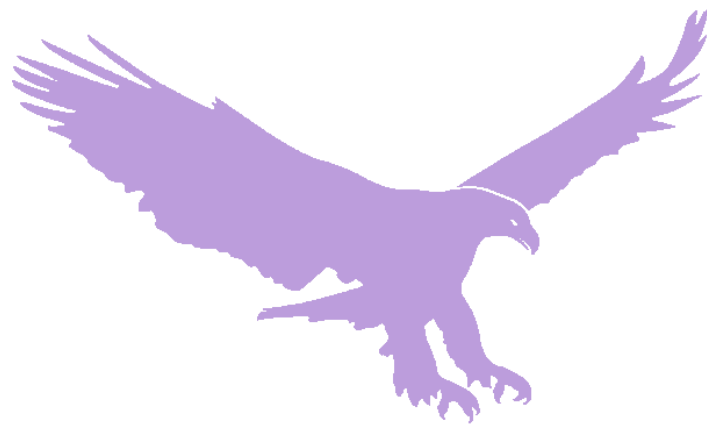


FARWELL AREA SCHOOLS



PROUD TO BE AN EAGLE!

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
AND
CODE OF CONDUCT
2009-2010

ATHLETICS

FARWELL EAGLES ATHLETIC 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 clearly 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.

Farwell High School Athletic Philosophy “Meeting All the Needs of Student-Athletes”

Farwell Athletics provides opportunities for physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth. We believe that teaching our student-athletes life skills that will prepare them for life after high school is our number one objective. Some (but not necessarily all) of the educational outcomes that can be achieved by participating in Farwell Athletics are as follows:

Physical outcomes ideally result in

- Physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle
- Opportunities to compete
- Individual skills

Emotional outcomes ideally result in

- Development of character
- Good sportsmanship
- How to accept constructive criticism
- The value of hard work
- Self Improvement

Social outcomes ideally result in

- Teamwork, accountability, and responsibility
- Working toward a common goal
- How to be a vital part of a team and a community
- Pride in school, family, and community
- Commitment

Intellectual outcomes ideally result in

- Goal setting
- Leadership opportunities
- Time management skills
- Decision making skills

Farwell High School Athletics provides many educational opportunities to student-athletes outside the classroom. Those student-athletes that commit unselfishly to our programs are expected to actively involve themselves in the school as well as the community. It is our beliefs that giving our student-athletes civic responsibility will help them to learn valuable life skills that will help them deal successfully with the challenges of their future beyond high school.

FARWELL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Farwell High School offers many opportunities for student-athletes to participate. Eleven MHSAA sponsored sports are offered.

Fall

Football
Boys' and Girls' Cross Country
Girls' Golf
Sideline Cheerleading
Volleyball

Winter

Boys' Basketball
Competitive Cheerleading
Girls' Basketball
Wrestling
Bowling

Spring

Boys' and Girls Track and Field
Boys' Baseball
Boys' Golf
Girls' Softball

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 Eligibility
Any student not passing 4/5 classes at the conclusion of the trimester will be ineligible to participate in athletics for 60 school days. Students' not meeting academic eligibility requirements will be informed of their suspension in writing.
- Weekly Eligibility
During the course of each trimester, eligibility checks will be done at the end of each week. Teachers will hand in grade reports on the Thursday of those weeks. Reports will be processed and communicated to the students on Friday of those weeks. If a student is not passing 4/5 classes at the weekly checkpoint, that student will sit out the week following. 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 also 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 son or daughters grades at the following web address: <http://farwell.edzone.net>. Click on the Parents Link and then click Farwell Area Schools Parents Access to Grades and Attendance.

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

- The Athletic Director has the administrative responsibility for enforcement of the Athletic Code.
- Prior to the start of a new trimester, the athletic director will determine those students who are ineligible for the next trimester based on previous trimester grades. Athletes and parents will be notified in writing.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Talk with the Coach of your son or daughter's team
- Talk with the Varsity Head Coach of the sport your son or daughter is currently participating
- 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. 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 or after a game. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

SQUAD 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. Prior to tryouts, the coach will provide the following information to all potential team members:

- Specific criteria used to select team members
- Number of team members to be selected
- Practice commitment (if selected)
- Game commitment (if selected)

The coach will speak individually with each athlete not selected for the team and inform him/her of the reasons for no selection.

