

# **MIAMI I.S.D. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

## **PRE-PARTICIPATION MEETING**

All parents/guardians need to attend a parents meeting with the Athletic Director and/or coaching staff before their child will be allowed to participate in any athletic contest. This meeting will be used to introduce parents to staff and inform them of the policies, guidelines and expectations of being a part of the Miami athletic family.

## **FORMS**

All student athletes must turn in all forms before participating in Miami ISD Athletics. All 6th, 9th, 11th and new student athletes must have a physical. In addition to a physical examination form, all athletes must complete a Medical History Form and an Acknowledgment of Rules Form each year. Please be sure that your paper work is completed, signed properly, and up-to-date. No student enrolled in an athletic period will be allowed to participate in any conditioning activities until they have a current physical on file.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

If a player or parent has a problem or conflict with a coach, there is a proper chain of command to follow. First, call the school and ask for the coach, then set up a meeting from there. If the coach is unavailable, call the Athletic Director and request a meeting to be arranged. Do not confront coaches before, during, or immediately after a practice or game. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions. If there is a problem that needs immediate attention, contact the Athletic Director or the Administrator in charge of that event. Be respectful, honest, and direct, and you will receive the same treatment in return.

If you are not satisfied or the problem is not resolved, then you should take the problem to the Athletic Director. If you feel that the problem has still not been resolved, then you should schedule a meeting with the Principal. By following the proper chain of command, most conflicts and problems can be resolved.

## **PARENT - STUDENT - FAN BEHAVIOR**

You are asked to remember that the athlete on the field or court is participating in a game. Winning is important, maybe even critical; however, it is still a game. All of our coaches work very hard to keep athletics in perspective. We will ask that our fans keep things in perspective, also.

The University Interscholastic League is currently in the process of cracking down on schools whose fans cause confrontations with officials and coaches. Remember this: If the U.I.L. disciplines our school, it is our athletes who will suffer the most. In order to prevent discipline from the U.I.L., we must discipline ourselves. With this in mind, we want you to know that unruly behavior on the part of fans will not be tolerated.

Any fan that confronts an official or coach, and threatens him or her, either verbally or physically, will have charges filed and will be suspended from attending any school sponsored event for a period of one year.

It is a violation of state law to consume or use alcoholic beverages or tobacco products on school property. Drinking on the part of fans will not be tolerated.

The Miami ISD Athletic Department sincerely hopes that no incident of this kind occurs, and that good judgment and sportsmanship will prevail.

## **ACADEMICS**

All athletes are students first and athletes second. Your primary reason for being in school is to get an education. We believe that it takes a special person to be a student and an athlete. You are going to have to work harder, stay up later, and get up earlier, etc., because much of your study time will be taken up by athletics. We know that this is not easy, but we expect you to do it because others before you have been able to do it.

Be organized, do not put off assignments, write things down, and if you are having trouble in a class, get help from someone. All of our coaches are also good teachers, and they will be more than happy to help you in any way that they can. But, you have to ask! Coaches will monitor grades periodically, but it is still your responsibility to get help if you are having trouble. Athletes may be required to attend early morning tutorials or after school tutorials if they are having academic problems. The only way that you can ensure success in the classroom is to assume individual accountability for your classroom performance. Do not depend on someone else!

## **ATHLETIC PERIOD**

The athletic period is just like any other class. You are expected to be there exactly like any other class. You will not be allowed to use the athletic period to make up assignments from other classes or receive tutoring in other classes unless you have coaches' approval. As an athlete you are responsible for completing assigned work on your own time.

## **ATTENDANCE**

**ABSENCES** - Absences because of illness or a school function will be considered as legitimate absences and the athlete will only be required to make up the work that was missed. However, the athlete must make the coach aware before the absence occurs.

**PROMPTNESS** - Always be on time! The athlete is responsible for his/her own time. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action. When leaving our school, the bus waits for no one. Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. If you miss or are late to an athletic period/practice, be sure that it cannot be helped. If you must be absent or late, talk to your coach before the athletic period. If you fail to do so, you may be subject to disciplinary action.

## **ATTITUDE - WORK HABITS**

Your attitude toward your sport will determine how successful you are at that sport. Through hard work, self discipline and teamwork, you will develop a positive attitude. By having a positive attitude, you will have a chance to be successful one hundred percent of the time.

