**Westside Track and Field Rules of Conduct and Behavior**

**Athletic Philosophy**

The athletic program at Westside High School is an integral part of the educational experience. As such it must confirm and contribute to the mission of a comprehensive high school. First, the athletic program is open to all students, however, participation on a team at Westside is not a right, but a privilege and all privileges come with responsibilities.

Second, the athletic experience at Westside fosters Leadership, discipline, commitment, and a sense of responsibility to the entire school and community. Our aim is to develop competitive student-athletes without losing sight of educational values.

**Athletic Rules and Responsibilities**

*Students must understand they represent our school and program both on and off the track.*

1. The athletic department, in compliance with the school wide policy, prohibits the possession, use and/or abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs of any kind.
2. Bullying, harassment, or hazing of any kind is not permitted. Any student-athlete who participates in such an activity will be removed from the team.
3. If a student-athlete is assigned detention it must be served when scheduled regardless of if it’s a track meet day or not.
4. At the end of each track meet, all uniforms must be returned to Coach Watford and checked in before leaving the premises.
5. If the athlete is suspended from school, they will be removed from the team. If the athlete is assigned ISS for a severe rule infraction, the athlete will be required to sit out the next two games and be placed on probation.
6. Each student-athlete will abide by and uphold the academic eligibility requirements. Our student- athletes must be passing five out of six classes.
7. Student-athletes will represent the values of Westside High School on the court and use good sportsmanship like conduct. In the case that an athlete is called for unsportsmanlike conduct the repercussion will be to be suspended from the following two games.

**Attendance/Late Policy**

Track is a team sport, and it requires commitment. We function as a **TEAM,** and everyone is an essential part of our team. Attendance is **MANDATORY** at **ALL** practices and games. Not only is attendance necessary, but we require all student-athletes to report ON**-TIME** to both practices and games. Runners and throwers count on each other at both practices and meets in order to be effective on the track.

**Therefore:**

* All athletes will be given 1 excused absence from practice and 1 excused practice for a game day. If you are sick/absent (excused) from school, are receiving tutoring, have a standing doctor’s appointment or have a family emergency you will be excused from athletic commitments. With this being said, we ask that when possible appointments be made when the athlete does not have a track commitment. During season you should be able to schedule most appointments around practice. Work schedules, babysitting, family vacations, and/or other outside activities DO NOT qualify as an excused absence.
* All athletes are required to attend every practice and meet, if an athlete is unexcused for more than one practice, they will not be allowed to participate in half their events for the next meet.
* If an athlete is late to a practice 3 or more times, the athlete will be required to sit out the next meet.
* Absences/tardy’s beyond those listed above will result in a scheduled meeting with the coaches, Athletic Director, and a member of the athlete’s family to discuss future participation and removal from the team roster.

We recognize that being a Westside Track and Field athlete is a commitment by both the athlete and their family and understand rides and practice schedules can be difficult. Please be aware of the time commitment and requirements of this sport.

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I have read and agree to follow and will uphold the Athletic Rules and Responsibilities as well as the Attendance and Late policy that come with being a part of the Westside Track and Field Team.

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Parent or Guardian Signature

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Student Athlete Signature Date