

***OLNEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT***

***ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
HANDBOOK***

Adopted 7-20-09

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
MISSION STATEMENT.....	4
OBJECTIVES OF ATHLETICS / EXPLANATION OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK.....	5
ACADEMICS.....	6
ATHLETIC CONDITIONING PERIOD.....	6
DISCIPLINE	6
COACHES RULE	7
ATHLETIC CONDITIONING PERIOD.....	6
DISCIPLINE	6
ATTITUDE-WORK HABITS.....	7
CHAIN OF COMMAND.....	8
COACHES/TEACHERS/ADMINISTRATORS.....	8
COMPETITIVE ATHLETIC TEAMS	9
CONDUCT	10
ELIGIBILITY	10
EQUIPMENT and UNIFORMS	10
FORMS.....	10
HALL OF FAME	11
LETTERING	12
GROOMING.....	13
INJURY OR ILLNESS.....	13
LOCKER ROOM	13
QUITTING	14
SCHEDULING CONFLICTS.....	14
INSURANCE	15
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	16
TRAVEL.....	16
VACATIONS.....	17
CLUB SPORTS	17
HAZING	17

THEFT 17
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY..... 17
PERMIT FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

The OLNEY I.S.D. Athletic Handbook contains a general statement of the administrative regulations governing the overall athletic program. Provisions of this Athletic Handbook may be expanded, modified, or revoked only by action of the principal, Superintendent, or the Board of Education. If any of the provisions of this Athletic Handbook conflict with federal or state laws and regulations, or Board policy, those provisions are superseded by applicable law' or Board policy. The provisions of this Athletic Handbook are severable, and the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability of any provision will not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the other provisions.

ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

The Olney Independent School District believes that the district athletic program should be an integral part of the total educational process.

The mission of the OISD Office of Athletics is to insure and enhance the quality of life for youth by providing competitive activities. The pitting of one's skills, knowledge, and talent against friendly opponents is a means of learning one's own strengths and weaknesses.

Good contests, properly supervised, give youthful competitors the opportunity to gain self-confidence, improve skills, and exhibit good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity. Sports programs help the participant to develop physically, morally, and mentally.

Athletic offerings within the district are competitive and diversified, thereby allowing students the opportunity to realize their full potential relative to growth and development. All programs are designed not only to teach athletic skills, but also to instill good character and teach sound values.

It is our final goal that sports activities will produce young men and women who will be able to enter the community and become constructive, contributing members of society: citizens that will leave their mark on this world by making it a better place for future generations.

OBJECTIVES OF ATHLETICS

1. The primary objective of our program is to develop a sense of responsibility and accountability in all of our athletes. It is our desire that through competitive athletics, our students realize that they can determine the course of their own lives. We believe that through our program we can help our students grow into mature, responsible citizens that contribute to our society.
2. We want to ensure that each one of our athletes has an opportunity to be successful. Not every young athlete will have the same level of talent, but every athlete can be praised for his/her work and effort. Every athlete can feel good about himself/herself and his/her role on the team.
3. Olney ISD coaches will work to ensure that our athletes enjoy participating. When it's time to work, we will work and work very hard, but we also are going to find time for our athletes to have fun.

EXPLANATION OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

According to University Interscholastic League rules, being in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Only those students who abide by school and athletic policies will be allowed to represent Olney I.S.D.

When young men and young women sign up for athletics and become a member of a team, they make a commitment. They are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the program. They are not forced to participate. It is voluntary; therefore, they are expected to follow rules of order.

Parents should strive to help their son or daughter to achieve success in athletics. Success is defined as participating at 100% of the individual's ability. We can never expect athletes to do more than they are capable; however, we do want them to obtain their fullest potential. Supportive parents can instill this desire in student athletes long after their playing days are over by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and regulations.

OLNEY ISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

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. If you are having trouble in 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! Your coach will check grades periodically, but it is still your responsibility to get help if you are having trouble. **As an athlete you will be required to attend study hall if you are having academic problems. Discipline yourself to do your work so others won't have to!**

ATHLETIC CONDITIONING PERIOD

Our coaches believe that we have one of the finest athletic conditioning programs in TEXAS. **This program is designed to make you a better athlete.** It is not for any single sport. Its purpose and design is **to make you better at all sports. Emphasis will be placed on strength, agility, and conditioning.** **All athletes who intend to participate in football, cross-country, basketball, powerlifting, baseball, or track must complete the athletic conditioning program.**

The athletic conditioning period will run according to schedule each day in accordance with the U.I.L. guidelines. Seniors will participate in athletic conditioning until the last sport in which they are competing has ended. (They will then remain in the athletic conditioning period unless a schedule change is possible at semester break.)