Student athletes should understand that participation on an athletic team is a privilege and not a requirement. Accordingly, athletes must be willing to sacrifice individual accolades and considerations for the good of the team. Teams will not be successful where jealousy or selfishness reigns. Athletes must accept the attitude that the team comes first.

## **RESPECT**

Coaches should receive “yes ma’am/yes sir”, “no ma’am/no sir” responses from players when talking to them. This is a sign of respect that will benefit you all of your life. Players in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Whenever a coach is speaking to you, either individually or as a group, you will give them your undivided attention and look them in the eye. Listen to them “with your eyes.”

## **CONDUCT**

It is important to remember that when you are competing, you are representing not only yourself and your school, but also the entire community. Profanity and any acts of unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

## **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

Any athlete formally charged with a crime will be disciplined according to the severity of the crime. Discipline procedures as outlined in Chapter 37 of Senate Bill 1 will be followed.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Under the provisions of House Bill 72, an athlete must maintain a 70 average in all classes to be eligible for extracurricular activities. In addition, the athlete must have the correct number of credits at the beginning of the school year.

- 9th - must be promoted to 9th grade
- 10th - must have 5 credits
- 11th - must have 10 credits
- 12th - must have 15 credits

If a student becomes academically ineligible for two consecutive six weeks, he or she may be dismissed from athletics. The student can be reinstated when academic stability is demonstrated.

## **EQUIPMENT / UNIFORMS**

Miami I.S.D. will issue the proper equipment for each sport. The athlete will be held responsible for his or her own equipment. Athletes will be held responsible for lost or stolen equipment. Equipment lost or stolen will be paid for by the athlete to whom it was issued. It is not acceptable to borrow another athlete's equipment or to take any equipment home without a coaches' approval. All school issued equipment will be laundered by school personnel routinely. If you are not satisfied with the laundry process or if your clothes are not being washed please contact the Athletic Director. An athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport until his or her equipment record is clear in the previous sport.

Uniforms are worn to symbolize teamwork. Everyone will wear their uniform in the same manner - no one will dress differently. You will not be allowed to take any equipment from the locker room. Do not wear any jewelry in practice or during the game.

## **FEES**

From time to time it will be necessary for the athlete to purchase a piece of equipment not provided by the school district. Included below is a list of some items that may have to be purchased by the student.

- Shoes (Football, Basketball, Golf, Tennis, Track & Cross Country)
- Knee Pads (Basketball)
- Racket (Tennis)
- Clubs (Golf)

Once you purchase this equipment, it becomes your property.

## **GROOMING**

Your appearance should, at all times, reflect pride in yourself and in our athletic program. See the Miami ISD Student handbook for specific grooming policies.

## **INJURY OR ILLNESS**

If you are ill, tell your coach before you leave school or call them to let him know you will not be at school. We do not need notes from home saying that you are ill or injured. As long as you don't abuse the privilege, your word on these matters is good enough. If you say you are sick, then you are sick.

If you are sick or injured we do not expect you to work out, but if you are at school we do expect you to be at practice, in the required uniform, following your group from station to station and learning as much as you can.

If your injury or illness requires a visit to a physician, bring us a note from the physician telling us how long you will be out and what we can do to treat your injury. We will treat what a doctor says as law; you will not be allowed to return to practice until the doctor releases you.

## **IN SCHOOL/ OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION OR DAEP**

Unruly behavior on the part of athletes in the classroom, halls, or anywhere else on campus will not be tolerated. Any athlete who misses the athletic period because of ISS, DAEP, or out of school suspension will also be disciplined in athletics. This may seem like you are being punished twice; however, because you are an athlete you will be required to be on your best behavior at all times. If you are in ISS, DAEP or suspended on the day of competition, you will not be allowed to participate in an athletic contest on that day.

## **LETTERING**

In order to letter, athletes must meet the following criteria: Athletes should participate at the Varsity level, attend practice on a regular basis, and contribute to the team as needed, to the best of their abilities. The final decision will be that of the head coach of each sport. The policy is designed to allow athletes, regardless of their athletic skill level, to letter in recognition of their contributions to the program.

