

**BRADY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2023-2024**



D.A.W.G.S.

To: Brady Student Athletes & Parents,

We are pleased to have you as part of our Brady Athletic Program. We sincerely hope that the experience you have through our athletic program will be both enjoyable and successful. We are looking forward to helping our athletes learn and grow.

The information contained herein has been provided for you to read and study carefully, as it is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations of our Brady Athletic Program. This handbook is used as a guideline for all our high school and middle school programs. However, individual head coaches in each sport may give additional rules and policies that you will have to adhere to.

Any questions that you may have should be brought to the attention of your child's coach. He or she will assist you in any way necessary.

If anything in this handbook is in contradiction with the Student Code of Conduct of Brady ISD, the code of conduct shall prevail.

Athletic Director
C.J. Villegas

Girls Coordinator
Candice Dockery

“ACT RIGHT, DO RIGHT, BE RIGHT”

COACHES	COACHING DUTIES
Corey Aven	Head Softball/MS Volleyball/MS Girls Basketball
Emily DelaFuente	Head Tennis/MS Volleyball/MS Girls Basketball
Candice Dockery	Girls Coordinator/Head Cross Country/Assistant Volleyball/Assistant Girls Basketball/Head Girls Track
Michael Eckert	Head Baseball/Assistant Football
Kent Ecton	Assistant Football/Assistant Boys Basketball/Assistant Track
Lacey Harper	Assistant Volleyball
Chris Lay	Assistant Athletic Trainer
Taylor Owens	Athletic Trainer/Assistant Tennis
Travis Pape	MS Football/MS Basketball/Assistant Baseball
Dylan Person	MS Football/MS Boys Basketball/Assistant Track
Heath Regeon	Assistant Football/Head Powerlifting/Head Golf
Jaron Roberts	Head Football/Head Boys Track/Assistant Powerlifting
Micki Templeton	Assistant Cross Country/Assistant Track
Anthony Thomas	Assistant Football/Assistant Boys Basketball/Assistant Track
C.J. Villegas	Athletic Director/Head Boys Basketball
Westin Wilhelm	Head Volleyball/Head Girls Basketball/Assistant Softball

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the educational process. Involvement in the athletic program is a privilege not a guaranteed right. Therefore, all student-athletes will be held to a higher standard. There will be requirements and demands that will be made, not imposed on the general school population.

There is an impressive array of athletic programs, which are available as a means of participation. Each team will have rules, regulations and stipulations regarding participation, awards lettering and additional requirements that are mandatory for remaining on the team as a member in good standing.

The purpose of the athletic program is to:

- Ensure students, school, and communities can receive the greatest educational, social, recreational and aesthetic benefits from the contest;
- Preserve the game for the overall benefit of the contestant and not sacrifice the contestant to the game;
- To promote the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play in all contests;
- To promote among the players, schools, and communities a spirit of friendly rivalry and respect for the rules;
- To forward the concept of accepting decisions of sport officials as co-partners in the educational process of competition.
- Develop attitudes that **MUST** be a part of everyone for the success in athletics and life.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A COACH?

- A fair and unprejudiced relationship with all players.
- A genuine and up to date knowledge of the sport.
- Firm disciplinary action if an athlete breaks team rules or displays unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 100% passion and effort to help each student reach his/her maximum potential.
- Genuine concern with all areas of the athlete's growth (academic, athletics and citizenship)
- Focus=Person→Player→Product

CORE VALUES

DISCIPLINE-Choose to do what is right. Resist temptation to do what is wrong. Discipline is the key to success. Without it, you have no structure. We will demand that our coaches and athletes conduct themselves with class. We will be a program that is highly respected. "Act Right, Do Right, Be Right."

ATTITUDE-Attitude is Everything. It's not what you think but how you think it. I make no excuses and always find a way to get the job done. Attitude governs actions.

WIN THE DAY-W.I.N.=Winning isn't normal. Strong work ethic means my team needs the best I have everyday. Everything we do is important so I will give my best effort. We will never back down when a challenge is set in front of us. The little things matter. Expecting to win each contest.

