any provision in this handbook that he/she deems to be in the best interest of the educational process.

The principal and athletic director expects every staff member and coach to be treated with respect and dignity just as each student should receive the respect of the staff and coach. A show of disrespect toward a staff member, coach or insubordination on the part of any student will not, under any circumstances, be tolerated. All administrators, teachers, staff and coaches of the high school are vested with legal authority to enforce the policies set forth by the Board of Education. Refusal on the part of students to respect this authority at all school functions shall be considered as insubordinate conduct and dealt with accordingly.

ATHLETICS

FARWELL EAGLES CODE OF CONDUCT

Farwell High School Athletics is an extension of and complimentary to the total educational program. Participation in the Farwell Area Schools Athletic Program is an honor and a privilege. If a student wishes to participate in athletics, he/she must be worthy of the honor and deserving of the privilege.

Athletes at Farwell High School are students first. Student-athletes are expected to display a high level of commitment to academics and athletics. As recognized representatives of their school, student-athletes are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior in the classroom, on the playing field, and in the community. In order to assure that our student-athletes maintain a high level of moral character and responsibility, school administration and coaches will enforce this athletic code of conduct. Furthermore, student-athletes are required to adhere to these standards during the season and out of season, in uniform and out of uniform, on campus and off campus.

Rule enforcement will be consistent and immediate. School officials are not expected to police off campus, non-school activities unless the violation is brought to public attention through the authorities, is sufficiently severe to bring discredit to our program, and is proven.

The Athlete's Pledge

Individual and team success in sports results from commitment. The extent to which young athletes are able to make such commitments reflects their maturity as well as their dedication to family, friends, school, and team. Eagle athletes and coaches will be held to high expectations at all times. For these reasons, we ask you to read and agree to the following pledge:

As an Eagle Athlete, I promise:

1. To be a worthy representative of my teammates and coaches, abiding by school and community expectations and reflecting my team's values of commitment and hard work.
2. To attend EVERY practice unless excused by my coach.

3. To understand that my future as a responsible citizen relates more to my academic activities than my athletic activities.
4. To accept the responsibilities of team membership: support of teammates, mutual respect, shared responsibility, positive interaction. Remember, "Team First, Me Second".
5. To represent my school in a way that will make my coach, my teammates, my parents, and the community proud of me.

ACADEMICS

Each student-athlete must be familiar with the academic eligibility standards set forth by Farwell Area Schools. The standards of academic eligibility for Farwell Area Schools include:

- Trimester/Semester Eligibility: Any student not passing (5/5 high school, 5/5 middle school or 75% blend of courses) at the conclusion of the trimester will be ineligible to participate in athletics for the next trimester. Student's not meeting academic eligibility requirements will be informed of their suspension in writing.
- Weekly Eligibility: Throughout each trimester, eligibility checks will be done at the end of each week and communicated to the students. If a student is not passing (5/5 high school, 5/5 middle school, or 75% of blended) classes at the weekly checkpoint, that student will sit out the following week. At the conclusion of their week of ineligibility, the student will give the athletic director a grade report sheet filled out by all of the student's teachers. If eligibility has been met, than the student will be eligible to participate in athletics again. If eligibility is not met, the process is repeated. If a student is academically ineligible for three consecutive weeks, they will forfeit eligibility for the remainder of the season they are currently participating in. Students will be informed in writing of weekly ineligibility.

Athletes will be expected to attend practice daily. Athletes who are ineligible during a weekly period must still attend all contests in appropriate clothing, designated by the coach, with the exception of

contests that call for an early dismissal from school. Parents are encouraged to check the progress of their student's grades at the following web address: <http://www.farwellschools.net/>

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is vital to academic success. Student-athletes must attend at least 3 out of 5 classes during the school day to participate in an athletic practice or contest. A student who has an exempt absence because of a funeral, medical appointment, field trip or some other approved activity is considered to be in school for that day. Exceptions will be dealt with on an individual basis through the athletic department.