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. Students participating in off-campus programs must attend all classes to be eligible to participate in practice or an athletic contest on that day. Zero hour and sixth hour classes will count towards attendance. Any exception to this policy can occur only when prior arrangements have been made, in written request to the athletic director by the parent/guardian no less than one day in advance of the contest.

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.

Team members are expected to be present at all practices, team meetings, contests, and special occasions, unless excused by the head coach.

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 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 one full athletic season. For example, a student that makes a team in the fall and fails to complete the season would not be eligible to participate until spring.

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 will receive their numbers and a certificate. J.V. athletes will receive their J.V. letter and certificates. Letters may be earned in Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Golf, Cheerleading, Baseball, Softball, Track, Wrestling, and Cross Country.

The individual coach, with the approval of the Athletic Director, will determine the criteria for winning an athletic award. These criteria will be made known to the athletes prior to the beginning of the season.

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.

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.

ATHLETE DRESS CODE

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

At the high school level, in the event of school being cancelled for hazardous weather (i.e. snow day, ice storm), the school administration and coach will determine if practice or an event will be cancelled or continue as scheduled. In the event of inclement weather, details will be available on the following radio stations:

- WCFX 95.3
- WVXH 92
- WCEN 94.5

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 will 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.

ATHLETIC SUSPENSIONS

The Athletic Director, school administration, or coach of the sport has the right to invoke suspensions from play. Causes for athletic suspension include but are not limited to

1. Personal misconduct
2. Unexcused absence for practice or meetings
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct
4. Grades
5. Civil infractions
6. Conduct detrimental to the team

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.

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 alcohol in any form
2. Use/Possess tobacco 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 other substance defined as a drug or look a-like drug.
7. Engage in acts of gross misconduct
8. Violate the Farwell High School student handbook in any way

It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug, specifically prescribed for the athlete's own use by the athlete's doctor.

PENALTIES FOR DRUGS, ALCOHOL, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT

For a violation of rule 1-2 in the previous section, the following outcomes will arise:

- First offense: Student-athlete is suspended from 25% of the scheduled number of contests. 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 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 3-6 in the previous section, the following outcomes will arise:

- First offense: Student-athlete will be suspended from participation for 50% of the scheduled number of contests. 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 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 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.

SPECIAL NOTES 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.

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 head coaches, the athletic director and the principal. At least three coaches need to be present.

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.
- An appeal hearing with the Athletic Council will be scheduled within three school days from the time the written request is received.
- 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 three 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.

School Expectations of Fans at All Events

Acceptable Behavior

- Applaud during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Accept all decisions of officials in a respectful manner.
- Applaud at end of contest for performances of all participants.
- Show concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Disrespectful or derogatory yelling, chanting, singing or gestures (especially during the other team's free throw attempts).
- Booing, heckling, or displays of extreme temper over an official or coach's decision.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game.
- Deliberately shouting derogatory chants over the cheerleaders' cheers.

Golden Rule

CHEER FOR YOUR TEAM, NOT AGAINST THE OPPONENT!

SPORTSMANSHIP: NO ALTERNATE ROUTES

The above behaviors will be enforced at all games. Spectators not exhibiting proper behaviors will be warned once. If that spectator continues to exhibit improper behaviors, h/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 at the end of bleachers in a corner area 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.

Farwell Area School Administration

Please sign and return the bottom portion to the athletic department along with your physical and signed coaches' rules sheet prior to your first official practice.

-----Cut Here-----

My son/daughter and I have read the Farwell Area Schools Athletic Code and we agree to abide by the regulations stated therein. I have also discussed this with my son/daughter and he/she attests to this by his/her signature

Print Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature: _____

Print Athlete's Name: _____ Date _____

Signature: _____