

ADVANTAGE ACADEMY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2011-2012

“Building Champions with a Future and a Hope”



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Introduction

The Athletic Department and Administration of Advantage Academy would like to express our thanks to each athlete who has shown interest in the athletic program and to their parents for encouraging and supporting the participation. The sport opportunities available at each site vary yet; express our commitment to the development of the participating students, their physical fitness and personal health. Athletics should be viewed as an integral part of a student's overall educational process, as it promotes leadership success and teaches positive life skills and values. The overall purpose of athletics at Advantage academy is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of each individual athlete.

As each athlete becomes involved in the school program, he/she should experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. Rewards include the development of personal achievement and fond memories. The athletic program will also provide students the ability to learn new skills and measure themselves against standards of quality set by athletic or sport competition. It is our desire that student athletes learn to express their ideas and find solutions to personal and team problems, thus developing positive self- image which should help create good citizens.

It is imperative that Advantage Academy establish an acceptable standard for sportsmanship-like behavior and admonish unacceptable behavior related to participation in athletics. Advantage Academy's athletes must understand that it is a privilege to represent ones school and community through athletic competition. Athletes must abide by the guidelines established in the District's Student/Parent Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct along with the rules set forth by the Athletic Department as outlined in this handbook. The Advantage Academy Athletic Department has established this handbook, its rules, regulations and guidelines in an effort to help all athletes learn, mature and reach their full potential in a structured yet caring environment. Athletics requires a great deal of time, dedication and sacrifice from the athlete and their parents. Parental support is essential and greatly appreciated. Please ask about available opportunities to support the athletes, the athletic department as well as the school itself. Again, the Athletic Department and Advantage Academy would like to thank you and we look forward to a long and rewarding relationship.

On Your Behalf

The Advantage Academy Director of Athletics, Assistant Director, Site Athletic Coordinators and the Coaches

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Philosophy

All students should have the opportunity to and be encourage to participate in athletics. The athletic experience is an essential part of many students overall education. Athletics plays a significant role in developing positive attitude, self-esteem and a sense of well-being. Student growth and development is positively impacted when students participate in a strong athletic program. The goal at every level of athletics is to strive for personal as well as TEAM excellence.

While learning teamwork, self-discipline and fair play, student-athletes must be challenged at the level or skill they bring to the sport or position. Student- athletes, male and female, shall be afforded the opportunity to participate at the most appropriate level to achieve optimal personal growth and team success. Student athletes should be afforded the opportunity to develop their skills and reach maximum potential in a well-coached environment. The athletic program should reflect the schools vision, mission, values and culture while attempting to address the desires and/or needs of the entire student population.

Athletics should teach a commitment towards a common goal, enjoyment in physical activity and an appreciation of other's skills and contributions. Athletics must promote physical and mental health and contribute to the ability of the participants to interact socially. Athletics will nurture friendship where one might not expect it and fosters a sense of pride in self and the community that lasts far beyond life at school.

Advantage Academy wants its athletes to learn how to become CHAMPIONS. We believe that living this will take our student- athletes beyond their personal and physical limitations in athletics and in life. We are not looking to simply develop good athletes; we want to mold outstanding young men and women.

Tradition

Advantage Academy's school Administrators, Principals, Site Coordinators and coaches are constantly striving to maintain our tradition of excellence and establish new standards in athletics for all our students. This requires hard work and dedication on everyone's part as well as the student-athlete and their parents. Members of the Advantage Academy Athletic Program will be held to a higher-standard. The coaches will guide athletes to this higher-level or standard, teaching intensity, competitive aggression and perseverance. The athletic department along with the coaching staff will equip, train and assist student-athletes in realizing their full potential. Advantage Academy believes these standards to be an integral part of becoming a "**Champion**". There is a price to pay in becoming a great athlete and/or in being a member of a great team. Our athletes must want to compete at a higher level than our opponents.

Advantage Academy wants athletics to be challenging yet an enjoyable learning experience for all of its student- athletes. Coaches will strive to teach the athlete how to play their select sport/s and in helping them understand the philosophy of that sport and of sports itself. The program will attempt to help the athlete in understand what giving everything you have means and each individual athlete will be challenged to do so. The Athletic Departments wish is that each

student-athlete learns to be self-motivated, not only in sports but also in the classroom and in their personal lives away from athletics or school.