A student athlete who has received an out of school suspension by a school administrator is not to be on any school property or participate in any school sponsored activities during the term of the suspension. Therefore, student-athletes will no longer be allowed to attend practices during the time of their suspension.

CARE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Each athlete and parent will assume the responsibility for caring for all equipment and supplies issued to the athlete by the coach or the coach's representative and for returning all such supplies and equipment to the coach or other designated personnel at the conclusion of each season. Parents and athletes will be charged the replacement value for any lost or damaged equipment. The uniform issued by the school is to be used for school sponsored athletic contests only. No part of the uniform should be used as personal garment. Selected items, as designated by the coach, may be worn on game days for spirit purposes. Athletes who wear the uniform inappropriately will be subject to disciplinary action at the discretion of the coach and/or Athletic Director.

COMMUNICATION

If an athlete or parent has a complaint or question regarding an athletic situation, we urge the individual to speak first to their coach regarding the concern. If there is not a satisfactory resolution with the coach of the team following the initial conversation, we ask that you move through the following line of communication:

- Talk with the Varsity Head Coach of his/her sport
- Talk to the Athletic Director
- Talk to the Principal
- Talk to the Superintendent
-

Communication should not occur during a competition, practice, or immediately following a competition. This type of communication should be done after 24 hours. Certain situations require a conference. These are to be encouraged. Conferences will consist of the athlete, the parent, the coach, the head varsity coach of the sport, and the Athletic Director. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a healthy resolution to the problem:

- Call the Athletic Director to set up an appointment. The Athletic Director will make the necessary arrangements and notify all parties involved in the conference.
- Do not confront a coach before/after a game or within 24 hours of the situation. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

RULES RELATED TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND MISCONDUCT

Farwell Area Schools recognizes that the use of mood altering chemicals is a significant health risk for adolescents resulting in negative effects on behavior, academic performance, and the total development of the student. The use of alcohol and other drugs will affect participation in extracurricular activities.

During the school year, season of practice or play, and during the summer, an athlete will not

1. Use/Possess tobacco in any form
2. Use/Possess alcohol products in any form
3. Use/Possess Marijuana in any form
4. Use/Possess drug paraphernalia in any form
5. Use/Possess steroids in any form
6. Use/Possess any substance defined as a drug or look-a-like drug

7. Engage in acts of misconduct; which may include, but is not limited to personal misconduct, unexcused absence for practice or meetings, unsportsmanlike conduct, grades, civil infractions, conduct detrimental to the team

8. Violate the Farwell High School student handbook in any way
For a violation of **rule 1** in the previous section, the following outcomes will arise:

- First offense: Student-athlete is dismissed from the current season they are participating in and if it is not equal or more than 25% of the scheduled number of contests of that athletic season they will serve 25% suspension of the next athletic season they participate in. The athlete cannot participate in any practices/events for the season they are dismissed from; however, as for the season they may be suspended from, the athlete will be required to participate in all practices (unless additional administrative disciplinary action restricts this) and will only attend home games and games in which early dismissal from school is not necessary.
- Second offense: Student-athlete is suspended from athletics for 180 school calendar days from the time of the incident. Student-athlete will undergo a dependency evaluation by a professional agency at his or her own expense before being able to resume participation in athletics.
- Third offense: Student-athlete will lose the privilege to participate in Farwell Athletics for the remainder of their high school career.

For a violation of **rules 2-6** in the previous section, the following outcomes will arise:

- First offense: Student-athlete is dismissed from the current season they are participating in and if it is not equal or more than 50% of the scheduled number of contests of that athletic season they will serve 50% suspension of the next athletic season they participate in. The athlete cannot participate in any practices/events for the season they are dismissed from; however, as for the season they may be suspended from, the

athlete will be required to participate in all practices (unless additional administrative disciplinary action restricts this) and will only attend home games and games in which early dismissal from school is not necessary.

- Second offense: Student-athlete will be suspended from participation in athletics for 180 school calendar days from the time of the incident. Student-athlete will also be expected to participate in a dependency evaluation by a professional agency before resuming participation in athletics.
- Third offense: Student-athlete will lose the privilege to compete in athletics for the remainder of their high school career.

