

Akins High School

Baseball Program

Team Handbook

2014-2015

PHILOSOPHY

Our basic philosophy is to develop good baseball players who play smart, strategic fundamental baseball as a team. More importantly we want them to learn what it means to have good character, what it means to play the game with integrity and what it means to have good work ethic. Family and school come first and we want our student-athletes to strive to go to college after they graduate from high school. We hope that they will have the opportunity to continue playing baseball in college, and we'll do our best to help them. We hope our players develop strong character and work ethics. They will respect each other, their coaches, themselves and the game of baseball. With every win or loss we hope that our players learn from their experiences. They are part of a team with a common goal, and they will share success and failure.

PLAYER CONDUCT

Players should play the game with pride and class. It is a privilege to play baseball for Akins High School and not a right. All coaches, players, fans, umpires and other school personnel should be treated with respect. Competition sometimes brings out the worst in people; however the coaching staff will not tolerate inappropriate conduct. Please remember that players represent their school, their baseball program, their community, their family and themselves. We expect them to show class at all times. Inappropriate behavior is grounds for discipline from the coaching staff

including suspension or removal from the baseball program. The use of profanity, throwing equipment, arguing or questioning an umpire or any other embarrassing demeaning or offensive behavior is strictly prohibited.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Student athletes are expected and required to attend all of their classes throughout the school day. If a student is marked as UNEXCUSED ABSENT during the day, the student athlete is ineligible for the day and not able to participate in games for that day. The student athlete is still required to attend practice and stay for the duration of that day's game or practice. **GO TO YOUR CLASSES!**

It is the PLAYER'S responsibility to communicate with their coach if they will miss a game or practice ASAP.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students are expected to establish high academic standards for themselves. Students are required to turn in a grade check every week signed by all teachers. Students who are in danger of academic ineligibility should consult their Coach immediately so that all avenues for assistance can be explored. There are consequences for not turning one in.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUGS

The Akins Baseball program has a zero tolerance policy. It is against the law and will not be tolerated within the program.

Players cited for using alcohol, tobacco or drugs will be disciplined at the discretion of the coaching staff and/or school up to and including suspension or removal from the baseball program.

TRYOUTS

Each student athlete will participate in a 2 day tryout. Players are expected to be at both days during the tryout process. During tryouts student athletes will participate in the following:

- individual athleticism evaluation
- physical conditioning evaluation
- offensive skill/capabilities evaluation
- defensive skill/capabilities evaluation
- intangibles (coachable, attitude, and work ethic) evaluation

Tryouts will be a PROCESS oriented evaluation, and not necessarily a RESULTS oriented evaluation. Coaches will be evaluating player's technique, mechanics, and adjustments and not just whether or not the player hits or fields the ball every time.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

- Strive to do your academic best; do not just settle for passing.
- Support and back-up your teammates on and off the field
- Be coachable, we know you bring a lot of experience but keep an open mind
- Do not transfer blame or make excuses. Look to yourself and only yourself
- Maximum effort at all times
- Be on time and be prepared for all baseball activities.

- Play together and play for each other.
- Accept your role on the team. If you do not like it, work harder to change it.
- Players will communicate directly with their coach on any issues they may have
- Lead by example on and off the field. Set the standard high for future Akins athletes to follow.
- Baseball is meant to be fun, HAVE FUN. Learn the game and enjoy the privilege of playing the game of baseball.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

The biggest role that parents can play is to support their student-athletes in school and with their athletic endeavors. Attendance and showing good sportsmanship at our games and functions is expected and greatly appreciated. Please remember to keep comments positive, whether they are to or about your own son, another player or parent, a coach, an umpire or any other opposing player, parent or coach. Parents represent the Akins Eagle Baseball program too.

- Insist on academic excellence
- Be Loyal to the program
- Support all the players in the program, not just your son
- Be good fans/representatives of Akins High School Baseball program
- Ask that your player communicate with the coach on issues first
- Let the players play, let the coaches coach

PLAYER LEVEL CHANGES

Moving student/athletes up from gold to navy or to varsity or moving student/athletes down from varsity to navy, navy or gold may take place throughout the season. When student athletes are being moved within the program, the coaching staff will talk with the student athlete(s) involved prior to making any level changes. This discussion will provide the reason(s) for the change.

OFFENSE AND CONSEQUENCES: Severity will be determined by the coach and will be dealt with at his discretion.

First Offense Consequence:

1. Coach and Student conference.
2. Discipline will be set by coach.

Second Offense Consequence:

1. Coach/Parent/Student Conference held.
2. Discipline will set by coach. Possible suspension or loss of playing time may occur.
3. Student will not be eligible for any school or District awards: All Dist., MVP, Most Improved, etc....

Third Offense Consequence:

1. Student will be dismissed from the program.
2. The Principal, Athletic Coordinator and Head coach will evaluate the situation upon completion of the baseball season to consider reinstatement for the following season.
 - a. During the calendar year, the student must be behavior/incident free from further offenses.

b. Appeals must be written to the Principal, Athletic Coordinator and Head Coach.

PLAYER INJURIES

All baseball players should report injuries to the coaching staff immediately, regardless if the injury occurred during a game, practice, or outside of the baseball field. Coaches must ensure that our players receive proper diagnosis as well as treatment for a quick and healthy recovery.

AWAY GAMES TRANSPORTATION

Buses are provided for all players to and from away games. Players are expected to ride the bus with their teammates to and from the away game location. Any exceptions must be cleared by the player's head coach prior to the day of the game. Players will demonstrate appropriate behavior while on the bus or they will be subject to discipline including, but not limited to suspension from games and/or practices.

SPRING BREAK

Austin Independent School District's spring break occurs every March. However, March is baseball season and thus all levels of the program will be holding practices as well as have scheduled games. All players are expected to be at every practice and game during spring break. In the event that a family commitment interferes with a game or practice, please notify Coach Velasquez ASAP so that arrangements can be discussed. Sub-varsity teams will be active Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of spring break only. Varsity

will scheduled is subject to change due to weather and district rules.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is an extension of you so, you are responsible for your social media posts and comments. Use good judgment, remember YOU represent Akins as a Student Athlete on and off the field! Any negative comments towards the team or questionable content will be addressed and will have consequences.



Player and Parent Agreement

Players will be unable to participate in team activities without this form completed and turned in.

I have read all of the information in the Akins Baseball Handbook. I understand what is expected of me as a member of the Akins Baseball Program and agree to follow all policies, procedures, and expectations throughout the school year.

Student Athlete's Printed Name

Student Athlete's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date