Goal of the Athletic Program

The primary goal of the Athletic Program is to set a standard of excellence for each student-athlete and teach personal responsibility. The program, using the “Philosophy of Sport” through its coordinators and coaches will strive to help teach each athlete how to apply what they learn in able to become a better person and a better citizen and to sacrifice “individual” for the betterment of **TEAM**.

Goals each athlete should achieve:

- Exhibit "Champion" character.
- Reach their full potential.
- Maintain academic intensity.
- Give the best physical and mental effort.
- Learn teamwork.
- Gain confidence and overcome obstacles.
- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Act like ladies and gentlemen at all times.
- Be mentally tough and disciplined.
- Experience dedication, commitment and hard work.
- Enjoy the camaraderie of team sports.

Conduct

Athletes must follow all established policies, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the District’s Student/Parent Handbook, the Student Code of Conduct and this Handbook; Athletes are expected to:

- Attend school daily and be on time to all classes and school functions;
- Be prepared for class with assigned work and appropriate materials;
- Complete class assignments, homework, and projects on time;
- Always show respect to all coaches, teachers, and school administrators;
- Cooperate with all directives issued by School Administrators;
- Never use alcohol, tobacco or drugs of any kind;
- Treat others with respect and always be truthful and honest;
- Listen to and follow the Coaches directives;
- Take pride in their school; respect school property;
- Be in uniform each and every day unless otherwise notified;
- Never leave school grounds or school sponsored events without permission; and
- Accept discipline measures imposed by Coaches, Administrators, and Teachers.

Athletes who receive a poor conduct grade on two consecutive grading periods will be ineligible for athletic participation. The athlete is solely responsible for his/her academic grades and

conduct and is required to meet all UIL and TEA academic and behavioral standards and guidelines. Athletes who fail to maintain standards will be declared ineligible for competition. The Advantage Academy Athletic Department has established a Six-Week Program in order to help athlete's maintain their eligibility. (see six-week program below)

Athletic Contract

Each athlete is responsible for ensuring that they receive, read and understand the material contained in the Contract. The acknowledged form page of the Athletic Contract must be properly completed, signed and dated by each athlete and their parent. The completed acknowledgement form must be returned to the Site AC. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in any athletic event until the Athletic Contract is returned.

Required Sports Forms

The Athletic Department along with the school's Health Services Department takes its responsibilities seriously when dealing with issues of health and safety as they relate to student participation in athletics. Advantage Academy is required to keep on file a copy of all required sports forms for each student who participates in any athletic practice, scrimmage, contest or event. A cooperative effort should be made by the student, his/her parent/guardian and the site athletic staff to ensure that all required sports forms are completed before the athletes perspective sport season begins to ensure safety and compliance with district policies. Required Sports Forms include:

- Emergency Medical Release / Authorization form
- Medical History / Physical Exam
- Acknowledgement of Rules
- Steroid Agreement/Acknowledgement (Grades 9-12)
- Media Information Release

All student- athlete forms must be completed in full, signed, dated and returned to the Site AC before the student may participate in any athletic activity or event.

Athlete Physicals

Before any athlete can participate in interscholastic league sports he/she must have completed a pre-participation physical evaluation and provided an updated Emergency Information Sheet. Athletes who do not obtain a physical at the scheduled summer examinations will be responsible for acquiring a medical/physical examination performed by a private physician before being approved to participate in any Advantage Academy athletic activity or event.

Inherent Sports Related Dangers

Student- athletes and their Parent(s) must be aware that any athletic participation, game or practice will include inherent dangers. Although rare, catastrophic injury or death can result from participation in athletics and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such

dangers. We encourage parents/guardians, along with student athletes, in all sports, to discuss risk and risk minimization with their campus athletic coordinator and coach.

Insurance

All Advantage Academy student athletes who have paid their athletic fees are insured. The policy is intended to provide supplemental health insurance when accidental bodily injury is sustained by a student while participating in a school-sponsored athletic activity. The insurance policy is designed to assist families by reimbursing them for out of pocket expenses only after claims have been processed by the family's primary health insurance provider. After the claim has been settled by the families' primary provider, parents may file a claim with the District's carrier. Information and forms regarding insurance claims can be obtained from the District's HR Department. In order for coverage to be in effect, it shall be the responsibility of the student to report any injury to the coach within 30 days of the date of the injury.