For a violation of **rules 7-8** in the previous section, the following outcomes are possible:

- First offense: Student-athlete will be suspended from participation in athletics or dismissed from the sport they are currently participating in depending on the severity of the incident. Length of time will be determined by severity of incident and the student handbook guidelines.
- Second offense: Student-athlete will lose athletic privileges for 180 school calendar days from the time of the incident.
- Third offense: Student-athlete will lose athletic privileges for the remainder of his/her high school career.

SUSPENSIONS

The Athletic Director, school administration, or coach of the sport has the right to invoke suspensions from play. For civil infractions, misdemeanors or felonies other than minor traffic violations whether or not they occur on school property, in school vehicles, or at school sponsored events, student-athletes will be subject to disciplinary action. A conviction is not necessary to invoke suspension, only reliable information. Reliable information includes school personnel, law enforcement, and court information. The Athletic Director or school administration may enforce more severe penalties at his/her discretion.

Special Note Regarding Athletic Suspensions

All athletic suspensions are rounded up. (i.e. if an athlete is

suspended for 25% of the scheduled number of contests and there are 9 contests still scheduled, the athlete would miss 3 games.) All suspensions begin immediately after the infraction occurs and must be served in consecutive games. All athletic suspensions will carry over into the next season if necessary. The student-athlete must complete the entire sport in good standing (including but not limited to injuries and discipline) in order to receive credit for the suspension. Any athlete receiving 25% suspensions or longer will not be eligible to receive recognition for the season of competition. Notification of athletic suspension will be sent in writing to the student-athlete and his/her parents and/or guardians within three days of the suspension.

DRESS CODE

All student-athletes are expected to wear appropriate dress attire and to project a favorable image of our school on game days and award ceremonies. Coaches will set specific dress code standards for their respective teams.

DUE PROCESS AND APPEALS

Any athlete who believes that he or she has been unjustly disciplined may appeal the decision to the Athletic Council. The athletic council will consist of at least three head coaches, the athletic director and the principal. Guidelines and timelines in the appeal process are as follows:

- All appeals are to be made in writing within three school days of receiving notification of the suspension.
- All appeals must clearly state the intention of the appeal.
- An appeal hearing with the Athletic Council will be scheduled within ten school days from receipt of the written request.
- The Athletic Council will review the evidence of the charges and will either uphold, overrule or amend the decision.
- Records of the meeting shall be made part of public record and shall be maintained by the athletic director.
- Decisions on the appeal will be communicated in writing within ten school days of the hearing.

The athlete will not be allowed to participate in athletics during the appeal process. The athlete may appeal the Athletic Council's

decision in writing to the superintendent of schools within three days of written notice from the decision. The superintendent shall review the matter, make a decision, and provide written notice to the athlete and parents/guardians within seven days.

The athlete may further appeal to the Farwell Area Schools Board of Education within three days of written notice of the superintendent's decision. The Board shall review and decide the matter at its next regularly scheduled board meeting, or sooner at the discretion of the Board. The Board's meeting shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law and the Board's decision shall be final.

Exception

In exceptional circumstances, the superintendent, principal, and athletic director are authorized to deny any student the right to participate in athletics for whatever duration of time deemed proper. This provision may be invoked when the totality of a student-athlete's unacceptable behavior, either during school hours, during the school year, or anytime the child is of school age, could be considered as a negative influence as a role model for other students. This amendment to the Farwell High School athletic code will only be used in extreme unusual circumstances and circumstances where the present policy does not cover a situation and where justice and fairness for all concerned mandate that certain actions be taken.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

When schools are closed, delayed or dismissed early due to inclement weather, power outages, or other unforeseen events, all school-sponsored activities and programs will be subject to cancelation. The only deviation of this will be by the superintendent or designee. Teams may be given permission to play, travel or practice after 12 p.m. when school is cancelled but the athletes will not be required to attend, or penalized for not attending. Parents will make final decision for the safety of their child. Special consideration will be given to varsity teams and teams who are participating in MHSAA postseason tournaments.

