

# Williamson County Home School Sports

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The following policies and rules are provided as guidelines only and do not include all of the policies and rules of the Williamson County Home School Sports program (Wilco Sports). Wilco Sports's board of directors (board) will have the final say in all matters related to this ministry.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Participation in Wilco Sports is open to qualified students currently being home educated.

Participating athletes and their families are responsible for knowing these policies and rules. Parents and participating athletes are required to read these policies and rules and agree to adhere to them.

Attendance at games and practices will be a factor in determining key players for each team. Coaches will be encouraged to play each athlete; however, equal playtime may not be possible.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Players must be younger than 19 years of age (as of September 1st of the year of participation). Players who have graduated high school are not eligible to participate in this athletic program.

### **Academic Standing**

Due to a new T\*CAL rule, we are now required to report the academic standing on all our football and baseball players. The report is due in mid-September (check web site for exact date) and every three weeks during the season. An online form will be set up. The report will include a name for each class the student is taking and the letter grade that he is earning at that point in the semester. Any student receiving an F in any class will be ineligible to play in any game for the following three weeks. Any student we do not receive a report for will also be ineligible for that three week period.

## **FEES**

Registration fees are due at time of registration. Players may not participate if they have not paid their registration fees. Fees and sport-related expenses are not refundable without the approval of the Board.

## **UNIFORMS**

Each team member is responsible for the proper care of his or her game uniform. Uniforms must be purchased as established by the Board. The uniforms are to be worn, in entirety, at games and game related activities only. Wearing jerseys and cheer uniforms are encouraged at co-op and other events to promote home game attendance.

## **INTERACTION**

We believe that it is possible to have healthy social interaction and mature Christian relationships. For the protection of our families, our Christian fellowship, and our testimony within the community, it is vital that we

exercise ourselves with godliness at all times and adhere to moral purity. We are not a forum for dating and carousing activities. Therefore it is our expectation that at all Wilco Sports activities, the behavior between singles of the opposite sex must be above reproach by avoiding the appearance of wrongdoing. Flirtations or suggestive communications are unacceptable behavior. The board reserves the right to determine what interaction is considered unsatisfactory and to take appropriate action as necessary.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at all games and practices is a priority for this family focused ministry.

If for some reason, parents are unable to attend an entire practice or game, they should be prompt in picking up for their son or daughter when the practice or game is over.

## **SUPERVISION**

Younger siblings may not be left unattended at practices or games. Athletes must be picked up promptly after games and practices. Horseplay, loitering, or “hanging out” is prohibited. Wilco Sports is not responsible for any accidents.

Every person needs to take personal responsibility for keeping the facilities that we use clean and orderly. Our care of the facilities is a reflection on all of us. Let us leave everything in better condition than we found it.

Wilco Sports is not responsible for lost items at practice or games.

## **DISCIPLINE**

All athletes and their families voluntarily accept the behavioral standards set by Wilco Sports. All participants are expected and encouraged to exercise personal self-discipline, restraint, and genuine kindness toward others. In dealing with any offense that may arise, it is the desire and expectation of this ministry that the biblical approach to discipline be applied.

### **Incident Report**

If a participant (athlete, parent, or coach) violates any policy or rule, a parent, coach, or anyone involved in oversight may submit an incident report to the athletics director. The participants will receive a copy of the report, including details of the violation. The incident report is used as documentation for disciplinary measures that may need to be carried out by the board and will be handled with the strictest of confidence.

### **Specific offenses that may lead to disciplinary measures**

Conduct included in, but not limited to, the below list may be considered unsatisfactory or inappropriate. The board reserves the right to make the final determination in all cases.

- Theft, dishonesty

- Profanity, vulgarity, obscenity
- Possession of literature, pictures, posters, or recordings presenting indecent or immoral activity or ungodly belief or philosophy
- Immoral conduct, immodesty, and/or conduct that implies immorality
- Disorderly, violent, or destructive actions
- Gambling
- On-site use or the implied use of tobacco, alcohol, or narcotic drugs.
- Unauthorized possession of and/or use of keys to facilities
- Defiance of authority
- Any practices which are forbidden in Holy Scripture.