Returning to Athletic Activity (after injury, illness)

In the event an athlete sustains an injury that is serious enough to require a physician's examination and/or treatment or has a serious prolonged illness, that athlete will not be allowed to resume athletic activities (e. g. competition, practice) until the athlete has obtained and presented to the AC a written "release" or "permission to participate" letter from a physician. All such injuries should have been reported to the coach within 30 days of occurrence.

- 1) All notes regarding an athlete's fitness or health must be copied to the Site Nurse to be kept on file in the student's health records. In the event a question should arise concerning the athletes injury, fitness or health the Nurses office should be contacted for the information.
- 2) In the case of extended absence due to injury or illness an athlete may be required to take a subsequent health physical before returning to activity. This decision will be made with discussion from the parent/guardian, student, coach and the Athletic Department.

Athletic Fees

All athletes are required to pay participation or athletic fee's for each sport participated in. The fees for each sport, activity or event will be determined at the beginning of each school year. The athletic fees will be used in conjunction with gate, concession and department fund- raising efforts to offset the cost associated with the provisions of school athletics which includes various other expenses. The state free and reduced program does not apply to participation in any athletic program. All fees must be paid to the campus front office before any athletic will be allowed to participate in any practice or competition. A receipt of payment must be presented to the athletic coordinator and will be required as proof of payment.

- 1) All athletic related fees/payments are to be made to the Site front office by the student or parent/guardian;
- 2) The student/parent shall receive a receipt at time of payment to be presented as proof of payment to his/her coach who will photo copy the receipt for school records;
- 3) Equipment will not be distributed to any athlete until proof of payment is provided; and
- 4) Athletes will participate in NO athletic activity or event until proof of payment is provided to the head coach.

Equipment

Athletes will be issued uniforms and equipment by the coach staff pertinent to the sport. Some equipment classified as personal such as caps, socks or personal protection items must be purchased individually by the athlete. These items are the personal property of the athlete and are not considered part of the uniform or equipment inventory. The athlete will be responsible for the care, including cleanliness, effectiveness and security of all issued uniforms and equipment. All issued uniforms and equipment must be returned to the head coach at the conclusion of each sport season. The athlete is financially responsible for all sport related uniforms, equipment and other items issued to him/her. Returned equipment must be clean and in good condition.

Athletic Dress Code

As a member of the Advantage Academy Athletic Program, all athletes are expected to be well dressed and well groomed according to school policy. Athletes' representative their coach, team, campus and school district as a whole to the public and community and must project a positive image. The perception of the athlete individually, the team, the athletic department and the school whether positive or negative is usually influenced or decided by appearance. In addition to existing policies listed in the District Student/Parent Handbook and Student Code of Conduct, the following guidelines for athletic grooming and dress shall be adopted and adhered to at all time. These adoptions include practice as well as games:

- Coaches will determine individual or team dress for game day.
- Only uniforms issued by the athletic department will be permitted or worn.
- Beards and goatees are not allowed while a student is a member of the Athletic Program
- No jewelry is to be worn while participating in any athletic activity.
- Girl's hair length will be evaluated by the head coach for each sport.
- Showers are recommended after practices and games.

The main concern for coaches and coordinators when evaluating hairstyle and/ or length is Safety. Equipment, especially helmets must have a proper fit to be considered safe. Concussions are a major concern for football players. Dress will be determined by the Site Athletic Coordinator for any and all events where the team will be representing the school publically. Athletes will be expected to conform and be in required dress as directed.

Academics

The Athletic Department recognizes that students should have the opportunity to engage in a broad range of learning experiences and that all students should be encouraged to take advantage of and participate in those opportunities; however, students at Advantage Academy will not be allowed to sacrifice the quality of their academic programs to participate in athletics. Participation in athletics requires a commitment of time to a demanding and rigorous schedule of practice and competition. When and if it becomes apparent to the coach that conflicts are arising or continuing on a regular basis and/or an athlete is struggling to fulfill their academic obligations, then that information will be forwarded to the Site Principal as well as the Athletic Department immediately. Action must always be taken in the event a student-athlete shows signs

of being overcommitted and/or there is a noticeable decline in their performance both as a student and an athlete.

The student-athlete must always give respectful attention to classroom assignments and academic activities and the character and competitiveness of the athlete should carry over into the classroom. All athletes must work off a schedule that gives priority to their studies and academic duties including; sufficient time, concentration and energy to ensure acceptable grades. The Athletic Department and the Coaches are fully aware of the demands that athletics places on your time, but this will not be an excuse for incomplete work or lack of effort in the classroom.