Discipline

Discipline yourself, so others won't have to! Each situation may require a different type of discipline. Whatever type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become better persons. Failure to accept this on the part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program. The different discipline techniques listed below may be used alone or in combination for Student Code of Conduct and non-Student Code of Conduct violations. The listing is not intended to be a list of progressive sanctions.

- *Oral Correction
- *Home-visits by head coach
- *Behavioral contracts
- *Corporal Punishment as a choice
- *Techniques or penalties identified by individual coach of sport
- *Dismissal from team or program
- *Counseling by coaches
- *Parent-coach conference with Athletic Director
- *Withdraw of privileges, such as participation
- *Physical Activity

COACHES RULE

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. The coach must explain the rules pertaining to a particular sport at the start of the season. The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules. Copies of all team rules are on file in the Athletic Office.

ATTENDANCE

ABSENCES - No absence will be excused. Absences because of illness, a school function, a death in the family, will be considered legitimate absences and the athlete will only be required to make up the work that was missed. However, with the exception of an illness, athletes must have their coach's approval **before** any such absence occurs. In other words, if an athlete is going to miss a Wednesday practice because of some school function, he or she should let the coach know as soon as possible and get the coach's approval. If an athlete becomes ill during the day, it is his or her responsibility to notify a coach before they go home.

Any such absence not approved by the athlete's coach before the absence occurred will be considered a deliberate miss and that athlete will be subject to disciplinary action in addition to making up the work missed. **If three such absences occur during a single season, that athlete may be suspended from the team for the remainder of the season and may not begin another sport until the season ends.**

PROMPTNESS - **Always be on time!** The athlete is responsible for his/her own time. Tardiness will result in disciplinary measures according to the sport. On trips, the bus waits for no one. **Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated.**

If you must miss or if you are late to an athletic period/practice, be sure that it cannot be helped. **Do not make appointments on our time. If you must be absent or late, talk to your coach before the athletic period. If you fail to do so, you are subject to disciplinary action.**

ATTITUDE - WORK HABITS

Your attitude toward the sport will, many times, determine how successful you are at that sport. If you work hard, attend practice, study the sport and listen when the coach corrects your mistakes, then you will enjoy the sport more and have greater success. Do not be a **griper** or **complainer**. Negative attitudes benefit no one.

Learn to take criticism from your coach. He or she is only trying to make you better. Different coaches have different personalities, so each one may offer criticism in a different manner, but the intent of the criticism is the same: to make you a better player.

There is no substitute for hard work. The harder you work, the better you get. Do not allow yourself to be mentally or physically lazy.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

As your children become involved in the programs at Olney, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. Examples of these situations include the treatment of your child, ways to help your child improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much, when, or where you may desire. It will be the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. Examples include team strategy, other student-athletes, playing time, etc.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. There will not be a conference regarding playing time without the student-athlete and coach present.

When these conferences are necessary, there is a proper chain of command to follow. The following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment. Be respectful, honest, and direct, and you will receive the same treatment in return.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Office. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
4. If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.
5. If you still feel that the problem is not resolved to your satisfaction, then you should take the problem to the high school principal.

This way seems like the long way to go, but almost any problem can be solved in this manner. By following the proper channels further conflicts and problems can be avoided.

COACHES/TEACHERS/ADMINISTRATORS

Each coach, teacher and administrator at Olney High School is a professional. Working with young people is what they do to earn a living, and they have spent a great deal of time and money training to be good at what they do. Therefore, they will be treated with the respect to which they are entitled. These people should receive "yes ma'am/yes sir," "no ma'am/no sir" responses from players when talking to them. They in return will treat players with respect. Whenever one of these people is speaking to you, either individually or as a group, you will give him or her your undivided attention and look him or her in the eye. If a player is disrespectful to a coach, teacher, or administrator, or is in violation of athletic policies, he or she will be disciplined. This discipline may be extra physical work and/or corporal punishment. Corporal punishment would never be used in anger and only when there is a witness. If the behavior persists on the part of the student athlete, he or she

may be removed from the program.

