

# Savoy Cardinal Athletic Policy



“Champions aren't made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them -- a desire, a dream, and a vision.”

## Athletic Policy

The Savoy Independent School District believes that the district athletic program should be an integral part of the total education process.

The mission of the SISD Office of Athletics is to ensure and enhance the quality of life for youth by providing competitive activities. The pitting of one's skills, knowledge, and talent against friendly opponents is a means of learning one's own strengths and weaknesses.

Good contests, properly supervised, give youthful competitors the opportunity to gain self confidence, improve skills, exhibit good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity. Sports programs help the participant to develop physically, morally and mentally.

Athletic offerings within the district are competitive and diversified, thereby allowing students the opportunity to realize their full potential relative to growth and development. All programs are designed not only to teach athletic skills, but also instill good character and teach sound values.

It is felt that the success of the athletic program sets the tone for the entire school year. It builds a positive self image for the individual athlete, the team, the school, the community and Savoy I.S.D.

It is our final goal that sports activities will produce young men and women who will be able to enter the community and become constructive contributing members of society: citizens that will leave their mark on this world by making it a better place for future generations.

Cardinal Coaching Staff

Disclaimer: The coach retains the right to deviate from policy in situations of extenuating circumstances. The decision will be made at the accompaniment of all coaches involved as well as the appropriate members of administration.

## Explanation of Athletics

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Locations and times of practices and contests
3. Team requirements, e.g., practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning

Communications coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any scheduling conflicts well in advance

As your children become involved in the programs at Savoy they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. Examples of the situations include the treatment of your child, ways to help your child to improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much, when or where you may desire. It is at the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for the individual student athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. **Examples include, team strategy, other student-athletes, playing time, etc.**

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There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. There will not be a conference regarding a player without the student-athlete and the coach present.

When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director and the Head Coach of the sport.

Since research indicates that a student involved in extracurricular activities has greater success during adulthood, these athletic programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

## Cardinal Athletics

According to the University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules, being in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Only those students who abide by school and athletic policies will be allowed to represent Savoy I.S.D.

When young men and young women sign up for athletics and become a member of a team, they make a commitment. They are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the program. They are not forced to participate. It is voluntary; therefore, they are expected to follow the rules of order.

Parents should strive to help their son or daughter to achieve success in athletics. Success is defined as participating at 100% of the individual's ability. We can never expect athletes to do more than they are capable; however, we do want them to obtain their fullest potential. Supportive parents can instill this desire in student athletes long after their playing days are over by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and regulations.

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## Requirements to Participate

The following items must be turned in to the Athletic Department before participating in any extracurricular athletic activity.

### 1. Physical Evaluation

A physical evaluation is required for ever incoming 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade student athlete. A physical is also required for athletes who are new to the program and any athlete who underwent surgery following the date of their last physical. Physical forms are available in each of the Coach's Offices. A group physical is scheduled in conjunction with a local Doctors office during May of the preceding school year. All athletes must fill out a new Medical History form at the beginning of each year.

### 2. Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes (1) UIL Acknowledgement of Rules (2) personal student and parent information. The packet should be filled out completely.

### 3. Acknowledgement of SISD Athletic Handbook

The student-athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the Handbook Acknowledgement page. It should then be returned to the Athletic Department. This shows receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and the parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies contained in the Athletic Handbook.

### 4. Academic Eligibility

A student in grades 6-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number of credits in state-approved courses.

- Beginning the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year – must have been promoted from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Beginning the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year – must have at least 5 credits toward graduation
- Beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> grade year – must have at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.
- Beginning the 12<sup>th</sup> grade year – must have at least 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.

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A student participating in UIL activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (other than an identified honors or advanced class). This suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period: the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal to or greater than 70.

## Administration of the Program

The administration of the Athletic Program should provide every boy and girl the opportunity to participate in any sport. Each head coach is responsible for making sure that all students are knowledgeable of individual requirements for being in all sports. No student in any grade should be deprived of the opportunity to participate in any sport if he/she has met the head coaches off-season and previous participation requirements.

## Athletic Department Policies

### 1. Coaches Rules

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. The rules pertaining to a particular sport must be explained in writing, by the coach at the start of the season. The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules. Copies of all team rules are on file in the Coach's Offices.

### 2. Discipline Techniques

#### **Discipline yourself, so others won't have to!!!**

Each situation may require a different type of discipline. Whatever type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become better persons. Failure to accept this on part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program. The different discipline techniques listed below may be used alone or in combination with the Student Code of Conduct and the non-Student Code of Conduct Violations. Each situation may require a different type of discipline. Whatever type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become better persons. Failure to accept this on part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program. The different discipline techniques listed below may be used alone or in combination with the Student Code of Conduct and the non-Student Code of Conduct Violations.

- Oral Correction
- Counseling by Coaches

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- Home Visits by Head Coach
- Parent-Coach Conference with Athletic Director
- Behavioral Contracts
- Withdraw of Privileges, such as participation
- Techniques or Penalties Identified by Coach of Sport
  - Examples of Punishment:
    - Do Right = 25 Pushups, 25 Squat Jumps, 25 Lunge Jumps
    - Gasser = Across FB field and back twice
- Dismissal From Team or Program

### 3. Hazing

“Hazing” is against the law and will not be tolerated in the Athletic Department. “Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students.

