

Comstock Independent
School District

Home of the
Lady Panthers & Panthers

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
&
EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

2010 – 2011

Comstock High School
101 Sanderson
Comstock, TX. 78837

Athletic Department

Phone #: 432 – 292 – 4444

Fax #: 432 – 292 – 4436

Coaches:

Robert Burns robert.burns@netxv.net

Mary Dobbins mary.dobbins@netxv.net

Angel Galvan angel.galvan@netxv.net

John McKaskle john.mckaskle@netxv.net

Anne Sellers anne.sellers@netxv.net

Athletic Director:

Ruben R. Ramon ruben.ramon@netxv.net

Principal:

Ebby Loeffler ebby.loeffler@netxv.net

Superintendent:

OK Wolfenbarger ok.wolfenbarger@netxv.net

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Athletics is to provide a competitive and developmental athletic program, while promoting and embodying the ideals of teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work, and self-discipline. Developing the student-athlete's character through positive and supportive environment increases self-confidence, and therefore, is essential to personal success.

INTRODUCTION

Interscholastic athletics, offered to students in grades seven through twelve, are an important part of the educational program at Comstock ISD. Through the years, competitive athletics have provided hundreds of student athletes' valuable opportunities to work, grow, learn, and have fun. Interscholastic activities are voluntary at Comstock ISD, and we are proud that each year, approximately three-fourths of the eligible student athletes at Comstock ISD choose to participate. The purpose of the athletic program is to advance the educational philosophy of the school in the arena of developmental and competitive athletics.

The purpose of the Athletic Handbook is to provide students and parents information on the athletic program. This handbook covers information applicable to all teams at Comstock ISD and will be revised annually. In addition, team coaches will provide to both students and parents at the beginning of each season their sport specific guidelines, practice schedules (weekly), as well as the coaches' general expectations. The hope of the Athletic Department is that this handbook will serve as a resource and foster a collaborative team approach between the school and family, which will aid in fostering a positive experience for your child.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The athletics program should assume its rightful place in the total school program and make its vital contributions to the development of the students. Participation in athletics means more than competition between two individuals or two teams. Athletics teaches discipline, fair play, sportsmanship, understanding, communication, hard work and sacrifice. In addition, athletics teaches an appreciation for teamwork. Athletes learn that quitting means failure and that hard work promotes success. The product of the athletic program is an athlete who has an understanding of sacrifices, team cooperation, and hard work.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Participation in school-related activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

State law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition, govern eligibility for participation in many of these activities. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two

absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.

- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.
- Any student that is absent all day from school on the day of a competition will not be allowed to participate in the event. Any student that is absent from one or more class periods on the day of a competition may not be allowed to participate in the event by the coach/sponsor of that sport. In either case, a written excuse must be provided. For special instances such as absences due to Dr. appointments or funerals, both the coach/sponsor and the athletic director must approve student participation.

Please note: Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the *Student Code of Conduct* or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.

DRUG TESTING

In late June of 2002, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that it was not a violation of an individual's constitutional rights and/or illegal to test for drugs in students participating in extra curricular/co-curricular activities. The Comstock ISD School Board has approved the implementation of a drug testing policy during the 2006-2007 school year. All students involved in extra curricular/co-curricular activities or who use school parking in grades 7 through 12 will be tested. Students who have not or refuse to be tested will not be eligible to participate in extra curricular/co-curricular activities.

A baseline test will be performed on students who want to participate in extra curricular/co-curricular activities during the 2010-2011 school year. Random drug testing will occur throughout the school year and as many as 20% could be randomly tested at any given time.

INDIVIDUAL SPORT STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

Per school board policy, coaches may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior, such as extra running, school beautification, removal from the athletic program, etc.—that are stricter than those for students who are not in athletics. A coach will have the authority to revoke the privilege when team rules or school rules are not followed.

An athlete in DAEP, ISS, OSS, or expulsion is prohibited from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related activities on or off the Comstock ISD Campus. The effective date of this restriction will be the date that the punishment begins, as assigned by the school superintendent or principal. Completion of one of the before mentioned punishments ends at the end of the school day, unless released earlier. Any athlete who remains in DAEP, ISS, OSS, or expulsion at the end of the school day will not regain eligibility for practice or competition until the next school day.