RESTRICTED PRACTICE DAYS

Holiday/Vacation Practices – On days of legal holidays **NO ATHLETIC TEAM** will have a mandatory practice. School sports teams may hold practices during school-scheduled vacation periods. Students must provide written documentation from parent(s) to coaches stating the reason for not attending practices or contest during vacation periods. It is possible that something new will be taught during a vacation practice and a player may find themselves behind, and will have to catch up. Also, a player who misses an elongated amount of practice time will find that he/she has lost physical conditioning, which can affect playing time. Coaches are encouraged to keep practices to a minimum during vacation days and weekends.

Weekend Practices – Practices will only be allowed with permission from the Athletics Director and only under special circumstances. All practices are to be held on school days if at all possible. Saturday practices are to be minimal in number and duration. Sunday practices will only be permitted only when:

1. Special permission is granted by the athletic director or building principal
2. Scheduled after 1 p.m.

SAME SEASON/TWO SPORT POLICY

Athletes at Farwell High School are allowed to participate in more than one sport during a particular season. If a student decides to participate in more than one sport at a time, a coach shall in no way discourage this decision. Rather, the coaches involved should work together to make this situation as smooth as possible. Realizing that there is potential for conflicts arising when an athlete is participating in two sports at the same time, the following guidelines will be adhered to:

- Before allowed to participate in two sports during a season, the athlete, his/her parents/guardian, AD, and the two coaches involved must meet and sign the acknowledgement form.
- The athlete will declare a primary sport (preference should be a team sport) and a secondary sport.
- A contest will always take precedence over practice.
- A league contest will always take precedence over a non-league.
- If league contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will participate in his/her primary sport.
- MHSAA tournament events will take precedence over non-league or league events. In the event that two MHSAA tournaments are held on the same day, the primary sport will take precedence.
- If non-league contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will participate in his/her primary sport.
- Coaches are not to discipline an athlete for a missed practice on a day that the athlete is competing in his/her other sport.
- On days that an athlete is not in competition, he/she should make an effort to practice both sports. If only one sport can be practiced, it should be the primary sport.
- Student/athletes must maintain weekly eligibility.
- All other eligibility rules will remain the same.
- An athlete must begin practicing in each of the two sports at the beginning of each sport's season.

LETTERS AND AWARDS

Setting criteria for earning a varsity letter and other varsity honors will be the responsibility of the varsity head coach with the approval of the Athletic Director. Varsity athletes will receive one chenille letter for their high school career. They will also receive a metal insert and a certificate each time they meet the criteria for a varsity letter. All freshmen and J.V. athletes will receive their certificates. The individual coach, with the approval of the Athletic Director, will determine the criteria for winning an athletic award.

MEDICAL CLEARANCE

All student-athletes are expected to pass a physical and have it on file in the athletic office prior to participation in any phase of the athletic program (i.e. tryouts, practices, off-season conditioning program). If an athlete is seriously injured, he/she must have a doctor's release on file in the athletic office before they can resume practice and competition.

TEAM RULES

Coaches of each sport may establish team rules and guidelines that are clearly communicate to the student-athlete and the parent at the start of the season. No athlete will be allowed to participate without a signed rule-sheet, if provided.

TEAM SELECTION

In accordance with our overall athletic philosophy and our desire to see as many student-athletes as possible participate in the athletic programs while at Farwell Area Schools, coaches are encouraged to and will strive to keep as many student-athletes as they can without affecting or compromising the integrity of their sport. Obviously, time, space, facilities, personal attention and individualized instruction are necessary for team development and will affect team size. Our coaches will strive to maximize the opportunities for our students without diluting the quality of the program.

It is recommended that all teams that anticipate limited squad sizes allow a minimum of three (3) try-out/practice periods of appropriate

length before reducing the squad. If a squad candidate will be absent during the try-out period, he/she must make prior arrangements with the coaches before try-outs begin. Students with excused absences may be granted additional try-outs for the time missed. All students will be evaluated equitably.

