

# 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 (4/5 high school and 5/6 middle school, or 75% blend of dual enrollment) classes 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 (4/5 high school and 5/6 middle school) 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, then 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

Student athletes must be in attendance for the entire school day in order to participate in a practice or a contest on that day; this includes off-campus programs, zero hour, and sixth hour classes. Any exception to this policy can occur only when prior arrangements with administration have been made, in written request to the athletic director by the parent/guardian no less than one day in advance of the contest. Team members are expected to be present at all practices, team meetings, contests, and special occasions, unless excused by the head coach.

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.

## **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 of 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 studentathlete'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**

At the high school level, in the event of school being cancelled for hazardous weather all contests will be cancelled. In the event of inclement weather, details will be available on the school messenger.

## **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 athletes 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.

## **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 third incident.

**Third offense:** Student-athlete will lose athletic privileges for the remainder of his/her high school career.

## 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:

1. 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.
2. The athlete will declare a primary sport (preference should be a team sport) and a secondary sport.
3. A contest will always take precedence over practice.
4. A league contest will always take precedence over a non-league.
5. If league contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will participate in his/her primary sport.
6. 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.
7. If non-league contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will participate in his/her primary sport.
8. Coaches are not to discipline an athlete for a missed practice on a day that the athlete is competing in his/her other sport.
9. 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.
10. Student/athletes must maintain weekly eligibility.
11. All other eligibility rules will remain the same.
12. An athlete must begin practicing in each of the two sports at the beginning of each sport's season.

## 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 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.

## **TEAM RULES**

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

## **TEAM SELECTION**

Philosophy - It is our intent to have as many students as possible participate in our athletic programs. Because of this, we encourage our coaches to keep as many athletes as possible on a team, without compromising the integrity of their sport. Coaches are expected to maximize opportunities for all student-athletes, without diluting the quality of the program.

Tryout Period - Tryouts for any Farwell Area Schools sport must last no less than three days.

## **TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SPORT**

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 Parent(s)/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. If there are extenuating circumstances that lead to a student "quitting" a team, then a meeting will take place 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**

In order to formulate a team concept, the student-athlete is expected to ride to and from the contest in the school provided transportation if provided. The Athletic Director/Coach/Administrators must approve all other exceptions in writing. All student-athletes are to conduct themselves as respectable representatives of Farwell High School on athletic trips. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action, which includes (but is not limited to) suspension or removal from the athletic team in which he or she is participating.

### **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.