- Athletes will be responsible for completing all work that is required by his/her teacher and on time.
- Each athlete is expected to show outstanding conduct in the classroom setting while exemplifying leadership.
- Athletes will be expected to maintain a good attendance record.

Academics will come first; therefore, athletes must be in school the day of any athletic contest or event in order to participate, no exceptions. Only established Attendance Policy excuses will be accepted.

Six-Week Program

Advantage Academy's Athletic Program; Student-Athlete participation related to local and state academics and discipline requirements. Site Athletic Coordinators and Coaches must verify all athletes' grade point averages and discipline history at least 3 days prior to any scheduled contest/game.

Grade point average(s) in core subjects below 75 - Any athlete who falls below a 75% average in any core subject may continue to play but will be required to attend tutoring and must continue with the tutoring sessions until grades are brought at or above a 75% average.

Grade point average(s) in core subjects below 70 - Athletes falling below 70% average in any core subject will not be allowed to play in scheduled contest/games for a minimum of three weeks. If an athlete's grade(s) remain below the 70% average after the three weeks, they must sit out the entire six weeks.

Athletes with persistent discipline issues either in their perspective sport, in the classroom, who are placed in ISS more than 2 times in any semester as a consequence for a discipline referral or who received OSS as a consequence will be subject to the 6 week program. In reference to discipline issues; for 6 weeks the athlete will be placed in a PE class and will not be allowed to take part in any way, in the athletic program. During the 6 week removal, any of the following violations will cause an athlete to be permanently removed from the athletic program:

- Discipline referral
- Zero's on any assignments or in any class
- Attendance related issues
- More than 2 tardies in first period

- Tardy in any other class
- Confrontations with any school administrator or other school staff
- Confrontations with any fellow student

Attendance

Athletes are expected to be dressed out and at practice each and every day and on time. There is no reason to miss an event, scheduled practice or a scheduled game. Coaches must be notified ahead of time and each time, a player must miss a game or practice and be presented a legitimate reason or excuse as to why the athlete must miss. Non notification will be recorded as unexcused. Athletes who cannot physically practice should still be in attendance if possible to learn what the coach is teaching that day and to lend support and encouragement their teammates. Athletes are responsible to know the plays and game plan for that week's contest. Excused absences must be in line with the District Attendance Policy.

Coaches may have his/her own individual rules or consequences for missed athletic contest or other athletic events. Irregular attendance makes it very difficult, if not impossible for a sense of team to develop among the players which is an integral part of becoming a "Champion". Frequent absenteeism or tardiness may be cause for disciplinary action, dismissal from the team or placement in the six-week program.

Attitude

Athletes should arrive every day with expectations of learning something new and that something great is going to happen. Athletes must be receptive to their coaches and to everything the coach is trying to convey to them. Remember to always support your coaching staff, be positive and encourage your teammates. Think and act like "CHAMPION's". Look beyond yourself and put your school, team and teammates first. Believe in the decisions that your coaches make (whether or not it is right or wrong in your eyes), they are the coaches and must be respected. Advantage Academy athletes will win as a team and lose as a team. Having a bad attitude is infectious to a team and will not be tolerated.

Sportsmanship

It is imperative that Advantage Academy athletes demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Sportsmanship is a display of respect (verbal and physical) for coaches, officials, the opposing team, spectators and the sport itself. Sportsmanship also involves a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity which should mean to the athlete:

- Respect your coaches and teammates.
- Demonstrate self-discipline.
- Never resort to illegal tactics (play within the rules).
- Be a good loser as well as a gracious winner.
- Demonstrate respect to your opponent.
- Total respect for all officials is an absolute must.

Taunting or "trash talking", vulgar or inappropriate language or actions will not be tolerated. Advantage Academy athletes must always shake hands with the opposing team at the conclusion of each contest. Flagrant violations of school, department, team or contest rules etc. will result in serious consequences being applied. Coaches will handle all discussions or calls made by game officials. Any behavior contrary to the above stated or any other act which is not conducive to good sportsmanship may result in the athlete's removal from the contest and/or possible permanent removal from the team. The Athletic Department expects its athletes to represent the school, themselves and their families well and to act like ladies and gentlemen at all times.