SQUAD REDUCTION

While some sports can accommodate unlimited numbers of students, other teams must reduce their size to ensure effective instruction and skill development. Choosing the members of the team shall be the sole responsibility of the coaching staff, in conjunction with the Athletics Director. Students should be aware that there is no such things as making the “final cut”. The athlete’s membership on any team is always subject to proper behavior and the following of team rules and guidelines. The head coach shall establish the policies and procedures for squad reduction at the lower levels. However, the following information shall be supplied to all candidates prior to try-outs:

1. Extent and duration of the try-out periods.
2. Criteria used to select team.
3. Approximate number to be selected.
4. Practice/Commitment if the candidate makes the team

Whenever possible, the candidates should be afforded the opportunity to participate in a scrimmage situation, but the criteria may be objective (times, heights, distances, goals, etc.), and/or subjective (coachability, attitude, ability to work with others, etc).

Upon establishment of the squad roster, all candidates that did not make the team will be informed of the cut personally, the reasons for the decision and if an underclassman, what can be done to prepare for the next try-out. Cut lists will NOT be posted. Whenever possible, the coach shall discuss alternatives for participation in the sport (manager, statistician), or may refer the candidate to another sport that season.

Middle School athletic teams are open to all eligible 7th and 8th grade students. In 2016 the MHSAA passed the agreement that 6th grade students may participate in Middle School athletics at the discretion of each individual school.

FAS will allow 6th grade students to participate in all non-cut sports (Cross Country and Track) and may be offered the opportunity to try-out for Volleyball, Basketball and Competitive Cheer if we do not have enough players to field a full team from 7th and 8th grade. 6th grade students can help fill a team but cannot make up the majority of a team. Additionally, 6th grade students are subject to a try-out and cuts will be made if/when necessary. If a 6th grade student is selected to participate in a Middle School sport, they are only allowed to play-up one grade level (6th grade students can only compete on the 7th grade team).

TRANSFER SPORT OR QUIT

Athletes who are cut from a team may attempt to participate in another sport if they have the approval of the coach of the sport they are attempting to join. **Athletes may not join another sport after they have already made the team in another sport.**

If a coach believes it will benefit an athlete to participate during the regular season on a team at a different level, the coach must receive written permission and approval from the following people:

- Varsity coach of the sport involved
- Athletic Director
- Guardian of athlete
- Athlete

Students who are dropped from a sport for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible to participate in another sport that season. Students that choose not to participate or complete a full season in a given sport will not be eligible to participate for 25% of the next season in which they choose to participate and successfully make the team; this includes and is not limited to personal reason and health/injury issues. If the athlete/parent believes there are extenuating circumstances, such as an injury, that lead to them “quitting” a team, then they need to request a meeting in writing to determine if the 25% suspension will be enforced. The meeting will consist of the

following individuals and take place prior to the start of practice for the next sport: Athletic Director, coach of sport that athlete “quit”, coach of the sport that athlete wishes to participate in next, parents, and the athlete.

TRANSPORTATION FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Any student traveling to an away athletic practice/competition as a member of a team on school owned chartered vehicles must return to the home school on the same vehicle after the practice/competition is completed, if required by the coach. Exceptions may be made if the parent makes prior arrangements with the coach. If permission is granted, the student will be allowed to return home with the student’s parent(s), guardian(s) or those specifically listed on the signed transportation form. Failure to comply with this policy or any other FAS transportation policies may result in suspension from contests, or being disallowed to travel on school owned or chartered transportation in the future as the discretion of the Athletics Director.

SPORTSMANSHIP: NO ALTERNATE ROUTES

Spectators not exhibiting proper behaviors will be warned once. If that spectator continues to exhibit improper behaviors, he/she will be asked to leave (escorted – if necessary) and possibly will not be allowed to attend athletic events for the remainder of the season. The administrative staff would like to ask that students please sit in designated student sections at home and away games. This will help other spectators to see the game and it will allow the students to stand and cheer appropriately for their team. We also ask that if standing during the game, that no one stands below the first row of bleachers. Your cooperation is appreciated.