COMPETITIVE ATHLETIC TEAMS

The Olney Independent School District provides 38 teams for athletic competition in various sports from grade 7 through 12. The system sponsors five football teams; three cross country teams, ten basketball teams, seven track teams, four tennis teams, four golf teams, and three baseball teams.

Football

1. 7th Grade
2. 8th Grade
3. 9th Grade (when possible)
4. Junior Varsity
5. Varsity

Cross Country

1. Junior High Girls
2. Junior Varsity Girls
3. Varsity Girls

Basketball

1. 7th Grade Girls
2. 7th Grade Boys
3. 8th Grade Girls
4. 8th Grade Boys
5. 9th Grade Girls (when possible)
6. 9th Grade Boys (when possible)
7. Junior Varsity Girls
8. Junior Varsity Boys
9. Varsity Girls
10. Varsity Boys

Powerlifting

1. High School Girls
2. High School Boys

Track

1. 7th Grade Girls
2. 7th Grade Boys
3. 8th Grade Girls
4. 8th Grade Boys
5. Junior Varsity Boys
6. Varsity Girls
6. Varsity Boys

Tennis

1. Junior Varsity Girls
2. Junior Varsity Boys
3. Varsity Girls
4. Varsity Boys

Golf

1. Junior Varsity Girls (when possible)
2. Junior Varsity Boys (when possible)
3. Varsity Girls
4. Varsity Boys

Baseball

1. 9th Grade Boys (when possible)
2. Junior Varsity Boys
3. Varsity Boys

Softball

1. Junior Varsity Girls (when possible)
2. Varsity Girls

CONDUCT

The athletes who have preceded you have helped us build a well-respected program. Do not do anything that would detract from this fine reputation. Our athletic teams are noted for clean, tough, competitive play. **We do not Ashoot off our mouths≅ on or off the field.** Praise your opponents and play to your ability. We expect you to conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times. We know that each of you do not have the same ability, but we expect each of you to perform to the best of your ability at all times. Misconduct will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary actions according to sport.

ELIGIBILITY

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

A student participating in UIL activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (other than an identified honors or advanced class). This suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period; the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal to or greater than 70.

In order to attend a Division I or II university on athletic scholarship, the athlete must meet all requirements of the NCAA. Student athletes should check with the Athletic Director or High School Counselor for these requirements.

EQUIPMENT and UNIFORMS

Olny ISD 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. The athlete it was issued to will pay for equipment lost or stolen. Any athlete caught in the equipment room or borrowing another's equipment will be subject to disciplinary action. **Any athlete who is caught stealing will be automatically suspended from athletics.** An athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport until his or her equipment record is clear in the previous sport. An athlete that does not take care of his or her equipment or hang it up correctly in their locker will be disciplined according to sport.

Dress should be very professional both in uniform and out. **Everyone will wear his or her uniform in the same manner - no one will dress differently.** We will furnish your uniform so do not bring personal equipment from home unless instructed to do so by a coach. **You will not be allowed to take any equipment from the locker room.** Take care of your equipment. It is the best money can buy. UIL guidelines prohibit the wearing of any jewelry in practice or during the game.

FORMS

All athletes are required to have a physical examination before participating in any athletic activity. An athlete who moves into the district should have a copy of his or her physical examination or make arrangements to get it. In addition to a medical examination form, all athletes must have a completed Medical History Form, an Acknowledgment of Rules Form, and a Permit for Participation Form (located in the back of this handbook). Please see to it that your paperwork is completed, signed properly, and up-to-date.

HALL OF FAME

Induction into the "Hall of Fame" is the highest award an athlete can RECEIVE in the Olney school system. Membership requires a high level of achievement in athletic ability, scholarship, and character. Induction is based on a point system and is totally an objective process. The coaching staff, administration and Board of Education of Olney ISD have approved the following guidelines for induction.

Decisions made according to these guidelines are final. **A new system will start in the school year 2010 – 2011 and will begin with the freshman of the 2007- 2008 school year.**

The point system has been designed to give equality to all sports and students. Emphasis is based on excellence in a sport at a state recognition level, or for outstanding achievement in several sports at the district and regional levels.