Competitive Effort

As a member of the Advantage Academy athletic program, athletes will be expected to give a great deal of effort in performing their roll or duties for the team or sport. Effort is what sets apart the "great" athlete from the "good" athlete. Athletes should be willing to give 110% and to perform their duties at a high level every time they step on the field or on the court. The "best" athletes give the maximum effort every time they are given the opportunity. You will be asked to prepare hard, practice hard and especially play hard.

Advantage Academy athletes are "CHAMPION's" and should never give in to the temptation to stop trying because "it's over" or the odds seem too great. No coach can make an athlete play hard, competitive effort is a choice the athlete must make along with whether to give it their all or to simply go through the motions. The choices you make will determine your success and the success of your team, your coach and your school. **Effort! Effort! Effort!**

Practices / Scrimmages

Each coach is responsible for planning and conducting scheduled practices and on a regular basis. Required scheduled practices should be organized and planned for a reasonable length of time and shall include activities specific to the sport coached. Advantage Academy teams do not practice on Wednesdays after school. Athletes must be excused with no penalty for religious reasons or for extended learning or academic tutoring sessions. Coaches have the discretion as to whether or not to excuse athletes for other reasons.

Selection / Participation / Playing Time

A sport or teams coaching staff has the sole responsibility to select the members of any particular squad or program without outside influence or coercion. When an unusually large number of students try out for a team, the coaches must establish a predetermined plan for selecting those students who will make the team. Team members will be selected in accordance with the philosophy of Advantage Academy, the student's skill level and abilities as well as team position needs. Each coach must be able to justify "selections or cuts" and shall demonstrate by objectives and/or plan that tryouts were conducted fairly. Those athletes not "selected" will be privately informed by the coaches as to why they were not selected.

Participation on an athletic team at Advantage Academy is a privilege, not a right. Being on and maintaining one's membership on an athletic team means accepting all the responsibilities of an athlete and the athletic program. Each coach must utilize players that he/she

feels are best suited for the conditions or demands of each particular athletic contest. These responsibilities include successful academic achievement as well as appropriate conduct at all times. Equal and/or guaranteed playing time does not exist at Advantage Academy. Coaches will consider the following when evaluating an athlete's selection, participation and playing time:

- Follow all district, campus, classroom and athletic program rules.
- Maintain a 75 average in all core subjects.
- Never use alcohol, tobacco or drugs of any kind.
- Be receptive to coaches' instructions and guidance.
- Attend all practice sessions (on time).
- Follow all team rules.
- On-field performance.
- Care of equipment.
- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Always be a good sport and exhibit "CHAMPION" Characteristics.
- Never criticize your teammates.
- Overall effort.

Be advised that the Coaches, the Athletic Director, the Athletic Coordinator, and Site Administrators reserve the right to disallow any athlete from participating in any contest or event for actions they deem contrary to the rules set forth in the District's Student/Parent Handbook, the Student Code of Conduct and this Handbook or for actions detrimental to the team or school.

An athlete who receives a serious discipline referral must accept the consequences according to school policy and in addition may receive an additional punishment determined by the Coach or Athletic Coordinator.

Quitting or Changing Sports

Whenever students enlist in the athletic program by "trying-out" for a specific sport or team, they assume the responsibility of a commitment to that team, its players and the coach. Quitting or changing sports is highly discouraged and shall be communicated as such. Quitting or changing sports and the subsequent transfer to another sport (if approved) shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 1) There shall be a two week Trial Period for every sport where by an athlete may Try or Experience that sport. If not suitable for the athlete he/she may quit that sport without repercussion or consequence.
- 2) If an athlete remains with a team passed the two weeks, he/she will be considered Committed or "part of the team" (even if cuts or team selection has not occurred).
- 3) Choosing not to participate after the committed date will be considered Quitting.
- 4) An athlete who wishes to change sports after the committed date must make a Formal Transfer Request to the Athletic Department.
- 5) Transfer Request will be considered only after the athlete has discussed their situation with both coaches involved and both agree with the Transfer Request.

6) No transfers may take place without written approval from the Advantage Academy Athletic Department.

Any athlete who quits or is removed from a team or sport may not participate in another sport until the completion of the season of the sport they quit or were removed from. If an athlete quits or is removed from a team or sport for a second time, that athlete may be denied the right to participate in any athletic event or activity for the remainder of the school year.

