

**\*\*\* AGUA DULCE ATHLETIC CODE \*\*\***

**“ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING”**

Participation in University Interscholastic League (UIL) events is a privilege, not a vested right. The authority to remove or deny a student’s participation in a sport or event rests with the Athletic Director.

**Athletic Creed:** We will represent our school in a manner that will reflect pride, discipline, and character. We will not lie, steal, or cheat.

It is important that athletes and parents understand that belonging to an athletic team or program is not only a great privilege, it is also an obligation and commitment that students and coaches make to each other over an extended period of time. This commitment requires all parties involved to understand that we all rely on each other to create a **TEAM** that will best represent each of us, our school, our community, and our families. That commitment requires sacrifices from an easier way of life. **That commitment requires that we choose "we" over "me". In this day and age, that is not an easy thing to do.** That is why being involved in athletics is such a great opportunity. It is also vital that parents, students, and coaches understand that this way of life is not for everyone; that everyone is not able or willing to make this commitment. If that is the case, those students, coaches, and parents will be allowed to look at other activities that better fit their way of life and will not be asked to make a commitment to the Agua Dulce Athletic Program.

We feel that discipline is a must in any successful athletic program. Unless discipline is maintained, respect of both coaches and players is lost. Our athletes are representatives of our school, and any behavior which could cause others to lose respect for our school or our program cannot be allowed. These policies apply to all athletes at school or away from school, while participating in a sport or in off-season, during the school year or in the summer. Because of this, we have set certain guidelines for our athletes. These guidelines have been established with input from faculty, administration, and the coaching staff.

**DISCIPLINE**

Discipline will be dealt with at the discretion of the coaches. In accordance with the Agua Dulce I.S.D. Code of Conduct, “discipline will be designed to correct the misconduct and to encourage all students to adhere to their responsibilities as citizens of the school community. Disciplinary action will draw on the professional judgment of coaches and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques. Disciplinary action will be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student’s age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student’s attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements. Because of these factors, discipline for a particular offense (unless otherwise specified by law) may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.”

Students placed in I.S.S., D.A.E.P., suspended, or expelled may not participate in, or attend extracurricular activities or any school activity during the term of the consequence. Violation of this rule will result in further disciplinary action and/or may result in criminal trespass charges being filed.

Refusal to accept any judgements and fulfill them with a good attitude will lead to immediate dismissal but not to exceed one year from the time of dismissal. Once dismissed however, the student must adhere to certain criteria set forth in order to be placed back into the athletic program. Failure to abide by these criteria could result in permanent dismissal from athletics.

An athlete may be disciplined or dismissed from a team for, but not limited to, the following actions:

- ✚ Negative comments about school, school personnel, teammates or classmates on Facebook or any other social network.
- ✚ Insubordination – disobedience of coaches and teachers, whether they coach or teach you directly or not.
- ✚ Disrespect to coaches, teammates, or any adult.
- ✚ Breach of General Misconduct Violation’s set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.

Because we feel that the following offenses are more serious than others, we have given specific consequences for their behavior:

- ✚ A breach of the Agua Dulce I.S.D. Code of Conduct which by law, would lead to placement in an alternative education program - up to 50 miles and 6 weeks suspension.
- ✚ Use of tobacco product - up to 50 miles and 3 week suspension
- ✚ Possession of or use of drugs and/or alcohol - up to 50 miles and 6 week suspension.

If the drug use or alcohol use is determined through the Agua Dulce ISD Drug Testing program, then the athlete must adhere to the consequences provided in the drug testing policy as well as those required by the athletic department.

Two or more breaches of the above three incidents can lead to dismissal from athletics.

- ✚ Stealing of any kind within the Athletic Department will result in automatic removal from athletics. There may be additional requirements for the athlete to be reinstated into the athletic program.

**ATHLETIC PERIOD** - Student athletes should be enrolled in the athletic period to participate. Athletic period enrollment for participation may be waived on a case by case basis only by the Athletic Director.

