



TLCA - ARLINGTON

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Texas Leadership Charter Academy does not discriminate against anyone because of race, creed, national origin, age, sex, economic status, or disability in employment, promotion, or educational programming.

Student-athletes and parents are expected to follow the chain of command and first confer with the coach in question, then if necessary the Head Coach of the Sport, then the Athletic Director, the Principal, and finally the Campus Director when a concern exists. All academic concerns should be initiated with the teacher and then the campus Principal.

HANDBOOK VIOLATIONS

All athletic handbook violations will have consequences. By signing the acknowledgement form, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions set forth by the TLCA Arlington Athletic Program.

PARTICIPATION IN THE TLCA ARLINGTON ATHLETIC PROGRAM

It is the goal of this athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the desire to do so. No student is obligated to take part in athletics. It is to be stressed that participation in the TLCA Arlington Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with TLCA policy and due process procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules, regulations, or standards of the athletic program are not followed.

SELECTION OF TEAMS

The Head Coach of each sport will determine the teams. The selection of teams will include, but is not limited to: skill level, knowledge of sport, attitude, and experience in the sport. Junior High and Junior Varsity (JV) team members will receive adequate playing time. Members of varsity teams are not guaranteed playing time. The coaching staff will not engage in a debate with a parent over playing time, strategy, or philosophical issues.

PARENT CONFERENCES

- There will not be parent/coach meetings before, during, or after a game or practice. If a parent desires a meeting to address concerns with a coach, they must seek an appointment with the coach when convenient for both parties.
- The chain of command is expected to be followed.
- Failure to support and accept the coaching philosophy of TLCA-Arlington will result in a negative situation for the athlete.

- A parent, relative, or other spectators will not be allowed to coach or give playing advice to their child during practices or games.
- Never interfere with the coaches while they are coaching.
- All parents and spectators are to remain off the playing and practice areas unless permission has been granted by the head coach. (However, parents and family are always welcome to all practices and athletic events)

SELECT (CLUB) SPORTS

In the case of a non-school related athletic event conflicting with a school related athletic event, priority will be given to the school athletic event. Consequences for violating this rule will be at the discretion of the Head Coach of the in-season sport and/or the Athletic Director and may include suspension from future athletic contests.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A TLCA ATHLETE

All athletes have the responsibility to play to win, give their best effort, strive for excellence, and exhibit good conduct at all times in a manner that is a credit to his/her school. The fact that an individual has chosen to participate in interscholastic athletics is indicative that each athlete understands the price that must be paid in meeting responsibilities, following rules and regulations, and meeting the demands that are placed on each individual athlete. As student-athletes, you are always on display.

The responsibilities of an athlete include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The athlete will faithfully abide by all rules set forth in the athletic handbook.
- The athlete will abide by practice schedules and complete workouts each day.
- The athlete will personally notify his/her coach when unable to attend practice, and will miss practices only under extreme circumstances.
- The athlete will abide by the coaches' directions, instructions, and decisions.
- The athlete will be responsible for the proper care of all issued clothing and/or equipment. The athlete will be required to pay for any clothing and/or equipment that is lost, damaged, or destroyed. Issued clothing should not be worn outside of athletic participation (practice/competition).
- Most importantly, the athlete will represent TLCA-Arlington to the best of his/her ability.

Athletes will be expected to:

- Compete in every sport he/she can contribute to the success of.
- Respect coaches and fellow teammates.
- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Refrain from fighting and horseplay.
- Refrain from using obscene language and gestures.
- Refrain from using social media in a negative way towards teammates, coaches, or the athletic program.

- Refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct of any manner.
- Give 100% to the sports that he/she is involved.

The student athlete will be held accountable and responsible for all rules and regulations contained within this handbook and for any additional rules that a coach may add as needed.