An athlete who is dismissed from a team or sport for disciplinary reasons (e.g. violation of the Student Code of Conduct, violation of team or sport rules, un-sportsman-like conduct, insubordination, excessive unexcused absences from contest or practice) shall not be allowed to participate in another sport until the completion of the season of the sport they were removed from and all consequences imposed have been served.

A student-athlete that quits a sport after the committed date or is removed for disciplinary reasons will not be reimbursed any fees or payments made for any purpose.

A student-athlete who accumulates 3 unexcused absences or 5 unexcused tardies in a semester is not eligible to participate in athletics the following semester, as outlined in the athletic policies of Advantage Academy.

Parent / Guardian Expectations

The Athletic Department, School Administrators and the coaching staff at Advantage Academy feel that parent/guardian support is essential to the success of any student- athlete. The school understands that every parent/ guardian loves their child and is concerned about their welfare and wants the best for him/her. However, allowing the coach to instruct and guide the players or team without interference is extremely important for individual and team success. Parents are asked not to undermine the coach's authority or question his/her decisions or methods in front of their child the team or other adults. This method only increases the chance that your child and the coach will never be able to work together. As parents/guardians you have great influence over your child and they look to you for guidance. Parents are asked to help the Athletic Department in its efforts to develop their child's athletic talents by:

- Remembering that athletics is a learning experience;
- Offering positive reinforcement;
- Praising them for their attempt to improve;
- Reinforcing the importance of academics;
- Showing appreciation for their effort;
- Supporting the athlete along with all players, coaches, officials, and school administrators;
- Helping them understand the concept of team;
- Helping your athlete develop integrity;
- Helping the athlete attend every athletic function and on time;
- Explaining to the athlete, what is required to make this commitment work;
- Encouraging the athlete to continue to work hard and not be tempted to quit;
- Volunteering your own time and talents to the athletic program.

Parental Interaction

It is the responsibility of each parent to maintain positive relations with the Athletic Department and their child's coaches. Advantage Academy coaches should always be professional, use good judgment and strive to maintain their temper. Profanity or abusive language at any time will not be tolerated by the school in any fashion and/or for any reason. Parents are entitled to answers to legitimate questions that are in regards to their child's performance and/or status. Coaches will not discuss matters with parents during any active practice or athletic contest. Parents who desire a meeting with a coach must request that meeting through the Site Principal.

Advantage Academy coaches are not subject to verbal abuse, intimidation or other negative behavior by parents. All incidences of abuse from a parent will be reported immediately to the Site Principal, Vice Principal or DC for possible administrative action. If hostile feelings or arguments ensue at any meeting, the coach will immediately terminate the meeting and ask the parent to schedule a subsequent meeting at which time the Site Principal or a representative of the Athletic Department will be in attendance.

Conflict Resolution

Participating in athletics can be rigorous, time consuming, emotional and demanding for many young adults. From time to time, conflicts between student athletes, parents and coaches may arise from these and many other avenues. Coaches should be made aware of any potential conflicts and should attempt to maintain the athlete's wellbeing as it pertains to their experiences. Knowing that this is not always possible, the following process have been put in place for coaches, student athletes and their parents to follow:

Step 1: Student Athlete - Coach Contact: The student should speak to the coach about his/her issue or problem as soon as possible. If satisfactory resolution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the student athlete's parent/guardian should contact the site principal to schedule a meeting with the coach.

Step 2: Athlete/Parent/Guardian - Coach Contact: The student/parent/guardian should discuss the issue(s) with the coach. If satisfactory resolution is not reached through this meeting, the site principal should be contacted to schedule a meeting between the athlete/parent/guardian and a representative from the Athletic Department

Step 3: Athlete/Parent/Guardian – Coach - Athletic Director/Designee Contact: The athlete/parent/guardian/Athletic Director/Designee meeting shall include all concerned parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution. All related comments, concerns or issues brought to the attention of the Athletic Director/Designee will be addressed. No other issues/items will be discussed at these meetings that are not related to the original complaint or issue. All decisions or resolutions approved by the Athletic Director/Designee are final. While there can be no guarantee that all parties will agree; a respectful airing of different perspectives usually leads to mutual understanding and a more productive relationship between the parties concerned. Student athlete conflicts or issues will not be discussed with athletes or parents or take place:

- 24 hours prior to, during or immediately following any athletic contest or event;

- During any active practice session;
- During a time when other coaches, parents or athletes are present; or
- When emotions or tempers are not controlled (coach, athlete, parent).