GRIT-Greatness Requires Internal Toughness. Mental toughness is a skill. Always display mental toughness and be able to handle adversity. Weakness in this area is a direct reflection of a program's culture. NO BAD BODY LANGUAGE.

SELFLESS SERVICE-WE > me. I have a team over me attitude. I am willing to make personal sacrifices for the success of my teammates. I find more pleasure in the success of my teammates than I do on my own. FAMILY.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS

Our schools are members in good standing with the UIL and all rules and regulations will be strictly enforced. There are specific requirements for participating in athletics. Each coach and players will review the explanation of all team rules. All students enrolled in the Brady ISD Athletic Program agree to abide by the rules and allow the coach to make decisions in the best interest of the team.

The athletic program strongly encourages athletes to participate in team sports to be involved in the athletic periods. These sports include but are not limited to: volleyball, football, basketball, baseball, softball, and track. All sports are important but some sports could incorporate practice sessions outside the school day and the athlete may not have to be in the athletic period.

Boys and Girls athletics is an extracurricular activity. Athletic classes will count as physical education credit for no more than four semesters. In order for a senior to be eligible to play he or she must have a minimum of 15 credits. A junior must have a minimum of 10 credits. A sophomore must have a minimum of 5 credits. A freshman must have been promoted and not placed at the high school level.

Brady ISD adheres to all eligibility requirements enforced by the UIL and TEA.

The following items must be turned in to the athletic department before participating in any practice or game:

- A. Physical Examination
- B. Athletic Department Forms
- C. Acknowledgement of BISD Athletic Handbook and Policies
- D. Academic Eligibility
- E. Fitness Test (Girl's Athletics)

In all classroom work, a student must pass with a score of 70 or above (a few classes are exempt). If a student for a six week grading period does not pass they will become academically ineligible. If the student athlete does not regain eligibility in 3 weeks they could be removed from that sport and out of the athletic period.

GRADING IN ATHLETICS

Grades are not based on a student-athlete's athletic ability. Grades will be based on the student-athletes willingness to act, behave and cooperate in such a manner that will allow for the success of the athlete and the program itself. All student-athletes will begin each grading period with a grade of 100. Points will be deducted for conduct or behavior unbecoming or detrimental to the program. Excessive absenteeism could result in a failing grade. An athlete could possibly fail the class or be removed from athletics.

LOCKERS & LOCKS

Every student in athletics is issued a locker. Athletes must help prevent theft by not bringing valuables unless absolutely necessary and locking everything up every day. This is one more reminder to be diligent in locking up your valuables. Stealing from teammates will not be tolerated.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

All practices will be scheduled by the head coach or coaches of that sport. Athletes are expected to attend every practice. When circumstances warrant one being excused from practice, permission should be requested from the head coach in advance. Injured athletes should make every attempt to observe practice. All team members are expected to be dressed and at the designated area at the appropriate time. Missed practices will result in a loss of playing time. Excessive unexcused absences could result in the athlete being dismissed from the team at the discretion of the sport's head coach. Each sport may have their own regimen for making up missed practices. Example: football-5 miles, basketball-3 464s, softball-4 foul poles (These are only examples of what a coach may consider as appropriate conditioning for missed practices) There will be no mandatory practices or contests held on Sunday.

SPECIALIZATION/RECRUITING

In Brady you have the opportunity to be at least a 4 sport athlete and should strive to do so. All of our coaches coach multiple sports, and expect to see you competing in every sport which you can contribute.

- Specialization in any one sport is discouraged by the Athletic Department and the Brady ISD coaching staff.
- All athletes are encouraged to participate in all sports in which they have an interest and can contribute.
- Athletes will not be restricted to any one sport by a coach.
- Athletes will not be recruited away from one sport to another by a coach.
- Any athlete, parent, or coach suspecting a violation of these rules is asked to notify the Athletic Director.

TRYOUTS

If the situation warrants student-athletes to tryout in order to make the team the coach will determine the criteria to be used. After a review of all the pertinent information the coach will determine who has performed well enough to make the team. No one will be able to view the scores of anyone other than him or herself. Alternating individuals or a group or team may be implemented to ensure everyone receives playing time. This alternative will be used at the discretion of the coach; the coach will speak to the parents/guardians and the student-athletes if being cut is the decision of the coach.

