

Van Vleck Leopard



Handbook 2011-2012

Van Vleck ISD

Athletic Handbook

Introduction

This handbook communicates important information concerning athletic policies and procedures to our parents and students. After reviewing this information, we ask that the parents and student sign the receipt page in the back of the handbook and turn it in to his/her head coach.

****Anything that is not covered in this handbook will be left to the judgment of the Athletic Director.****

Philosophy of Athletics

The athletic program is part of the total educational program. Sports are a vital part of the physical, mental, social, and moral growth of our students. Athletics is about teaching the value of dedication, commitment, goal setting, hard work, fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork, and sacrifice. If one will live up to the standards set by the athletic department, athletics can and will serve as an outstanding extension of academics.

Academics

The character and hard work of the athlete should carry over into the classroom. In addition to maintaining acceptable grades, athletes should show respect for faculty and other students at all times. ***Student-athletes will be monitored by the coaching staff through grade-checks.*** This keeps the coaching staff aware of student-athletes that might be struggling in class. We will do what we can to motivate the athlete to ensure his / her success. Coaches will counsel and mentor the athlete when needed.

Goals of this Athletic Program:

1. Emphasize that academics must come first and foremost.
2. Promote the development of the whole person - spirit, mind, and body.
3. Athletes will compete with great effort and confidence.
4. Teach athletes the value of hard work, discipline, and teamwork.
5. Abide by the rules and regulations of **Van Vleck ISD** and the UIL.
6. Develop sportsmanship in our athletes, coaches, and fans.
7. Have fun!

Goals for Athletes:

1. Give great effort (compete with *PASSION*).
2. Believe in yourself, your team, and your coaches.
3. Treat opponents with respect as fellow competitors.
4. Respect the judgment and integrity of the officials.
5. Accept both victory and defeat with pride and dignity.
6. Abide by all rules and regulations set forth by **Van Vleck ISD** and the UIL.
7. Have FUN!!!

Team Sports

Football / Volleyball / Basketball / Baseball / Softball / Track

- **Before an athlete can practice or start a team sport the parents/guardians must:**
 - ❖ attend the mandatory parent meeting (if there is one) or
 - ❖ meet with the coach to discuss what was covered in the parent meeting
- Athletes will not be allowed to come out for team sports just for district competition
 - ❖ Example: If an athlete doesn't run track all year, then they can't just come out for the district track meet. You are on a team or you're not.

Practice and Game Attendance

It is the responsibility of team members to attend all scheduled practices, meetings, and games. Practice times will be scheduled and announced. Athletes will be disciplined for an unexcused tardy or absence (**this could include missing a competition**). If the coach is not called or notified prior to the workout, it will be an unexcused absence. Athletes should make the call, not the parents. Makeup work for absences (excused and unexcused) will be given by the Head Coach; this workout will vary from sport to sport. Students unable to physically participate are still required to dress out and participate mentally.

3 strike rule – 3 no calls / no shows = dismissal from that team sport

Athletic Period

All athletes participating in a team sport must be in the athletic period.

- Football / Volleyball
- Basketball
- Baseball / Softball
- Track

Students unable to physically participate are still required to dress out and participate mentally. *(If the injury prevents dressing out, an exception can be made by the Head Coach)*

If a student athlete fails the 1st, 2nd and 3rd six weeks, they may be removed from athletics for the spring semester.

Equipment and Uniforms

Team uniforms, warm-ups, and equipment are the property of **Van Vleck ISD** and must be treated with care. All athletes must return their uniforms and equipment to their coach no later than seven (7) days after their last competition. Theft, loss, or damage of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation. **No athlete will be allowed to check out equipment for another sport until payment for missing or destroyed equipment is made. Award recognition, letter jackets, and other privileges may also be withheld until all equipment is returned or replaced**

Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs

It is a violation of athletic policy for **Van Vleck ISD** athletes to use or possess tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs. Violations of this nature will be handled by the Athletic Director.

Consequences could be one or more of the following:

- **Physical activity**
- **Suspension**
- **Removal from athletics**

Poor Attitude

An athlete may be suspended for all or part of a sports season for demonstrating behavior that is detrimental to the team. Suspensions will be dealt with on an individual basis. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Poor effort or lazy attitude (skipping practice)
2. Disrespect to the coaching staff
3. Negative effect on team morale

An athlete can be removed from the program for 1 calendar year for extreme disrespect to a coach

School Suspension (ISS / AEP)

Athletes assigned to ISS or AEP will have make-up work (physical activity) from the Head Coach of that sport. They cannot compete on days they are in ISS, but they are required to attend practice. Students assigned to ISS/AEP for longer than six weeks, will be removed from athletics for the remainder of that semester.

Destruction of School Property

Anyone caught vandalizing school property or stealing school equipment will be subject to the harshest of punishments. ***Vandalism or stealing will not be tolerated.***

Hazing

No athlete at any time, by means of practical jokes, initiation rites, horseplay, etc., will humiliate any fellow athlete. The **Van Vleck ISD** Athletic Department will not tolerate hazing in any form. No one has to "earn his or her way" on to a team by submitting to ridicule from other members of the team. ***Hazing will not be tolerated.***

Dismissal/Quitting a Team or Athletics

Commitment to being a team member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. The first week (or 5 days) of participation in a sport is a "free trial" period. If the athlete chooses not to participate during this time, then there is no violation.