Early Dismissal

At times it will be necessary to request that members of a team and the coach be excused from school in order to travel to an AWAY contest to meet an early scheduled start time. Athletes are responsible for any academic or classroom work missed because of the dismissal. The school is not obligated to inform parent/guardian of any scheduled activities beyond printed notifications or game schedules received.

Athletic Awards

Various Athletic Awards in all sports, male and female and on all levels including honor awards are presented to deserving athletes at the end of the athletic program year. Site Coaching Staffs and the Athletic Coordinator as a collective group, using athletic program criteria that is included in this handbook, shall determine who receives awards. Athletic honor awards are voted on by site coaches. Standards and requirements to earn athletic honor awards are set by the district and the athletic department and will be announced to team members and parents at the pre-season meeting and again during the sport season. Only athletes in good standing at the end of the athletic program year will be eligible for Awards and Trophies. Athletic awards include:

- Most Valuable Player
- Most Improved Player
- Offensive and Defensive MVP's
- Silver Slugger
- All Heart
- Golden Glove
- Top Rebounder
- Top Runner-Male and Female
- Underclassman

Athletic Honor Awards include: Academic Athlete of the Year, Athlete of the Year- Male and Female, Sportsmanship/Character of the Year- Male and Female.

Locker Room

Nobody is allowed in the locker room except players, coaches and school employees. The locker room is considered the athletes' room and is not open to parents or the public. No one should be present or invited in without the coach's knowledge and permission.

It is each athlete's responsibility to keep the locker room clean and organized. Coaches are not responsible to clean up after athletes. If for any reason a coach must clean or pick up after a game, it will come at a price to the identified player or the team as a whole (punishment will be determined and applied by the Athletic Coordinator).

Security

Coaches will make sure that athletes have a secure place to store personal items. It is the responsibility of the athlete to store issued equipment and any personal belongings in an appropriate location and to lock or secure those items. Athletes are required to provide their own combination lock to secure their belongings, whether issued or personal. The Athletic Department is not liable for any item(s), school issued, personal or other that is in the position of the athlete and becomes lost, stolen or damaged.

Travel

All athletes are required to travel to and from all contest, activities and events in transportation provided by the school. Parents/guardians will not be allowed to provide transportation for athletes without prior written approval from the Athletic Department. Athletes who travel by means other than school provided transportation will not be allowed to participate in that contest, activity or event. Athletes shall maintain the proper level of conduct while traveling on the bus. Please remember that you represent your coaches, your team, and your school at all times.

Substance-Abuse (district policy)

In an effort to make Advantage Academy campuses safe, drug and alcohol free, the School Board has adopted the following substance abuse policy: This policy shall be considered **“ZERO TOLERANCE”**

Substance abuse has been classified as a safety and health threat to all Advantage Academy campuses, administration buildings and other school facilities whether owned, leased or rented. Students, who use, possess, give, sell, deliver or are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs pose a threat to themselves as well as other individuals including students, school employees and volunteers.

No student shall at any time, during any school term, while on or off school designated property; at a school sponsored activity; function or event; use, possess, give, sell, deliver or be under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, any dangerous drug or controlled substances.

Advantage Academy’s Substance Abuse policy also prohibits 1) the use, possession or transmittal (give, sale, deliver) of paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance; and 2) the use, possession or transmittal (give, sale or delivery) of what is represented to be any prohibited substance or related paraphernalia.

Students who violate any aspect of the District Substance Abuse policy will immediately be recommended to the Superintendent for expulsion by Site Administration. The unlawful use and any criminal behavior related to alcohol or illegal drugs will also be communicated to local officials.

In addition to the alcohol and drug prohibitions, no student shall at any time possess any glue, aerosol paint, or any substance containing a volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply, or use any of these in any illegal manner.

The use of steroids is prohibited by state law and has been classified as a dangerous drug by the Advantage Academy Board of Directors. Any student who violates this aspect of the school's Substance Abuse policy or any state laws which specifically prohibits anabolic steroids or human growth hormones will be subject to expulsion and reported to local law enforcement agencies.

UIL Steroid Releases / Information

The following is information pertaining to the UIL Anabolic Steroid Testing Program. Mandated by Senate Bill 8, passed by the 80th Texas Legislature, this statewide random testing program will affect student-athletes in grades 9-12, regardless of sport, gender or participation level.