Total points needed: **GIRLS** 250
BOYS 250

Points for each sport (per year): Participation 5 points
 1st letter 10 points
 2nd letter 15 points
 3rd letter 20 points
 4th letter 25 points

All District 2nd place or team	15 points	_____
All District 1st place or team	20 points	_____
Regional 2nd place or team	40 points	_____
Regional 1st place or team	50 points	_____
State 2nd place or team	60 points	_____
State 1st place or team	80 points	_____
1st Team All-State	80 points	_____
and Automatic Induction		_____
Academic Points (for four entire years)		
"A" average overall	30 points	_____
"B" average overall	20 points	_____
TOTAL POINTS		_____

1. An athlete can receive points as a competitor at the District, Regional, or State levels equivalent to his or her best event only. No points may be stacked. (Example: Student wins District on a team and receives All-State honors. Student would only receive All-State points. Only the highest point total honor per sport will be used regardless of circumstance.)
2. An athlete in a team sport must letter during the regular season and compete with a team at the post-season level to earn Hall of Fame post-season points.
3. A student athlete who serves as cheerleader for an entire year may receive an additional 3 points per year if he/she fulfills all obligations to both athletics and the cheerleading squad.
4. Any athlete who quits a sport after the first interscholastic competition will not be considered for the Hall of Fame.
5. Any athlete who is removed from a team due to disciplinary reasons will not be considered for the Hall of Fame and will not letter in the sport in which he or she was dismissed.
6. Any athlete receiving a first offense for substance abuse will have 20 points deducted from their Hall of Fame total.

7. Any athlete receiving a second offense for substance abuse will not be eligible for the Hall of Fame.

LETTERING

Students participating in athletics at the junior high level shall receive a certificate listing each of the sports in which they took part. This will be presented at an assembly in the spring.

Also in the spring, high school students will receive a certificate listing their accomplishments.

The first time a student letters on a varsity team he/she shall receive a school athletic jacket. This is ordered during the season and presented to the athlete. All additional patches or decorations for the jacket will be the responsibility of the individual student.

To letter, an athlete must meet three requirements.

1. He/She must compete in a specified number of interscholastic contests at the varsity level.
2. He/She must be recommended for lettering to the Athletic Director by the coach.
3. He/She must complete the season in good standing as a team member.

Lettering requirements for each sport are as follows:

1. Football - To letter in varsity football, an athlete must compete in a minimum of five games.
2. Basketball - To letter in varsity basketball, an athlete must compete in a minimum of fifteen games.
3. Cross Country - To letter in cross-country, an athlete must participate in a minimum of two regular varsity meets and point at the varsity district meet.
4. Powerlifting – To letter in powerlifting, an athlete must participate in three powerlifting meets and complete all lifts in at least two meets. Powerlifting points will not count toward the Hall of Fame until the sport is sanctioned by U.I.L.
5. Track - To letter in track, an athlete must represent the school in at least two meets and point at the district track meet. *To earn team point honors toward the Hall of Fame, a track athlete must point at the Regional or State meet. Individual points will be determined by finish (first and second only).
6. Golf - To letter in golf, a student must compete in two regular season tournaments and the district tournament as a member of the varsity team.
7. Tennis - To earn a letter in tennis, a student must compete in two regular season tournaments and the district tournament as a member or the varsity team.
8. Baseball & Softball - To letter in varsity baseball or softball, an athlete must compete in a minimum of ten games at the varsity level. If no Junior Varsity team is fielded due to lack of numbers, student must compete in a minimum of 30 innings to letter.

All final decisions concerning athletic letters will fall under the discretion of the coach of the sport and the athletic director.

GROOMING

Students competing in athletics at Olney High School will reflect a positive public image in their appearance. Hair styles and clothing should not be disruptive. To attain a team appearance, as well as for safety reasons, hair should not be any longer than the top of a dress shirt collar. **Men will not be allowed to wear earrings or any other form of body piercing on campus or at any function where they represent Olney High School.** Women should wear a hairstyle that will keep hair out of their eyes. Athletes at Olney High School will also not be allowed to wear bandannas or other headgear not appropriate to their sport. Your appearance should, at all times, reflect class and pride in yourself and in our athletic program and must fall within school dress code guidelines.