Any athlete, who quits a sport once the season has started, shall be deemed ineligible for *that sport* for the remainder of their high school career. Athletes are subject to reinstatement procedures. A sport season is considered to have started once the first practice for that sport has begun. An athlete may not quit one sport in order to start another. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may not begin the next sport season until prior sport and level is completed. This includes any and all playoff games.

TRANSPORTATION

Athletes will travel to and from games/matches/meets with the team. Athletes will be released to their parents in Del Rio, for activities that are east of Comstock, and in Comstock, for activities that are west of Comstock. Athletes may leave after the **completion** of athletic contests with their parents. Athletes will not be allowed to depart with anyone, unless the coach is provided with the proper form. It is to be signed by the athlete and his/her parent(s). **NO phone calls may be made to get parental permission to depart with anyone else.**

(Exception: Family or Medical Emergency)

PARTICIPATION

When a student contributes to the team physically and emotionally, this participation becomes a positive experience. Comstock ISD supports a no-cut policy at all levels. The aim of the Middle School and JV teams is skill development and preparation for the next level. Therefore, as much as possible equal play is encouraged. At the Varsity level, each coach is encouraged to be cognizant of an individual athlete's opportunity to participate in games. If a student-athlete does not follow team expectations, his/her playing time may be limited or revoked. Playing time may also be adjusted if the coach believes there is a safety concern for the individual athlete. Both athletes and parents must understand that merely being on a team or being an upper-classmen does not guarantee playing time. Playing time is **strictly** at the coach's discretion. There are several factors that coaches take into consideration when it comes to playing time. These factors include, but are not limited to: attendance at practice, performance in practice, overall attitude and conduct in and out of school, ability, game circumstances and situation.

MANAGERS

Various team manager positions are available in all team sports. Students who avail themselves of such opportunities will have the satisfaction of contributing to the welfare of the group and being actively involved as a member of the team. Conscientious managers are every bit as valuable as any other team member. Interested students should contact the head coach or the athletic department before the season begins.

PARENTS

In order to ensure that the educational experience your son/daughter has while participating in our athletic program is positive, we feel that it is important that you read and abide by the following guidelines:

- Practice appropriate sportsmanship
- Respect the officials and their authority during games
- Do not question or confront a coach at the athletic venue. Instead, make an appointment directly with the coach or through the athletic department. **See: Chain of Command.**
- Remember that the game is for the athletes to have fun. This program is for the youth, not the adults
- Reinforce with your child that competing as hard as one can is more important than winning or losing
- Demand that your child treat opposing players, officials, coaches, and spectators with respect and dignity

- Promote the physical and emotional well-being of student athletes
- Do not encourage any behaviors, which could endanger the health and well-being of the student athletes

Chain of Command:

Our policy is that at no time, will a meeting take place before, during, or after a contest/game.

These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director and ask him or her to set up a meeting with the coach for you.
3. Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
4. Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.

If a parent/coach meeting did not provide a satisfactory resolution for the parent:

1. Call the Athletic Director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent(s) present.
2. If still unsatisfied, call the principal to set up a meeting with the principal, athletic director, coach, and parent(s).
3. If still unsatisfied, call the superintendent to set up a meeting of all parties involved.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

1. The mental and physical treatment of your child.
2. What your child needs to do to improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

1. How much playing time each athlete is getting.
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling.
4. Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC AWARDS

Athletic Awards will be presented to high school athletes at the Spring Sports Banquet. The Comstock Independent School District will follow the UIL procedures and guide lines when awarding students for their participation. Decisions concerning the selection of the athlete and presentation of the award must be made during the academic year in which the athlete qualifies for the award. Varsity team members recommended for an athletic award are entitled to receive the following awards, based on current grade classification:

- Freshman Letter or Achievement Patch
- Sophomore Letter or Achievement Patch
- Junior Jacket or Letter or Achievement Patch
- Senior Senior Plaque or Jacket, if not previously awarded

No athlete may receive an award for a particular sport if he/she missed any part of that sport's season due to ineligibility because of grades. An athlete must also complete the season in good standing in order to receive an award. This includes attitude and discipline. A season is complete when the last meet, game or match that Comstock is participating in has been completed.

A student becomes eligible to receive a letter jacket after having competed in at least one varsity sport per school year for two years. A senior who does not meet the criteria may be awarded a letter jacket at the coach's discretion.