Removal from a team or quitting is treated the same

- 10 miles in 5 days before another sport is started
- Must be completed before the last day of school to be in athletics the next year

If an athlete gets out of athletics

- He or she must have permission from the Athletic Director to get back in
- 10 miles in 5 days before he or she is allowed to return

If an athlete quits a sport and does the 10 miles in 5 days to compete in another sport, they still must have permission from the head coach of the sport they quit to come out for that sport again the next year. There is NO guarantee.

If you move out of the district for athletic purposes, you will not be allowed back in the athletic program at Van Vleck ISD without Athletic Director approval.

Personal Appearance and Conduct

Our student-athletes are quite often the only contact that many people in other communities have with our school. Appearance, expressions, and actions always influence opinions of our athletes, teams, and our school. It is expected that **Van Vleck ISD** athletes will conduct themselves in a manner that is positive for our school district and community.

Our student/athletes will:

1. Respect teammates, coaches, managers, and school faculty.
2. Respect opponents, officials, umpires, referees, etc.
3. Display desirable behavior, desirable language, and polite attitudes.
4. Be well-groomed and dressed appropriately at all games and contests.
5. No jewelry will be worn during any athletic activity.
6. Tattoos must be covered during competition.
7. No nail polish on boys PERIOD.
8. No earrings, no do-rags, no hats on backwards at Van Vleck ISD athletic activities.
 - ❖ at school
 - ❖ in the gym (in town or out of town)
9. No beads or accessories in your hair.
10. No BEARDS – *If your sport is not in season, then it may be allowed for DRAMA students*

All athletes representing **Van Vleck ISD** should establish and maintain a high standard of appearance at all times. The head coach of each sport may establish additional guidelines for their team. **All athletes will abide by the guidelines for dress, grooming, and appearance outlined in the student handbook and athletic handbook.**

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing lines of communication we are able to provide a greater service to students. 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 your child's program.

Communication Parents Should Expect From Coaches:

1. Expectations the coach has for your child.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements (fees, special equipment, etc.)
4. Discipline that effects your child's participation.

Appropriate Issues to Discuss With Coaches:

1. Treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches:

1. Team strategy
2. Play calling
3. Other student-athletes

Facebook / Social Media

Athletes need to be careful when using social media. These websites should not be used to bad mouth coaches, teachers, teammates, teams, school organizations, etc. Be responsible and remember that putting something on Facebook is like putting something in the newspaper.

Parent/Coach Conference Procedure

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, please follow this procedure below:

- Do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice.
 - ***This can be an emotional time for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Productive meetings require calm, rational attitudes in a private setting.***
- Call the athletic department to set up an appointment with the head coach during his or her conference period the next school day.
- If you are not satisfied with your conference with the head coach, you may then call to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

Lettering Requirements

- ❖ Team Sports - Athletes must:
 - compete in at least half of the varsity contests for that season
 - be recommended by the head coach of that sport
 - score a point at the varsity district track meet
- ❖ Individual Sports (Cross Country, Powerlifting, Tennis, and Golf) – Athletes must:
 - advance out of district
 - be in the sport for 3 years
 - be recommended by the coach during their junior or senior year

All athletes must complete the season in order to receive their letter jacket. If a student athlete is not in good standing with the athletic program at the time the jackets are delivered, then they will not receive the jacket.

Goals for Parents, Boosters, and Fans:

1. Promote school spirit and community involvement.
2. Respect our players, coaches, and fellow fans.
3. Respect the players, coaches, and fans of opposing teams.
4. Know and understand the rules of the game.
5. Treat officials with respect.
6. Abide by all rules and regulations set forth by **Van Vleck ISD** and the UIL.
7. Have FUN!!!

Seniors

Seniors that did not play a sport as a junior cannot come out for that team sport as a senior unless:

- ❖ They are new to the district
- ❖ They entered athletics the 2nd semester of their junior year (completed off-season)
- ❖ They have approval from the Head Coach of that sport and the Athletic Director

Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes (1) UIL Acknowledgment of Rules, (2) UIL Athletic Physical, (3) UIL Medical History, (4) UIL Illegal Steroid Use Form, and (5) medical release/insurance and emergency info.

Injury

The potential for injury is inherent in all interscholastic sports. Even with the best coaching, the most advanced protective equipment, and a strict observance of rules, injuries can happen. Athletes should report all injuries to the coach and to their parents. Please remember that coaches are neither doctors nor athletic trainers. They can make suggestions and give advice, but they are not certified to diagnose, treat, and release athletes from injury. If an athlete is seriously injured, he/she must have a doctor's release before continuing practice or competing in athletic contests.

Receipt of **Van Vleck ISD** Athletic Handbook 2011-2012

Athlete's Name: _____

I have received a copy of the **Van Vleck ISD** Athletic Handbook.

I understand that all athletes will be held accountable for the information outlined in this handbook.

Athlete's Signature-

Parent / Guardian Signature-

Date- _____