ELIGIBILITY (GRADES/TUTORIALS)

The TLCA-Arlington coaches and administration shall determine each student's eligibility according to UIL rules and regulations as specified in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. TLCA-Arlington strictly adheres to these rules and regulations. UIL and State Board of Education "No Pass, No Play" rules are strictly enforced. Students that do not maintain passing grades or who are missing assignments due to unacceptable reasons may be subject to suspension from athletic competition at any time. Coaches will regularly check student averages in all courses. Students may be required to attend tutorials if their grades are not acceptable.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Athletes must maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record by giving respectful attention to classroom activities and by treating teachers, administrators, and fellow students with respect. Tardiness, horseplay, fighting, disrespect, juvenile behavior, etc...are not acceptable and may result in punishment from the coach of the in-season sport or the Athletic Director up to and including suspension from athletic competitions.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES/TARDIES

Athletes are expected to be at all practices and all competitions on time and remain for the duration of the practice or competition. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach if he/she must miss a practice or competition. By becoming a member of the TLCA-Arlington Athletic Program, you are making a commitment to the program. As with any other activity, please be aware that excessive tardiness or absences result in a loss of practice/instructional time. This loss of time could subject the athlete to loss of playing time or even dismissal from the team. Make-up conditioning will be required for any tardy or absence at the discretion of the Head Coach of the sport and approved by the Athletic Director.

ISS/DAEP/CODE OF CONDUCT

Any athlete receiving ISS on the day of an athletic competition is ineligible to participate in that competition. An athlete receiving ISS on the days prior to an athletic competition is subject to loss of playing time based on the Head Coach's discretion. Any athlete that is placed into an alternative education arrangement (DAEP or home suspension) will not participate in practices and/or competitions for any extracurricular activity for the duration of the alternative education arrangement. Extended

time may result in dismissal from any in-season sport. Any athlete disciplined under the student code of conduct could be subject to suspension or dismissal from the athletic program at the Athletic Director's discretion.

CRIMINAL CHARGES

Any athlete legally accused of, arrested for, or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (other than a traffic violation) may be subject to suspension from all athletic competitions, or other disciplinary action may be taken if not an in-season sport. Depending on the severity of the charges and the outcome of the case, an athlete may be suspended, dismissed from the sport, or dismissed from the athletic department.

PARTICIPATION WHEN ILL OR INJURED

Any athlete that is injured during the course of the season or has an illness of a minor nature and is unable to participate due to this injury or illness must continue to follow all expectations, rules, and regulations, if the athlete wishes to remain a part of the team. The athlete will not participate but will be required to attend all practice sessions and sit with the team during competitions. Failure to attend practices and competitions while injured can result in dismissal from the team. *Athletes learn from each practice session, whether they are working out or simply observing.*

PRACTICE UNIFORMS

Depending on sport, every athlete may be issued a set of practice clothes that may include but not limited to shirt, shorts, warm-ups. These clothes will be worn at practice only and should be worn at every practice. At the end of the season/year, the issued clothes will be returned. Student-athletes will pay a replacement fee for all clothing and equipment not returned at the end of the year. Consequences for not being dressed out in proper practice attire (issued or otherwise directed) will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

TEAM TRAVEL

All regular school transportation rules and regulations apply when on an athletic trip. After games, the approval of the Head Coach must be obtained for an athlete to return home with his/her parent/guardian unless directed to do so. A letter from the parent prior to the activity must be approved by the principal and Head Coach of that sport to allow a student to leave with any person other than the parent/guardian of that student athlete.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

It is the philosophy of TLCA-Arlington that interscholastic and extracurricular programs shall be drug and alcohol free. The basis for this is founded upon and by the following:

1. Use of drugs and alcohol is illegal by school-age students.
2. Abuse of these products has been shown to create short and long term health and safety risks.
3. Students using these products may not be capable of fulfilling commitments and responsibilities toward themselves, teammates, and school.
4. Use of these products can diminish the student’s mental and/or physical performance.
5. Student-athletes will be held responsible and accountable for their behavior and choices they make.

