

***O'DONNELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT***

**Athletic Code of Conduct  
2025-2026**



# ***O'Donnell ISD Contact Information***

**O'Donnell Secondary School  
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## ***SUPERINTENDENT***

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## ***PRINCIPAL***

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## ***ATHLETIC DIRECTOR***

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## ***COACHING STAFF***

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**SPORTS OFFERED BY O'DONNELL ISD**

- Junior High
  - Cross Country
  - Football
  - Basketball
  - Track & Field
- High School (Grades 9-12)
  - Cross Country
  - Football
  - Basketball
  - Baseball
  - Softball
  - Track & Field
  - Golf
  - Tennis

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The Athletic Program is a vital part of the total education process. Athletics are a vital part of the physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral growth of our students. Athletics are extracurricular activities, not designed to transcend the academic program, but to enhance it. The Athletic program will serve as an avenue to teach self-discipline, create teamwork, develop strong work ethics, enhance decision making skills, and strengthen self-confidence. Ultimately, Athletics is not a right or requirement, but a privilege and a choice.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Increase all athletic participation.
2. Foster positive relationships throughout the school and community.
3. Provide safe, organized and productive ways for our students to compete in physical competition.
4. Develop work ethic through preparation for competition.
5. Effectively teach the rules and strategies of each sport.
6. Teach student-athletes to respect the games, the opponents and themselves by playing within the rules and showing exceptional sportsmanship.
7. Further in students an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness.

## **PLAYER EXPECTATIONS**

Student athletes have a responsibility to give their best effort and exhibit good conduct and character at all times in a manner that is a positive example to team members, fellow students, and the community. They will also demonstrate at all times, respect for their coaches, teammates, teachers, staff, administrators and fellow classmates. Student-athletes will abide by all rules set forth by the coaches and be coachable at all times. They are also required to adhere to the O'Donnell ISD Student Code of Conduct. Failure to abide by these player expectations could result in consequences from the Athletic Director and/or coach staff.

Student-athletes must have the following documents on file to participate:

- Physical Form/Medical History
- Acknowledgement of Rules/Steroid/Concussion
- PAPF(High School Students new to the District)
- Emergency Contact Form
- O'Donnell ISD Student Code of Conduct
- Acknowledgement of Athletic Policy

## **COACH EXPECTATIONS**

- Be great role models.
- Promote school spirit and community involvement.
- Discipline athletes who display unacceptable behavior.
- Abide by the rules and guidelines set forth by O'Donnell ISD and the UIL.
- Make O'Donnell ISD athletics a fun and positive experience for all student athletes.
- Exhibit loyalty, character, organization, and knowledge in the classroom and athletics.

## **ACADEMICS**

O'Donnell ISD student-athletes are expected to be students first and athletes next. The main reason for being in school is to get an education. We believe it takes a special individual to be a student and an athlete. Athletics involvement will take a lot of time and energy. It is important to prioritize activities and time in order to maintain academic requirements to be academically eligible.

O'Donnell ISD student-athletes should assume the responsibility of their academic endeavors. Should an athlete experience difficulty in an academic area, it is his/her responsibility to ask for help. Grades will be monitored periodically, but remain the responsibility of the student-athlete to seek academic help whenever needed.

All O'Donnell ISD student-athletes must maintain the academic standards set by the UIL and O'Donnell ISD. If any student athlete is ineligible for 3 or more grading periods, they can be removed from Athletics for the following school year.

## **ATHLETIC PERIOD**

O'Donnell ISD allows one period each school day to prepare for athletics. This class period should be considered as equally important as academic class periods. Student-athletes should not expect to use their athletic class period to make-up assignments from other classes or receive tutoring in other classes. Such academic work should be done in allotted times.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is very important. Absences due to illness, school functions, family functions, etc. will be considered as legitimate absences and the student-athlete will only be required to do make-up work expected from that particular sport's coach. Coaches should be made aware of absences as early as possible. Excessive unexcused absences could result in removal from the current sport and the Athletic program.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND/COMMUNICATION**

Should a student-athlete or his/her parents have a problem or conflict with a coach, there is a proper chain of command to follow. There are particular steps that should be followed to enhance coach/athlete and parent/coach communication. O'Donnell ISD student-athletes are encouraged to exercise the opportunity to speak directly with his/her coach about any issue of concern. When this happens, many conflicts are resolved without further involvement.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parents. These meetings are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Procedures to follow when you discuss a concern with a coach:

1. Contact the coach by phone or email to set an appointment. All O'Donnell coaches are classroom teachers as well and are allotted a conference period each day. Please accommodate that schedule to avoid disruptions of the coach's teaching schedule.
2. Please do not confront a coach before or immediately after a game or practice. These might be emotional moments. Meetings of this nature are not likely to promote a resolution. If there is a problem that needs immediate attention, contact the Athletic Director or the Administrator in charge of that event.
3. Describe your specific areas of concern.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach might include:

- a. The physical or mental treatment of your child.
- b. What your child needs to do to improve, either athletically or academically.
- c. Concerns about your child's behavior either at or away from school.