NON-SCHOOL SANCTIONED ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES (AAU/CLUB)

All athletes participating in Brady Athletics make a commitment to the team, their teammates and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the athlete. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. Another integral part of that commitment is to place the Brady Athletic team above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity and attend all practices and games scheduled by Brady ISD coaches.

If an athlete chooses to miss a Brady ISD athletic practice or game because of participation in an athletic activity not under the auspices of Brady ISD, the student-athlete will be subject to disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, extra work, suspension for part or all of a game(s), and removal from the program for the rest of a season or permanently.

ATHLETIC DRESS CODE/APPEARANCE

The school dress code will be adhered to for all banquets, school events, etc. All athletes represent not only themselves, but Brady ISD both on the field of competition and off.

BOYS

1. Attain a team appearance, hair should be neatly trimmed and not longer than the top of the shirt collar, shall not touch the eyebrows, and the top of the ear must be seen.
2. No beards or mustaches of any kind will be allowed.
3. Sideburns must be neatly trimmed and not longer than the bottom of the ear lobe.
4. Hair color must be of a natural color.
5. Earrings/body piercings will not be worn in any athletic facility or athletic event. Tattoos must always be covered during athletic events. This includes as a spectator of any BISSD athletic event.
6. Remove hats/caps inside school facilities.

GIRLS

1. Workout clothes and uniforms will be provided and will be mandatory for all practices and competitions.
2. Student-athletes will dress appropriately on competition days and wear clothing that will distinguish them as Lady Bulldogs.
3. Athletes' hair should be out of your face, and if possible, pulled back with bangs out of eyes so as not to hinder performance.
4. Body piercings, except earrings, will be worn in any athletic facility or event. Tattoos must always be covered during athletic events. This includes as a spectator of any Brady ISD athletic event.

GAMEDAY ATTIRE

The Athletic Department desires to project an image of unity and cohesiveness. A team shirt or coach elected dressing standard will be required for participants. This attire will be worn the entire school day. It will also be worn to all out of town games.

INJURED RESERVE

All student athletes considered injured and not able to participate will dress out in school issued athletic gear.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

- A. Athletes are representative of Brady ISD and are expected to conduct themselves with dignity at all times.
- B. Athletes must meet the minimum grade requirements of the UIL and TEA in order to compete in Brady Athletic Programs.
- C. An athlete placed in “out-of-school” or “in-school” suspension may be subject to further disciplinary action by the coach of his/her sport and/or the athletic director. A report of misconduct in the classroom may be handled in the same manner.
- D. An athlete found guilty of unlawful acts by law enforcement agencies is subject to extra work and/or expulsion from the athletic program.
- E. An athlete found guilty of stealing or willfully destroying school property and/or that of a fellow student may be removed from the Brady Athletic Program.
- F. An athlete who uses social media to transmit words or images that are vulgar, obscene, threatening, lewd, or harassing, whether on or off school property, may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach. These disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, suspension for part or all of a game(s), and removal from the program for the rest of a season or permanently.
- G. Athletes are expected to maintain favorable attitudes and conduct at all times. If the attitude and/or conduct of the athlete becomes a detriment to others in the program, the athlete may be dismissed.
- H. Athletes will behave on the team bus. They will keep the bus clean and will not yell or extend any part of their body out of the windows. Nothing will be thrown inside or outside the bus. Disciplinary action for these violations may include, but is not limited to, extra work, suspension for part or all of a game(s), and removal from the program for the rest of a season or permanently.
- I. Athletes will show good character on all out of town trips. Care should be taken to leave all places visited clean and neat. Disciplinary action for these violations may include, but is not limited to, extra work, suspension for part or all of a game(s), and removal from the program for the rest of a season or permanently.
- J. Athletes whose actions are in violation of good sportsmanship may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach. These disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to extra work, suspension for part or all of a game(s), and removal from the program for the rest of a season or permanently. These behaviors include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Disrespect to a teacher, coach, or member of the school administration.
 - 2. Temper fits and flagrant violations of rules.
 - 3. Unsportsmanlike conduct toward a teammate, coach, opponent, or official.
- K. Profanity will not be tolerated and will have consequences.
- L. Student athletes should report any misconduct of regulations to his/her coach.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Coaches will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches will strive for consistency when determining the penalty for violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion.