The UIL has been directed to test a statistically significant number of student-athletes in grades 9-12 at approximately 30% of UIL member high schools. The selection process of schools and student-athletes will be random, and approximately 10,000 - 15,000 student athletes will be tested for anabolic steroids by the end of the 2010-11 school year. All testing dates will be unannounced, in keeping with the nature of the random steroid testing process

Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing

Texas state law prohibits possessing, dispensing, delivering or administering a steroid in a manner not allowed by state law.

Texas state law also provides that body building, muscle enhancement or the increase in muscle bulk or strength through the use of a steroid by a person who is in good health is not a valid medical purpose.

Texas state law requires that only a licensed practitioner with prescriptive authority may prescribe a steroid for a person.

Any violation of state law concerning steroids is a criminal offense punishable by confinement in jail or imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Student Athlete Agreement (UIL)

As a prerequisite of participation in UIL athletic activities, the student- athlete, if selected, must submit to testing for the presence of anabolic steroids in their body; must agree that they will not use illegal anabolic steroids, and understand that failure to provide accurate and truthful information could subject athlete to penalties as determined by UIL.

Nutritional / Dietary Supplement Information

Many questions have arisen regarding the UIL alert in reference to the possibility of contamination of nutritional/dietary supplements. As indicated in the alert, the contents and purity of nutritional / dietary supplements are NOT tested closely or regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). As such, UIL is making student athletes and parents aware of the possibility of supplement contamination and the potential effect on a student athletes' steroid test.

- UIL does not approve or disapprove supplements.
- Contaminated supplements could lead to a positive steroid test.
- The use of supplements is at the student-athlete's own risk.
- Student-athletes and interested individuals with questions or concerns about these substances should consult their physician for further information.
- Student athletes must be aware that they are responsible for everything they eat, drink and put into their body.
- Ignorance and/or lack of intent are not acceptable excuses for a positive steroid test result.

For more information pertaining to steroids and other University Interscholastic league information please visit <http://www.uiltexas.org/>

General Reminders & Closing

Advantage Academy wishes to promote a competitive work ethic and attitude in all areas of the school's athletic program. Administrator's, Athletic Coordinators and Coaches have worked diligently to establish a positive rapport and successful working relationship with the UIL, other district Athletic Departments and/ or School Representatives and game officials and therefore it is imperative that parental/guardian and fan support enhance, not hinder these ongoing efforts.

All concerned should be advised that Advantage Academy will not tolerate inappropriate behavior by any individual(s) who are associated with our school or students. One must understand that athletes can be suspended from any athletic contest or event and that parents/guardians and spectators may also be suspended from attending athletic events if their behavior warrants such action (see parental guidelines for more information). Please remember the importance of being a good role model for your child.

While one may not agree with all decisions made by the District, the Athletic Department or by the Site Coaching Staff, knowing when and how to address concerns, questions or specific situations is imperative. If a parent/guardian has a question or concern about team philosophy, coaching decisions or anything pertaining to the student- athlete, please follow outlined procedures and refrain from approaching the Coach before, during or after any practice, contest or event to discuss these matters. The Site Principal will be glad to schedule an appointment for you to meet with a coach, where you may voice your concerns.

The Athletic Department is fully committed to helping each and every student-athlete reach his/her full potential in their chosen sport(s). In closing, we would like to assure all athletes and parents/guardians that Advantage Academy cares about you and that the safety and well-being of all our athletes is of the utmost importance to us.

If you have any questions concerning your Athletic Department, Site or individual sport programs or any information contained in this handbook, please feel free to contact your Site Athletic Coordinator or the Athletic Department.

Advantage Academy
Athletic Handbook 2011-2012
Acknowledgement Form

We (athlete & parent) have received and read the Advantage Academy Athletic Handbook for 2011-2012. We understand that these policies have been approved by the school's Board of Directors and are part of the districts rules and regulations that apply to all student-athletes. We acknowledge and consent to all requirements stated and implied in this handbook and have been made aware of the outlined consequences that we face by failing to adhere to these rules. By signing below we (athlete & parent) agree to all Athletic Handbook terms and conditions.

Print Athletes Name

Grade

Site

Athletes Signature

Date

Parents Signature

Date

Please sign, date and return this form to your site athletic coordinator. Students will not be allowed to participate in any athletic event until this completed form is returned. Please retain the handbook for future reference.