Inappropriate issues for discussion with a coach might include:

- d. How much playing time each athlete is getting.

- e. Team strategy.
  - f. Play calling.
4. Limit your discussion to your own child. Do not discuss issues pertaining to other athletes or parents unless they specifically involve your child.

If you are not satisfied or the problem is not resolved, then go to the next step; make an appointment to visit with the Athletic Director. If you feel the issue continues to be unresolved, then you should schedule a meeting with the Principal or Superintendent. By following the proper chain of command, most conflicts and problems can be better resolved.

## **CELL PHONES**

Cell phones and other electronic devices should be used properly, at appropriate times, and with the permission of the coach in charge.

## **CONDUCT**

It is important to remember that O'Donnell ISD athletes represent not only themselves and their school, but also the entire community. Profanity and acts of unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct may result in the removal from a team or the athletic department all together. Any act that may be considered Bullying or Hazing will not be tolerated and may result in the removal from the athletic department.

## **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

Any O'Donnell ISD athlete formally charged with a crime will be disciplined according to the severity of the crime. Discipline procedures as outlined in the student handbook will be followed for student discipline. Further discipline may be assessed to athletes in accordance with this document.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Athletes who violate the rules and policies of the athletic department will be disciplined accordingly. Specific sport's coaches may assess additional discipline.

## **DRESS CODE**

O'Donnell ISD athletes will be expected to follow the dress code outlined in the student handbook as well as the O'Donnell ISD Athletic Dress code when representing O'Donnell ISD. Specific team dress codes will be set by the head coach of each sport. Hair must be clean, well-groomed, and not covering the eyes. Hair on male students will not be below the bottom of the ear or bottom of the collar. Hair tints and colors are allowed, but the resulting color must be the color of natural human hair. Female student-athletes may have ear piercings only. Other body piercings must not be visible. Male student-athletes are not allowed to have any visible piercings when representing O'Donnell ISD Athletics. Tattoos on all student-athletes are to be covered at all times during travel, practices and games/competitions.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Under the provisions of the Texas Education Agency, an athlete must maintain a 70 average in all classes to be eligible for extracurricular activities. In addition, the athlete must have the correct number of credits at the beginning of the school year:

9th - Must be promoted to 9th grade

10th - Must have 5 credits

11th - Must have 10 credits

12th - Must have 15 credits

## **EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS**

O'Donnell ISD will issue the proper equipment for each sport. The athlete will be held responsible for lost or stolen equipment. Equipment lost or stolen will be paid for by the athlete to whom it was issued. It is not acceptable to borrow another athlete's equipment or take any equipment home without a coach's approval. All school issued equipment will be laundered by school personnel routinely. O'Donnell athletic issued equipment should be used or worn only during school sponsored athletic contests or practices.

## **IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)/SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL**

Unruly behavior on the part of O'Donnell ISD athletes in the classroom, halls or anywhere else on campus will not be tolerated. Any athlete who misses the athletic period because of ISS or suspension from school will also be disciplined in athletics. Athletes in ISS or suspended on the day of competition will not be allowed to participate in that competition on the day of ISS or suspension. Multiple placements in ISS could result in removal from the athletic program.

## **LOCKERS**

Each athlete will be responsible for keeping his/her locker neat and clean. Each coach will explain to athletes the proper methods of locker organization. Locks will be provided for each student's locker. Athletes are responsible for keeping valuables locked while their locker is unattended.

## **OFF-SEASON**

Athletes that are not participating in the current sport remain responsible to meet during the athletic period. These athletes will report to the responsible coach and participate in the activities planned by the coach.

## **QUITTING OR REMOVAL FROM A TEAM**

There will be a 2 week period at the beginning of each sport season where a student-athlete will have no consequences if he/she decides to quit a specific sport. If the athlete decides to quit a sport after the two weeks has expired, the expectations are as follows:

***1st time an athlete quits a sport***, he/she must run 25 miles before being allowed to participate in another sport. He/She will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the sport which they quit has concluded. If an athlete quits a sport while participating in other sports at the same time, they must complete the 25 miles before being eligible to participate in the other sport or sports.

***2nd time an athlete quits a sport***, he/she will be removed from Athletics for one calendar year. Return to athletics will require consent from the Athletic Director and Coaching Staff.

Every attempt will be made by the Athletic Director or Coaching Staff to contact the parents of the athlete if he/she decides they want to quit a sport.