The coach has the authority to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts or removal from position of authority within that team, for student-athletes who breach team conduct expectations.

Sanctions may increase with each offense and can lead up to a student being removed or dismissed from that team for the rest of the season or permanently for persistently failing to abide by team conduct expectations. Students placed in In-School Suspension (ISS) for misconduct violations will not participate or attend extracurricular events during the term of their placement. Make-up workouts will be required for the practice time missed and must be completed before the athlete will be allowed to compete again.

ISS/DAEP

Any athlete who is placed in ISS will be able to attend after school practices. Student athletes cannot participate in games/scrimmages on the day an ISS assignment is served. They may participate in games/scrimmages when dismissed from ISS at the end of the school day. Ex: Student-athlete is assigned 2 days ISS on Thursday & Friday. Students may participate in competitions or games at the end of the school day on Friday.

DAEP is an alternative placement. If placed in DAEP student athletes will not be allowed on school grounds or at school functions. The punishment for DAEP placement will be up to the head coach. Punishable for the days attended and the missed practice times. If a 2nd placement consists the athletic director will interview and could be punishable to dismissal from the athletic program.

STUDENT-ATHLETE SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Given consideration to accessibility and use of social media in today's society, the Brady Athletic Department is recommending guidelines to assist our athletes in developing the skills needed to make positive decisions while using social media outlets. The need to understand what is social media appropriate, and what is not is paramount, as many employers and colleges now view potential candidate's social media activities before asking them to join their organization. This is specifically evident in collegiate athletics where students have had scholarships revoked, served suspensions, and are occasionally removed from teams.

First and foremost, students are encouraged to always exercise the utmost caution when participating in any form of online communications, both within the Brady ISD community and beyond.

Students who participate in online interactions must remember that their posts reflect on the entire Brady Athletic Program and, as such, are subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and Athletic Handbook.

In addition to the regulations found in the Student and Athletic Handbook (including the Acceptable Use Policy), athletes are expected to use the guidelines below to assist with deciding what to post on social media outlets. They provide a set of parameters to stay within when deciding to post statements and photos.

GUIDELINES:

1. Social Media use should not violate the Brady ISD Student Code of Conduct.
2. Post should not be demeaning or disrespectful.
3. Post should not contain profane, vulgar, obscene or offensive language.
4. Photos should not contain nudity, be vulgar, obscene or offensive in nature.
5. Photos or written posts should not contain or reference illegal acts.

6. Post should not cast a negative image or negative perception of the athlete, team, or school.

Failure to abide by these guidelines, as with other policies at Brady ISD, may result in disciplinary action as described in the Athletic Handbook, or as determined by school administrators.

DRUG USE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Drugs, vaping issues, alcohol, tobacco, misdemeanors, citations, felonies or arrests: Athletes are not allowed to drink alcohol or use drugs illegally. If an athlete fails a drug test or is cited for illegally using the following must be completed before the athlete can compete.

1st Offense: 25 miles of running. 3 game suspension.

2nd Offense: Removal from the athletic program.

If the activity occurs when an athlete is out of season, the suspension will not begin until he/she is in season of a sport. This policy applies year round and not just during the school year.

Any activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the Bulldog Athletic program will not be tolerated. Such activity may result in dismissal from the program. Examples include but not limited to: fighting off campus, vandalism, inappropriate conduct of any kind etc. .Punishment will be determined by the head coach or Athletic Director/ Also, any misdemeanors, citations, or felonies will be acted on under the discretion of the Athletic Director.

All punishments must be completed outside of practice times.

QUITTING A SPORT / ATHLETICS

Commitment is one of the biggest values athletics teaches and quitting is not a habit we want to enforce in the athletic department.

Any athlete who starts, then quits a sport, must earn the right to play another sport. The athlete will not start the next sport/season until the sport/season that was quit is complete. This includes playoff runs.