CONSEQUENCES FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Any student-athlete using or possessing alcohol or using, possessing, buying, or selling illegal controlled substances shall be denied participation in athletic events. The issuance of a citation at any time for any of the before mentioned offenses will result in immediate suspension. Also, the witnessing of any of the before mentioned offenses at any time by a TLCA-Arlington coach or faculty member will carry the same punishments. Hearsay is not a determination of guilt. These violations shall be cumulative for the duration of the student’s athletic career.

ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

- 1st Violationrun 25 miles
- 2nd Violation.....30 calendar day suspension + run 50 miles
- 3rd Violation.....Dismissal from athletics

DRUG VIOLATIONS

- 1st Violation.....1 calendar year suspension
- 2nd Violation.....Dismissal from athletics

All punishments, suspension and mileage, must be ran and completed before the athlete is allowed to compete in any competition. All mileage must be completed outside of normal practices and athletic periods. All mileage ran must be verified by a coach and approved by the Athletic Director.

QUITTING A SPORT

There will be times when an athlete finds it necessary to quit a sport during the season. An athlete may not quit one sport to play another sport. The following procedures should be followed in order to quit a sport:

- Examine the situation before a decision is made.
- Talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached. (A parent conference may be required)
- If the decision to quit is made, the athlete must check out of the sport through the Head Coach of the sport and the Athletic Director. All clothing/equipment issued to an athlete must be returned. Payment for any lost or damaged clothing and equipment will be required.

Coaches may allow a grace period for any athlete that has never participated in that sport without a consequence for quitting. Quitting is an intolerable act and a destructive habit to acquire. A habitual quitter may lose the privilege of participating in athletics. Coaches in conjunction with the Athletic Director reserve the right to prohibit any athlete from joining a team or sport if that athlete has routinely failed to complete seasons in other sports.

Any athlete that quits a sport will sit out of the next sport the same amount of time that they have participated in their current sport. For example, if a student has participated in a sport for three weeks, and quits, then they will sit out of their next sport three weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS

ATHLETIC BANQUET

In the spring, TLCA-Arlington and the Athletic Booster Club will host an athletic banquet honoring all students who participated in athletics during the year. Athletes will be informed of appropriate dress. All athletes are expected to attend the banquet.

FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT

Athletes are expected to take care of all facilities and equipment at all times. Normal wear and tear is expected, misuse and vandalism is not.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Athletes should not leave personal items, especially jewelry or money, in unsupervised areas. TLCA-Arlington and the TLCA-Arlington Athletic Department are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

ATHLETIC SUSPENSION

The Athletic Director empowers the coaching staff to enforce and maintain all rules and standards described in the Athletic Handbook. Communication will be maintained between the coaching staff, Athletic Director, and campus Principal when infractions warrant suspension from athletic activities.

Each coach shall have the authority, with the concurrence of the Athletic Director, to suspend or place on probation any athlete for major or minor infractions of the standards set forth in this Athletic Handbook.

Acting either upon the recommendation of the coach, or in his best judgment, the Athletic Director may suspend or place on probation for the duration of the seasonal activity, duration of the school year, or duration of the athlete's career for a major infraction, or repeated infractions, of the standards set forth in this Athletic Handbook.

TLCA-ARLINGTON ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I understand the rules and procedures of the TLCA-Arlington Athletic Department. I am also aware of the consequences for violating said rules. If at any time I have questions in regards to the handbook, I will address these questions to the Head Coach and Athletic Director. I understand that the Athletic Director and Coaching Staff will enforce these rules, procedures, and consequences.

Athlete Signature

Date

Athlete Name (print)

I understand the rules and procedures of the TLCA-Arlington Athletic Department. I am also aware of the consequences for violating said rules. If at any time I have questions in regards to the handbook, I will address these questions to the Head Coach and Athletic Director. I understand that the Athletic Director and Coaching Staff will enforce these rules, procedures, and consequences.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____