Additional athletic awards will be presented at the Spring All Sports Banquet with the recipient's name being placed on a plaque and displayed in the gymnasium. The Comstock ISD PTO selects our Academic Athlete Award. Our athletes decide on our Fighting Heart Award. The coach of that sport chooses all other award winners. The following awards are presented to one male and one female athlete in high school and junior high, except as indicated:

- * Best All-Around Award (HS & JH)
- * Academic Athlete (HS & JH)
- * Fighting Heart Award (HS)
- * Most Improved Award (HS)
- * Sportsmanship Award (HS)
- * Golf Team MVP (HS)
- * XC Runner of the Year (HS & JH)
- * Volleyball MVP (HS & JH)
- * Basketball MVP (HS & JH)
- * Track MVP (HS & JH)

Comstock Independent School District

2010-2011 Extracurricular Code of Conduct

1. Extra Curricular Activities: General Provisions

What is an Extracurricular Activity?

- Any University Interscholastic League (UIL), School District, or campus-sponsored or related public performances, events, contests, demonstrations, displays, club activities, athletics, whether on or off campus;
- Any elected offices and honors (such as student council and homecoming queen);
- All co-curricular activities, which are those held in conjunction with a credit-bearing class, but that may take place outside of school and outside of the school day (such as band and choir);
- All national organizations (such as National Honor Society or Future Farmers of America); and
- Any activity held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be an extracurricular activity (such as a meeting, practice, or fundraiser).

Why are Extracurricular Activities important?

- They promote self-discipline, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, commitment, and student wellness.
- They enhance and enrich curricular educational offerings.
- They offer participants the opportunity to be leaders and role models on campus and in the community.
- They enable participants to represent the School District in a positive manner.

2. Jurisdiction

Who is subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct?

- Any student who participates in one or more extracurricular activities is subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct (ECC). A student is subject to the ECC from the time he/she is selected for, elected to, or otherwise joins an extracurricular activity and continues to be subject to the ECC from that point forward unless or until the student no longer participates in extracurricular activities.

When Does the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Apply?

- The privilege of representing the School District carries with it a greater responsibility to conduct oneself with respect and dignity, and to serve as a role model for all students. Consequently, extracurricular activity participants are expected to comply with the ECC at all times, regardless of location. This

includes both on and off-campus conducts as well as evenings, weekends, holidays, and summer vacation.

3. Conduct Expectations

What is Expected of Extracurricular Activity Participants?

Participants in extracurricular activities are representatives of the School District, and must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the School District at all times. Specifically, they must:

- Maintain an average of 70% or better in all academic courses, except as provided in District policy FM (Legal);
- Be punctual and prepared for all games, practices, meetings, performances, camps, and/or other scheduled events related to an extracurricular activity;
- Treat all school property with respect and ensure that school property is returned upon request and in good condition (excluding reasonable wear and tear);
- Abide by the District's dress and grooming standards for students as well as any dress and grooming standards applicable to the specific extracurricular activity;
- Comply with UIL rules, including those related to random steroid testing, if applicable;
- Be courteous and respectful toward all fellow participants, school faculty and staff members, spectators, parents, and officials, whether from Comstock ISD or from any other school district;
- Provide 24 hours advance written notice to the coach or sponsor of an activity if they are unable to attend a game, practice, meeting, performance, and/or other scheduled event related to the extracurricular activity;
- Comply with all rules and guidelines in the Athletic Handbook and ECC and those established for a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates;
- Comply with and adhere to the behavioral standards identified in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

4. Prohibited Conduct

What Conduct is Prohibited for Extracurricular Activity Participants?

Category A Violations:

- Engaging in theft, destruction, or misuse of school district property;
- Engaging in hazing, harassment or bullying of others as defined by the Comstock ISD Student Code of Conduct;
- Buying, selling, giving, delivering, using, possessing, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance (without a proper prescription), or a dangerous drug at any time and regardless of whether the student is on school property or at a school-related activity; and
- Engaging in conduct prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct that is punishable by placement in DAEP or expulsion.

Category A Consequences:

First Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for 30 school days and will be placed on a behavior contract for 4 school weeks.

Second Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for 60 school days and will be placed on a behavior contract for 8 school weeks.

Third Offense:

The students will be suspended from participation from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. If the violation occurs within 3 school weeks of the end of the current school year, the student will be suspended for the remainder of the current school year and the entirety of the next semester, including any extracurricular activities or events during the summer months.