If an athlete enters an athletic program and decides to withdraw then:

The decision to withdraw must be made in the first 5 days of practice and the athlete must meet in person with the head coach before withdrawing. If the athlete fails to comply with either provision then that athlete will not be allowed to enter a different sport for one calendar year.

Exceptions to these rules may be permitted under these conditions:

If both coaches involved and the athletic director agree that a mid-season change would be beneficial to the athlete without being unfair to the individuals of either team.

Student athletes must withdraw in "good standing".

OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

When teams travel and stay overnight, we expect all coaches and athletes to be on their very best behavior. No athlete shall leave the hotel room once the "lights out" time arrives. This time will be communicated with the student athletes prior to departure. Also, there is NEVER a time that it is acceptable for a male athlete to be in a female's room or for a female to be in a male's room. Failure to follow the rules can lead to the athlete being sent home and will result in disciplinary action at coaches' discretion. Breaking these rules can result in an athlete not being able to travel on overnight trips for the

remainder of their athletic career. All violations regarding drugs, tobacco, and alcohol will result in disciplinary action per athletic policy.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS (from UIL website)

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

1. Coach's philosophy
2. Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team.
3. Locations and times of practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, offseason expectations.
5. Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns regarding their son and daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place **(NOT AFTER A COMPETITION/GAME)**
2. Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
3. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

As your child becomes involved in interscholastic athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

1. The mental and physical treatment of your child.
2. What your child needs to do to improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. He or she may not be playing the position you wanted them to play, either. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

1. How much playing time each athlete receives
2. Team Strategy
3. Play-calling
4. Any situation that deals with other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent.

These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote a resolution to the issue.

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director or girl's coordinator and ask him or her to set up a meeting with the coach for you.
3. Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
4. Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.

5. Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
2. At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

Student's involvement in extracurricular activities has been proven to increase their chances of success later in life. We hope this information helps make that experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS (from UIL website)

Remember that you are at the contest to support and cheer for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition-not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.

Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.

Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.

Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.

Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating)

Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.

Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.

There is no such thing as a "right" to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a "privilege" and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct him or herself accordingly.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and will) remove them from the premises due to any type of disruptive behavior. (Disruptive behavior can be defined as but not limited to foul or abusive language, berating of officials, taunting of opposing fans, players or coaches, lack of cooperation with school officials, not remaining in the bleachers, refusing to leave a restricted area, bringing food and drink into the gym, etc.) Spectators may be removed from a Brady ISD event for violation of these rules or any other school rules. Spectators removed from two contests will be prohibited from attending Brady ISD contests for one year from the second incident. Severe violations may result in an immediate ban from future events.

Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense. The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

ATHLETIC INJURIES

All athletes will report to the Athletic Trainer or designee regarding any injury, rehabilitation, preventative maintenance, therapy, etc. The person in charge will make a sound professional decision regarding the athlete's well-being and determine if the athlete can participate in a contest or practice. This person will keep the Head Coach informed of all injuries on a daily basis. The Athletic Trainer will provide injury prevention and rehabilitation. All athletes will comply with the decision of the trainer or designee with the decision regarding their status and availability for contests and practices. To help save you time and money, athletes should consult with the trainer or designee before going to the doctor for non-emergency sports related injuries.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A condition for participating in the Brady ISD Athletic Program is to sign an acknowledgment that the student-athlete has read and understands the Athletic Handbook. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must also sign an acknowledgment. The acknowledgment states that the signing party understands the consequences for engaging in misconduct.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN

DATE _____ GRADE _____

I have read the Brady ISD Athletic Handbook and agree to these rules as a condition for my voluntary participation in Brady ISD Athletics. I understand that failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures related to my athletic participation.

Student's Name _____

Student's Signature _____

I have read the Brady ISD Athletic Handbook and understand the requirements for my child's voluntary participation in Brady ISD Athletics. I understand the consequences that my child will face if he or she fails to adhere to these rules and agree to such terms. I am aware of the sections dealing with Parent/Coach Relationships and Behavior Expectations of Spectators. I agree to abide by the conditions stated therein. I agree to allow my son(s) or daughter(s) names to be printed in the newspaper so they may be recognized for their accomplishments.

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Signature _____