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Unfortunately, we do not have a full-time athletic trainer; however, several of our coaches have been fully trained and have experience dealing with injuries. If you have an injury, see one of them. They will either treat the injury or refer you to a physician or our contracted trainers from the Breland-Henslee Clinic in Wichita Falls. If you are ill, tell your coach before you leave school. If you do not come to school, call 564-8636 **daily** and leave a message with the Athletic Director and he will let your coach know you will not be at school or workout.

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.** We will keep a file of these doctor's notes, so please be sure and get one.

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; it is.** 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 a place where your team family meets. **What's said in the locker room should stay there.** Do not be a busybody; a rumor can grow until it disrupts a whole team.

Each locker room will have guidelines posted for teams to abide by. Each team member is expected to know these guidelines and follow them. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disciplinary measures according to the sport.

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.

QUITTING

If an athlete quits a sport, he or she will be given an initial 24 hour grace period to return. If he or she returns after 24 hours and decides to quit, the following stipulations will apply:

- 1) He or she may not begin another sport until the season ends for the sport that was quit.
- 2) If the student quits a second time, they will not be allowed to participate in athletics for the remainder of the year.

If you start something, finish it. No coach will try to make you participate in a sport, but we do expect you to honor your commitments and finish what you start.

SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department will do everything possible to avoid conflicts of this type. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about participation in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsors and coaches involved when a conflict does arise. These conflicts are handled using the following rules. **A district contest will always take precedence over a non-district contest and a district contest will always take precedence over a field trip.** Using this rule, all participants will be given an opportunity to compete in the major contests or events of any extracurricular activity. When a conflict arises and the rule does not apply, the sponsors and coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on the following:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The importance of each event to the student.
3. The relative contribution the student can make.
4. How long each event has been scheduled.
5. Talk with parents.

If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity in a timely fashion so as not to place an unreasonable burden on the team, coach or sponsor.

INSURANCE

All UIL sponsored competitors at Olney ISD are covered by a secondary insurance plan. This insurance is designed to help pay a competitors deductible after their primary insurance has paid. This insurance cannot and should not serve as the primary insurance.

Olney ISD strives in providing each and every student athlete with the best care possible under the guidance of a certified and/or licensed Athletic Trainer. Each year we hope to avoid injuries but unfortunately that is something that cannot be controlled. The reality is that all medical expenses resulting from an athletic injury are inherently the parent's responsibility. Therefore, Olney ISD has elected to purchase an excess insurance policy for all UIL sanctioned participants even under these tough economic times.

Listed below are two (2) scenarios that a parent and/or guardian may find themselves in when their child is hurt during an athletic event and must follow in order to qualify for our "excess" coverage.

I. If the parent and/or guardian carry primary insurance on the student the following steps should be followed:

1. All injuries must be reported and documented by the Head Athletic Trainer or one of his assistants.
2. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
3. All visits to the doctor or other providers must be approved by the Head Coach or Athletic Trainer.
4. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury.
5. Insurance company will pay on what ever the primary insurance has not covered. Please do be aware that the "excess" coverage may not totally pay all the remaining balances.

14

II. If the parent and/or guardian do not carry primary insurance on the student the following steps should be followed:

1. All injuries must be reported and documented by the Head Coach or Athletic Trainer or one of his assistants.
2. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
3. All visits to the doctor or other providers must be approved by the Head Coach or Athletic Trainer.
4. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury.
5. Insurance company will become primary and pay on reasonable and customary charges on any athletic related injury. Please do be aware that any balances remaining after the insurance has paid on the parent and/or guardian is responsible for the entire amount of balances.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Students who represent Olney High School by their participation in any University Interscholastic League activity are expected to exemplify the highest standards of conduct and safe, healthy behavior. Use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs **will not be tolerated**. Specifically, students are not expected to sell, deliver, possess, give, use individually or be present at social gatherings where alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are made available to minors. (Use or possession of other forms of drugs or controlled substances may be dealt with differently according to law.) An athlete agrees to abide by this Substance Abuse Policy and its consequences for his/her entire tenure at Olney High School. This is not based on a year-to-year format. To ensure consistency among different groups, the following uniform penalties for failure to adhere to these guidelines will be implemented:

Alcohol - students are not expected to sell, deliver, possess, give, use individually or be present at social gatherings where alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are made available to minors.