### 4. Academics

All students are required to remain academically eligible to participate. Remember “No Pass, No Play.” Repeated academic suspensions may result in dismissal from the team or program.

### 5. Attendance

Be in class. Be on time. If you must miss an athletic period or practice it is mandatory that you call or talk to one of your coaches before the athletic period or practice. You will be required to make up missed work. Repeated absences may result in dismissal from the team or program.

### 6. Respect for Others

Coaches should receive “Yes sir/ma’am, No sir/ma’am” responses from players when talking to them. Players in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, officials, spectators and support groups. Treat others as you would want to be treated.

### 7. Promptness

Disclaimer: The coach retains the right to deviate from policy in situations of extenuating circumstances. The decision will be made at the accompaniment of all coaches involved as well as the appropriate members of administration.

Always be on time. On trips, the bus will not wait. When school is out, go directly to your sport.

#### 8. Dress and Appearance

Athletic participation is voluntary upon the part of the student, and by entering the program, the athlete agrees to abide by the spirit, rules, and regulations which pertain to athletes. One of the most important rules is that athletes must maintain a neat appearance at all times. You should be very professional in and out of uniform. Your appearance away from the field house or gym, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program. Each athlete must wear a school approved and issued uniform. Grooming and dress will be explained in detail to the athletes and will be enforced by the coaches. No jewelry of any kind will be worn in practice or games. Athletes are public relations ambassadors for their school and as such serve as role models for other students in the entire district.

#### 9. Lettering in a Sport

In order for an athlete to receive a letter in a Varsity sport and be presented as such at the Annual Athletic Banquet, the athlete must finish the said sport. A coach may choose to award an athlete not completing a sport with a letter if situations existed that were beyond the athlete's control. An athlete who starts a sport mid-season may be awarded a letter, provided they finish the season and meet any other requirements set forth by the coach.

#### 10. Conflict in Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about participation in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsors and coaches involved when a conflict does arise.

When a conflict arises, the sponsors and coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution can not be found, the Athletic Director (and Principal if sponsors are involved) will make the decision based on the following:

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1. The relative importance of each event
2. The importance of each event to the student
3. The relative contribution the student can make
4. How long each event has been scheduled
5. Talk with the parents

Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either faculty sponsor or coach.

#### 11. Travel

All athletes represent the community, school, and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a proper manner. When missing classes because of an athletic event, it is the responsibility of the athlete to see his/her teacher the day before the missed classes. All work shall be made up at the convenience of the teacher. All athletes making a school sponsored trip shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. Students may return home with the **parent or guardian** when the parent or guardian presents a written request to the coach. On school athletic trips, **students will only be released in person to their parent or guardian.**

#### 12. Tobacco-Alcoholic Beverages- Use of Illegal Drugs

There will be no use of tobacco products, drinking alcoholic beverages, or use of illegal drugs at anytime for those students who desire to take part in the Savoy Athletic Program. The consequences for violation will be severe.

#### 13. Holiday Practices

It is the responsibility of the coach to announce all holiday practices prior to the beginning of the season and provide a schedule for each participant. Times should be outlined and adhered to. If a holiday practice is scheduled after the start of the season, a child who has prior arrangements shall not be punished for missing the practice. However, if a child misses a holiday practice that was scheduled and communicated to the participants prior to the season then they may be required to do some type of make up activity for missing the practice.

#### 14. Theft

Disclaimer: The coach retains the right to deviate from policy in situations of extenuating circumstances. The decision will be made at the accompaniment of all coaches involved as well as the appropriate members of administration.

Taking things that do not belong to you, especially taking from your teammates will not be tolerated. A player caught will be dismissed from the team and program. We ask that you do not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing room. **Lock your locker at all times.**

#### 15. Quitting

Anyone quitting a sport after a short trial period (usually after the first scrimmage) will not be allowed to participate in another sport until he/she has served out a suspension. The suspension length would be equal to the amount of time left in the sport that was previously quit and not begin until the next sport the athlete intends to compete in begins. During this suspension time the athlete will be required to practice and travel but not be allowed to compete. The Athletic Director may, at his discretion, make an exception to this rule when an event outside the control of the athlete or his/her family causes the athlete to drop a sport. A clear understanding is to be reached by the Athletic Director and the athlete and parents at the time a sport is dropped. Anyone walking off the field or gym floor during practice or game will be considered by the coach to have quit that team. The athlete will be given a 24 hour grace period to speak to the coach about his/her action and subsequent responsibilities to remain on the team.

#### 16. Disciplinary Removal

If it becomes necessary to consider removing a student from a team or the athletic program, the coach of that team will notify the Athletic Director. The student will have an opportunity to confer with the coach and the Athletic Director. Parents will receive notification and be invited to attend the conference.

#### 17. Appeals Process

The Cardinal Athletic Policy will adopt the appeals process as outlined in your child's student handbook.

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## Athletic Policy Acknowledgement

If you have any questions or concerns in regards to the athletic policy please contact the Athletic Director. This policy has been approved by the Savoy I.S.D. board of trustees and is designed to set written guidelines, provide consistency amongst the program and protect the student-athletes and coaches alike. By signing this document you agree to uphold the responsibilities of a student-athlete at Savoy I.S.D. and to abide by the policy set forth.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Date

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