## **LOCKER ROOM**

During the course of the season, you will spend a great deal of time in this room. Take care of it like it is your own. Keep it clean by putting trash and tape in the trash can. Do not wear muddy shoes or steel cleats in this area. Make this room a more pleasant place for everyone.

The locker room is also a private place. It is the place where your team family meets. Do not say or do anything outside the locker room that would disrupt the continuity of our athletic teams.

## **LOCKERS**

The athlete will be responsible for keeping his or her locker neat and clean, for hygienic and organizational reasons. Your coach will explain to you how your locker is to be kept. Our lockers do not have locks on them. It is the responsibility of the athlete to provide a lock for his/her locker and to lock all valuables in the locker which they have been issued. If your locker needs maintenance please bring it to the attention of a coach.

## **OFF-SEASON**

Our coaches believe that we have one of the finest off-season programs in Texas. This program is designed to make you a better athlete. It is not just for football players, or basketball, or tennis, or any other single sport. Its purpose and design is to make you better at all sports. All athletes who are not involved in an in-season sport will be expected to participate in off-season workouts, unless approved by the respective head coach of that athlete's sport. Failure to do so with the respective coach may result in dismissal from their team.

## **QUITTING OR REMOVAL FROM TEAM**

If an athlete quits or is removed from a sport, all awards are automatically forfeited for the sport. To re-enter that sport, athletes must have approval from the coaching staff. Athletes may not participate in the next sport, unless mutually agreed upon by the coaches of both programs. Depending upon the situation, additional work may be required to participate in the next sport.

Miami High School allows a grace period of one week at the beginning of each semester, in which a student can drop a class if they do not want to take it. After that week, a student must complete the course for the semester in which they signed up. **THIS SAME POLICY APPLIES TO ATHLETICS.** If an athlete quits or is removed from an athletic team, he/she **MUST** continue to attend and actively participate in the in-school athletic period until the close of the semester.

## **SCHEDULING CONFLICTS**

Conflicts will arise in which an athlete will be participating in some other extracurricular activity. These conflicts are handled using the following rule. A district contest will always take precedence over a non district contest and any competitive event will always take precedence over a field trip or practice. If there is a conflict between two district competitions the individual must decide in which to participate without influence by coaches. Using this rule, all participants will be given an opportunity to compete in the major contests or events of any extracurricular activity. The Athletic Department will do everything possible to avoid conflicts of this type. Students are strongly encouraged to check the schedules of their activities, so as to prevent too many conflicts or missed class time.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Use of alcohol, tobacco and/or drugs will not be tolerated. The use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will warrant appropriate disciplinary action. We follow the student code of conduct and additional actions deemed by the coach.

## **TRAVEL TO AND FROM ATHLETIC CONTESTS**

Miami I.S.D. will provide athletes with transportation to and from all athletic contests. All athletes will ride the bus to all athletic contests, except in cases approved by the coach. Athletes, at the coach's discretion, may ride home from the contests in private vehicles, providing the following conditions are met:

1. The athlete may ride only with his/her own parent. Exception may be made if the student's parents or guardian submits a written request that the student be allowed to ride with someone else.
2. The athlete is responsible to return all uniforms and equipment to the school as soon as possible.
3. The athlete will be held accountable for obtaining information he/she may have missed on the bus ride home (i.e. practice time changes).

## **CELL PHONES**

Cell phones are not permitted in locker rooms at any time. Cell phones may be taken on road trips but must remain off unless a coach has given permission for its use. Each coach will have a cell phone on the bus which may be used by athletes to contact parents. If a parent needs to contact a student when traveling or while at a competition a list of cell phone numbers of coaches can be made available for that parent.

**DRESS CODE**

Each student athlete will be expected to follow a team dress code when traveling to games. The dress code will be set by the head coach of each sport.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Any athlete that violates the rules and policies of the athletic program may be disciplined in a variety of ways. Depending upon the circumstances, temporary or permanent suspension could be enforced. Coaches will make every effort to be fair and balanced in discipline and praise.

If any situation arises that is not covered in this handbook, then policies and actions outlined in the Miami I.S.D. student handbook will apply. In cases where there is no policy for the situation, the respective coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and Superintendent shall decide what actions will be taken.

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I, the undersigned, have read and fully understand the Miami ISD student athletic handbook and agree to comply with it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