Fourth Offense:

The student's participation in **all** extracurricular activities will be revoked for the remainder of the time the student attends that campus.
(For example, the remainder of the student's high school career).

*Note: Students placed in DAEP are ineligible to participate in or attend extracurricular activities pursuant to Texas Education Code * 37.006(g).*

Note: The Standards of the ECC are independent of the Students Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in a student being disciplined under both standards.

Category B Violations:

- Being tardy to games, meetings, practices, performances, camps, and/or other events without permission from the activity sponsor or coach;
- Failing to return school property as directed where the property is valued at more than \$20;
- Being absent from games, meetings, practices, performances, camps, and/or other events without permission from the activity sponsor or coach;
- Maintaining or being identified on a website or blog that depicts behavior that is illegal or is sexual in nature;
- Engaging in acts of poor sportsmanship, such as cheating, using profane language, or taunting other participants;
- Being insubordinate to a coach or sponsor;
- Being disruptive during a game, meeting, practice, performance, camp, and/or other event;
- Violating the established rules or guidelines of a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates;
- Violating the District's standards for dress and grooming or the standards set for the specific extracurricular activity; and
- Engaging in general misconduct prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct.

Category B Consequences:

First Offense:

The student will receive a verbal warning and reprimand and will be directed to refrain from future violations.

Second Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for 30 school days and will be placed on a behavior contract for 4 school weeks.

Third Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for 60 school days and will be placed on a behavior contract for 8 school weeks.

Fourth Offense:

The students will be suspended from participation from **all** extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. If the violation occurs within 3 school weeks of the end of the current school year, the student will be suspended for the remainder of the current school year and the entirety of the next semester, including any extracurricular activities or events during the summer months. The student's participation in **all** extracurricular activities will be revoked for the remainder of the time the student attends that campus.

(For example, the remainder of the student's high school career).

Definition: “weeks” means school weeks, but also includes any non-school weeks in which an extracurricular competition or event occurs, such as camps during the summer or on school holidays.

Definition: “suspension” means that the student will not be permitted to participate in any competition, contest, scrimmage, performance, or election associated with an extracurricular activity. The student may continue to participate in practices.

5. Procedures

Who determines that a violation of the ECC has Occurred?

The activity sponsor or coach will determine whether a violation of the ECC has occurred and will assess the appropriate consequence.

How will Consequences be Assessed for the Different Violations of the ECC?

Consequences for violating the District’s ECC are assessed on the severity of the violation and the commission of prior ECC violations.

Is the Student Entitled to Participate in Extracurricular Activities?

No. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. As such, a student’s participation may be revoked at the District’s discretion.

How will Parents be Notified that a Violation of the ECC has Occurred?

Parents will be notified of all violations that result in suspension from participation in extracurricular activities. The activity sponsor or coach will contact the student and the student’s parent(s) via telephone or face-to-face conference within 5 school days from the time the activity sponsor or coach learns of such a violation of the ECC has occurred, discuss with them the applicable consequences, and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

What if a Parent Does Not Agree with the Decision?

All appeals will be addressed through the District’s complaint process, contained in the policies FNG (Legal) and (Local). A decision of the Comstock ISD Board of Trustees regarding an extracurricular activity complaint is final and is not appealable.

Comstock ISD is proud of the exceptional quality of our athletes and of our athletic program. We look forward to a great year. We know that by working together, we will have a successful

program that leads our students to develop positive character traits that will enable them to be disciplined and productive

6. Acknowledgement

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by Comstock ISD's Athletic Handbook and Extracurricular Code of Conduct for the 2010-2011 school year. I understand that I will be held accountable for the behavior expectations and consequences outlined in the Athletic Handbook and Extracurricular Code of Conduct. I understand that by participating in extracurricular activities, I am a representative of Comstock ISD and a role model to my peers and throughout the community; therefore, the Athletic Handbook and Extracurricular Code of Conduct governs my behavior at all times, and applies both on and off of school property. I understand that the behavior expectations of the Athletic Handbook and Extracurricular Code of Conduct are in addition to those included in the Comstock ISD Student Code of Conduct. I understand that violations of the behavior standards of the Athletic Handbook and Extracurricular Code of Conduct that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in my being disciplined under the Athletic Handbook and Extracurricular Code of Conduct, as well as the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Name:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: _____

Date: _____

Campus: Comstock JH / HS

Grade Level: _____