### **Disciplinary measures**

Forms of discipline may include the following, as determined appropriate by Wilco Sports's athletics director and/or board:

- Fines may be imposed, not to exceed the cost to repair or replace property damaged by the individual.
- Probation may involve loss of privileges and exclusion from sports activities or the use of the facility for a specified period of time. Although participation in a sporting event is lost during this period of time, the athlete on probation may be required to attend the event to support his/her team.
- Suspension may involve removal of the athlete from the sports roster with an option to reapply after specified period. Suspension will normally require that an athlete leave the facility immediately until further notice.
- Dismissal will result as a last resort. Dismissal means permanent removal from the Wilco Sports program. A dismissed individual may not be present in any facilities or at any functions related to this ministry, without the written permission of the athletics director and/or board. Failure to comply may result in additional action being taken as determined appropriate.

Input from the coaches may be used in determining appropriate action. The athletics director may impose fines, probation, and suspension. The board will impose dismissals.

Disciplinary action may be appealed to the board. An appeal must be submitted in writing within seven days after a disciplinary action has been enforced. The board reserves the right to make final decisions in all disciplinary actions.

### **BEHAVIOR AT ATHLETIC EVENTS**

For the sake of our young people, it is important that we all rise above the typical competitive sports atmosphere that tends to stir up and encourage a negative response toward opponents. Instead, let us encourage one another in love; may our desire be to build up EVERY person on EVERY team. This behavior applies to our players and coaching staff as well as spectators.

Unsportsmanlike conduct is not God-honoring and is therefore prohibited. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes ridicule, intimidation, boastful chanting, jeering, booing, belittling, and hurtful gestures.

Banners, posters, and signs containing positive, encouraging, and supportive messages are allowed. Negative or insulting messages in any form are not allowed.

## **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

We expect parents to get their player to practices and games on time. We expect them to ultimately be responsible for their player's equipment, hydration, sleep habits, and nutrition during the season.

We expect each family (football, baseball, and cheer) to take responsibility for some area of the team's operation. Because this is an all-volunteer-ministry we cannot afford to have a small set of the parents carry the entire burden of operating the team. Exceptions can be made but must be discussed with the athletic director prior to the season.

We expect each family to leverage its network to promote the team and to help promote varsity home game attendance.

## **ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES**

We expect all athletes (football, baseball, cheer) to attend all practices and to be on time. Without this continuity we cannot build a successful program. Because we are a home school team it is understood that we all have different schedules. So if the player will consistently miss a practice day, consistently be late for practice, or will miss a week or more of practice, discuss the situation with the head coach when the practice times are announced. If a reasonable compromise cannot be reached, the player will not be allowed to participate.

We expect all football players to attend all their home and away games and to arrive one hour before kickoff. If the player will miss one or more scheduled game (including playoff games), discuss the situation with the head coach before the season begins. If a reasonable compromise cannot be reached, the player will not be allowed to participate.

We expect all junior varsity football players to attend the varsity home games (even though they will not be suiting up). Our desire is for them to learn by watching their varsity counterparts. We will also have them help at some of the home games with the chain gang and other duties.

We *encourage* all junior high football players to attend the varsity home games. Our desire is for them to learn by watching their varsity counterparts. We also encourage our junior varsity cheerleaders to attend the varsity home games. They also can learn by watching their varsity counterparts.

We expect all football players to work in the off-season to improve their athletic ability. This can take many forms including participation in other sports.

**Williamson County Home School Sports**  
**PLAYER AND PARENT CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM**

We, the parents and participating athletes, have read and agree to adhere to the policies and rules of Williamson County Home School Sports program. In addition, we agree to hold Williamson County Home School Sports program, its staff, and board of directors harmless from any liability resulting from the below athletes' participation in this ministry

This form must be signed by the parents/guardian of each athlete at time of registration process. The previous pages must also be submitted with parent/athlete initials.

Parent's/Guardian's printed name	Signature	Date
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Parent's/Guardian's printed name	Signature	Date
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Participating Athlete's printed name	Signature	Date
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Participating Athlete's printed name	Signature	Date
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Participating Athlete's printed name	Signature	Date
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