1. First Offense: A two-contest suspension. (This will be a minimum of 14 calendar days and will carry with it the following disciplinary measures to be done during practice time each day of the suspension until they have met the requirements): 50 miles at no less than five miles per day.
2. Second Offense: A six weeks suspension. Disciplinary measures outlined under first offense will be done each day of the suspension plus an additional 50 miles unless the athlete completes an approved counseling-rehabilitation program. (This will be minimum of 42 calendar days.) Minimum contests missed will be 5 for sports that play once a week and 10 for sports that play twice or more per week.
3. Third Offense: Permanent removal from the athletic program.

Tobacco

1. 25 miles per offense (according to sport)

ILLEGAL DRUGS – All Athletes will be drug tested by Olney ISD and fall under the guidelines and punishments according to Olney ISD Drug Testing Policy FNF(LOCAL).

Coaches will counsel any athlete at Olney ISD who is suspected of using any of the above products and administrators and the athlete's parents will be notified.

TRAVEL

All athletes represent the community, school, and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a proper manner. When missing classes because of an athletic event, it is the responsibility of the athlete to see his/her teacher the day before the missed classes. All work shall be made up at the convenience of the teacher. All athletes making a school sponsored trip shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. Students may return home with the parent or guardian when the parent or guardian presents a written request to the coach before the trip begins. On school athletic trips, students will only be released in person to their parent or guardian. If an athlete is injured in a contest away from home, the above policy may be altered to meet the circumstances.

VACATIONS

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged and while family values will always take precedence over program requirements, parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics'. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be conflicts. In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- A. Contact the head coach prior to the vacation.
- B. Be willing to assume the consequences in missing practice time and/or games.
- C. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, etc. for the time missed.

CLUB SPORTS

A club is a sports program outside of the school that is not affiliated with U.I.L. athletics. We are very fortunate to live in a community where the high school can be the main focus. We feel our athletes' obligations are to their school team first. We will not excuse our athletes to miss a school contest or practice for a club event. If an athlete pursues club participation he/she must:

- A. Contact all head coaches of sports at the school in which he/she is participating.
- B. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, or even dismissal, for the time participating in club activities without approval of all head coaches involved at the school.

HAZING

"Hazing" is against the law and will not be tolerated in the Athletic Department. "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students. Under Education Code 37.152 a person commits an offense if the person commits any of the following:

- (a) Engages in hazing.
- (b) Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing.
- (c) Recklessly permits hazing to occur.
- (d) Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student, or first-hand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the Principal, Athletic Director, or designee.

THEFT

Taking things that do not belong to you, especially taking from your teammates will not be tolerated. A player caught will be dismissed from the team. Borrowing equipment or clothes from other people's locker is not allowed. Anyone caught doing so will be disciplined. We ask that you do not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing room.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Any activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the Olney Athletic Program will not be tolerated. Such activity may result in dismissal from the program.

OLNEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PERMIT FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAM(S)

_____ has my permission to participate in **OLNEY ATHLETICS**,
Student's name activity or organization

an extracurricular program of the Olney Independent School District.

I agree to assume responsibility for payment of all expenses, including medical expenses that may arise from practicing, rehearsing, traveling, or participating in any extracurricular activity sponsored by the District. I agree to assume responsibility for any and all liability arising out of my child's participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored by the District.

I understand that Olney ISD provides a supplemental insurance program that will assist with some of the medical costs for accidents while participating in extracurricular programs such as football, basketball, baseball, softball, cross country, powerlifting, track, tennis, golf, band, cheerleading, FFA, FHA, 4-H, and other UIL recognized activities. I also understand that this insurance program will not cover the full cost of medical treatment. A student's medical treatment and reporting of claims remains the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Signed _____
Parent or legal guardian

Date _____

We have both read the Olney ISD Athletic Department Handbook that is available online or in print (if requested) and fully understand all of the policies and discipline procedures of the Olney ISD Athletic Department. **We both agree to abide by and support these policies for the length of my child's participation in Olney Athletics.**

Athlete's Signature _____

Parent's or Guardian's Signature _____

The Athletic Director and coach of that sport will deal with any circumstance not covered in the Athletic Guidelines.

