

FARWELL HIGH SCHOOL



HOME OF THE EAGLES

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
AND
CODE OF CONDUCT

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 proud of me, my teammates proud of me, my parents proud of me, 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 belief 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. We offer eleven MHSAA sponsored sports.

Fall

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

Winter

Boys' Basketball
Volleyball
Wrestling
Competitive Cheerleading

Spring

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

1. 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:

- Semester Eligibility. Students must have earned 2.5 credits in the previous semester. Students who fail to earn 2.5 credits during the previous semester will be ineligible to participate in athletics for the next semester.
- Weekly Eligibility. Eligibility during the season will be checked every week and will begin on the first Monday of the season. Each student-athlete must be working towards passing 2.5 credits. Any student earning two or less credits will be on academic probation for the following week. If the student's name appears on the academic list the week after the probationary period, they will be ineligible for the following week of competition. Student-athletes ineligible for three consecutive weeks will forfeit their eligibility for the remainder of the season they are currently participating in.

Students who are ineligible during a weekly period will be expected to commit to no less than three hours of academic support during that time period. Athletes will also be expected to attend practice daily. The hours must be logged and returned to the athletic director before the athlete will be eligible to participate in games again. Athletes who are ineligible during a bi-weekly period must still attend all contests in appropriate clothing, designated by the coach.

Parents are encouraged to check the progress of their son or daughter's 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.

A. Administrative Guidelines

- The athletic director has the administrative responsibility for enforcement of the athletic
- Prior to the start of the following semester, the athletic director will furnish a list of those students who are ineligible for the semester. Athletes and parents will be notified in writing.

2. Communication

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

1. Talk with the Coach of your son or daughters team
2. Talk with the Varsity Head Coach of the sport your son or daughter is currently participating in.
3. Talk to the Athletic Director
4. Talk to the Principal
5. Talk to the Superintendent

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.

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. Squad Selection

A) 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.

B) 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:

1. Specific criteria used to select team members

2. Number of team members to be selected
3. Practice commitment (if selected)
4. Game commitment (if selected)

The coach must talk individually with the athletes not selected for the team and inform them of the reason's they were not selected.

4. 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 seventh hour classes will count towards attendance. A student athlete who has received an out of school suspension will not be allowed to participate in any contests during the suspension but will be expected to participate in all practices at the discretion of the athletic director.

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

5. 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.

6. 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 certificates. Letters may be earned in: Football, Volleyball, Golf, Cheerleading, Pom-Pon, 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.

7. 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.

8. Transportation for Athletic Contests

School provided and scheduled transportation will be used for all away events and some practices for specific teams. In order to formulate a team concept, the student-athlete is expected to ride to and from the contest in the school provided transportation. Any exception to this policy can occur only when prior arrangements have been made, in written permission form from the parent(s)/guardian(s) no less than one day in advance of the contest. In all exceptions, students MUST ride home with parent(s)/guardian(s). All other exceptions must be approved by the Athletic Director no less than one full day in advance of the athletic contest.

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 he or she is participating on.

9. Dress Code

We expect our athletes to dress appropriately and to project a favorable image of our school. Coaches are expected to set specific dress code standards for their respective teams.

10. 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

11. Athletic Banquets

All High School sports will hold banquets at the conclusion of each season. The type of gathering and location is the responsibility of the coach. The Athletic Director's office may assist in any manner requested.

12. 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, they must have a doctor's release on file in the athletic office before they can resume practice and competition.

13. Athletic Suspensions

The athletic director, school administrator, or coach of the sport has the right to invoke suspensions. The athletic director and/or administrator will confer with coach before action is taken. Causes for suspension include but are not limited to:

1. Personal Misconduct
2. Unexcused absence from practice or meetings
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct
4. Grades
5. Civil infractions
6. Conduct Detrimental to the team

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.

All athletic suspensions are rounded up. (i.e. athlete misses 25% of the scheduled number of contests and there are 9 contests scheduled. The Athlete would miss 3 games. If an athlete is not participating in a sport at the time, the suspension will carry over into the next sport.

All Athletic suspensions will carry over into the next season if necessary.

For Civil infractions, a conviction is not necessary to invoke suspension, only reliable information. Reliable information includes school personnel, law enforcement, and court information.

14. Rules regulating 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 alike 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.

15. Penalties

For a violation of rule 1-2 in section 14, 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 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 their own expense before being able to resume participation in athletics.
- **Third offense:** Student-athlete will lose privilege to participate in Farwell Athletics for the remainder of their high school career.

For a violation of rules 3-6 in section 14, the following outcomes will arise:

- **First offense:** Student-athlete will miss the entire season they are participating in. If violation occurs in the summer or between seasons, the student-athlete will be ineligible to participate in athletics for the next sports season. The student will not participate in practices, team functions, etc.

- 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 privilege to compete in athletics for the remainder of their high school career.

For a violation of rules 7-8 in section 14, the following outcomes are possible:

- First offense: Student-athlete will be suspended from participation in athletics at the discretion of the Athletic Director or school administrator. Length of time will be determined by severity of incident.
- Second offense: Student-athlete will be suspended from participation in athletics or could be dismissed from the sport they are currently participating in depending on the severity of the incident.
- Third offense: Student-athlete will lose athletic privileges for 180 calendar days from the time of the third incident.
- Fourth offense: Student-athlete will lose athletic privileges for the remainder of their high school career.

Special notes regarding suspensions

A suspended athlete may not attend games during their suspension.

The student-athlete must complete the entire sport in good standing in order to receive credit for the suspension.

All suspensions begin immediately after the infraction occurs and must be served in consecutive games.

Any athlete receiving 25% suspensions or longer will not be eligible to receive recognition for the season of competition.

Student-athletes found guilty of committing a criminal act under local, state, or federal law will also be suspended from athletic activity until a decision is made by the Athletic Review Board.

The athletic Director or school administration may enforce more severe penalties at their discretion.

Notification of athletic suspension will be sent in writing to student-athlete and his/her parents and/or guardians within three days of the suspension.

16. Appeals

The student-athlete may request, in writing, to appeal a suspension to the athletic review board. The athletic review board will consist of five out of season coaches. The athletic director will select the members of the review board and will serve as chair of the review meeting but will not have a vote in the appeal. The review board may uphold, dismiss, or modify the suspension imposed. Timelines in the appeal process are as follows:

- a. All appeals are to be made in writing within three school days of receiving notification of the suspension.
- b. An appeal hearing will be scheduled within three school days from the time the written request is received.
- c. 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.

17. 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.