Athletes who fail to meet the requirements of the athletic department or who are found in violation of the department's rules will be disciplined. Should the violation be serious enough or a repeated violation, then dismissal from the team or the athletic department may be warranted. The guidelines for quitting will be used in the case of an athlete being removed from a specific team.

## **SCHEDULING CONFLICTS**

Conflicts will arise when an athlete will be participating in multiple extracurricular activities. These conflicts will be handled using the following rules. Any competitive event will supersede any practice or non-competitive event. A district contest will supersede any non-district contest. If there is a conflict between two district competitions, the athlete must decide in which competition to participate in without influence by coaches. Using this rule, all athletes will be given the opportunity to compete in the major contests or events of any extracurricular activity. The Athletic Department will do everything possible to avoid conflicts of this type. Students are strongly encouraged to check the schedules of their activities, so too many conflicts can be prevented. Athletes will not be punished for absences for other school extracurricular activities.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Use or Possession of alcohol, tobacco, including any type of e-cigarette, and/or drugs will not be tolerated. The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, including any type of e-cigarette or drugs will warrant appropriate disciplinary action as described in this document.

## **VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES**



Reported violations of the O'Donnell ISD Athletic Code of Conduct will be investigated and promptly dealt with using these guidelines.

Any conduct which constitutes a Class C misdemeanor or is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor as defined by the Texas Penal Code, possession or use of alcohol or tobacco, including any type of e-cigarette, or any conduct that violates the behavior set forth by the O'Donnell ISD Student Handbook or persistent misbehavior that violates the district's previously communicated written standards of conduct will be dealt with as follows:

**1st Offense** - The offender will be suspended from games or contests for 10 calendar days(Must include one game or contest). The offender will also be required to run 15 miles before being allowed to compete in games or contests.

**2nd Offense** - The offender will be suspended from games or contests for 20 calendar days(Must include two games or contests. If the athlete is participating in multiple sports at one time, the suspension will include at least one contest for each sport). The offender will also be required to run 30 miles before being allowed to compete in games or contests.

**3rd Offense** - The offender will be suspended from O'Donnell Athletics for one calendar year and must run 50 miles before being allowed to compete. The offender will also forfeit all individual awards, i.e.letter award, all-district, player of the week, etc., for the remainder of his/her high school career.

**Subsequent Offense** - The offender will be dismissed from O'Donnell Athletics permanently.

Suspensions will be treated as UIL suspensions - Athletes will be allowed and expected to practice and be at team meetings, yet not participate in games, travel or represent the team in any other way.

Student-athletes that are not currently in-season will serve the consequences during their next sport. Violations that occur in the summer will be dealt with during the first sport the violator chooses to participate in. Suspension for violations in off-season will include at-least one game or contest.

All consequences will be served after all other detentions from other jurisdictions have been completed. (i.e., juvenile detention, AEP, ISS, etc.)

Further consequences may be assigned by a specific sport's coach as he/she sees fit.

## **FELONY LAW VIOLATIONS**

Any act which constitutes a felony or is punishable as a felony will warrant dismissal from the athletic period for one calendar year. Any subsequent offense will warrant permanent dismissal from O'Donnell Athletics.

### **DRUG TESTING/FAILURE OF DRUG TEST**

Any athlete who tests positive on a random drug test administered by O'Donnell ISD will be punished according to O'Donnell ISD's Deterrent to Illegal Drug and Alcohol handbook.

### **CAMPUS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

All offenses will be reviewed by a Campus Review Committee. This committee will consist of administrators, teachers, and coaches. A conference or phone call between the offender, the offender's parent or guardian, the specific sport coach, athletic director. Consequences will begin at the conclusion of this conference.

### **OTHER ISSUES**

The O'Donnell ISD Athletic Department reserves the right to deal with other issues deemed important, but not listed within this document in a manner it deems necessary.

### **CONCLUSION**

The O'Donnell Athletic Department is under the governance of the UIL. We are obligated to follow all UIL rules and regulations. UIL policy may be viewed online at [www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu).

The O'Donnell Athletic Department is committed to provide an atmosphere that leads to a positive and rewarding experience for all athletes. This document is designed to aid in the accomplishment of the objectives that are outlined in its contents and provide a consistent avenue for the handling of situations that arise within the daily aspects of athletic activity.

## **O'DONNELL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CODE OF CONDUCT CONFIRMATION & Media Release Form**

I understand the guidelines and policies of the O'Donnell Athletic Department. I am also aware of the consequences of violating said policies. If at any time I have questions regarding these guidelines, I will address the questions to administrators of O'Donnell I.S.D.

\_\_\_\_\_  
O'Donnell ISD Athlete's Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Name (Printed)

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**My son/daughter has my permission to be interviewed by all media outlets covering O'Donnell ISD Athletics. This release is for newspaper, radio and TV outlets.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**          \_\_\_\_\_ **NO**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
O'Donnell ISD Athlete Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_