### **WORKOUT POLICY**

To build and maintain a winning team, we feel that it is necessary that each athlete attend every practice, team meeting, and game. We also feel that an athlete should attempt to notify his or her coach as soon as he or she knows they are or may be unable to attend a practice or a game so that the coach can make adjustments as needed. Word should not be sent by another student to the coach.

Excused absences are described below:

- ✚ Illness – with note from parents or doctor
- ✚ Doctors appointment – excused by the doctor
- ✚ Death in the immediate family
- ✚ Any exception decided at the discretion of the coach in charge

If the coach in charge feels that the athlete’s absence is detrimental to the team, he or she may be dismissed from the team temporarily or permanently. Any absences from practices or games may result in make-up work in the sport in which he or she is participating. This is necessary to maintain conditioning and not viewed as punishment. Also absences from practice may affect the athlete’s participation time in a contest. Each coach may have more stringent rules pertaining to their sport.

## TEAM TRAVEL

On all our team travel, we will attempt to make it a memorable and an educational experience. We must constantly keep in mind that our primary purpose is to represent our team and our community as a Champion. We must get ourselves ready to play as well as we possibly can.

Remember to follow whenever traveling:

1. Check and pack all gear. You are responsible for being prepared to travel.
2. Be prompt. You will be held responsible for being on time.
3. Dress as coaches have instructed you. We represent all of Agua Dulce
4. No hats/bandanas or non-team issued head gear
5. No loud or boisterous conduct on the trip. Remember why we are here. I like a quiet bus trip to the game.
6. Do not eat a lot of junk food before the game.
7. Everyone should return with the team. However, if a parent wants to take their child, after an event, the parent is required to sign the child out. If the student athlete is going to leave with anyone else, this must be cleared through the Athletic Director, Coach Beard, one day prior to the athletic event.

## GENERAL POLICY FOR PARENTS

**Problem Solving-** Parents with a legitimate concern for their child's well-being or the treatment of their child should follow the Problem Solving Procedures that follow in this document.

**Coaches' Decisions-** Many parents have questions pertaining to situations or areas that are a coaches' judgement. Parents have the right to ask for a meeting with a particular coach to discuss questions or concerns regarding their decision, but should realize that it is ultimately the coaches' decision rooted in the professional experience, training and philosophy that will prevail. Coaches are teachers and do have a conference period each school day. Parents are encouraged to communicate any questions or concerns with that coach during that conference period in such cases the parents should follow this procedure.

1. Set up time to meet the coach at an appropriate time. Conference periods, before school and after school are good times when the coach knows that you are coming.

**Coaches will not engage in impromptu parent meetings regarding matters of concern during practice or games, or immediately following practice or games. Parents should refrain from approaching a coach at an athletic contest with a concern.**

## QUITTING POLICY

The Athletic Department highly discourages quitting. We believe that commitment to a team and its requirements are not to be taken lightly. Therefore the following policy will govern quitting:

All athletes are given a (2) week window in which to decide if they can make a full commitment to a sport. If after this window, an athlete quits, he or she may remain in athletics if it is mutually agreed upon by the athlete and the coaching staff that it would be in the best interest of both parties. The athlete will have to sit until that sport is over before they will be able to participate in the next sport.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read the athletic code and understand that the purpose of these rules and regulations are to ensure fairness and discipline in our athletic program. I also understand that my son/daughter must abide by these rules while

participating in athletics at Agua Dulce High School. I also understand that each coach may have additional rules and requirements above and beyond those listed in this code that may be established for the sport he or she is coaching.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

I have read the athletic code and understand that the purpose of these rules and regulations are to ensure fairness and discipline in our athletic program. I understand that I must abide by these rules if I wish to participate in athletics. I also understand that each coach may have additional rules and requirements above and beyond those listed in this code that may be established for the sport he or she is coaching.

Student's Signature

Date