

# The Maroon Standard: A Parent's Guide to Supporting Austin High Athletics

The goal of Austin High Athletics is to promote high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and the development of good character as we compete & pursue victory. This guide outlines the core expectations for parents and provides clear procedures for communicating with our coaches and supporting our student-athletes.

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## Living Our Core Values

Being an Austin High student athlete means more than just competing; it means living out the **M.A.R.O.O.N.S.** values every day. As a parent, you are integral to reinforcing this culture. Your conduct at games, your conversations with your student athlete, and your interactions with our staff should reflect these standards.

<b>Our Values</b>	
<b>Motivated</b>	We are driven to work hard & achieve our goals.
<b>Accountable</b>	We take responsibility for our actions, on & off the field.
<b>Relentless</b>	We never give up & push ourselves to be 1% better every day.
<b>Outstanding</b>	We strive for excellence in everything we do.
<b>Optimistic</b>	We maintain a positive attitude, even when faced with challenges.
<b>Neighborly</b>	We show kindness & respect to everyone and participate in our community.
<b>Selfless</b>	We put the team first & support one another. We show up.

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## AUSTIN HIGH MAROONS ATHLETICS

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### The Foundation of Sportsmanship

Based on principles from the UIL parent handbook and Austin High's commitment to character, your conduct is vital to creating a positive environment. We expect all parents to uphold the values shared below.

#### Respect

- Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity.
- Always treat our Austin High coaches, teachers and administrators with respect.
- Do not go overboard complaining about an official's call or arguing with the game official, opponent fans or any other spectators. Find a respectful way to voice your displeasure.
- Do not shout instructions to players from the stands.
- Avoid disrespectful comments includes profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, taunting, or any action that demeans individuals the sport, or Austin High athletics.

#### Responsibility

- Stress that student-athletes are students first. Prioritize their academic, emotional, physical, and moral well-being first.
- Encourage your student athlete regardless of their play.
- Encourage all team members and have a team first mentality.
- Consistently exhibit good character and self-control. Avoid arguing, fighting or excessive displays of anger or frustration while at Austin High athletic events.
- Participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege, and your student athlete is expected to represent the team and Austin High School with honor, both on and off the field.

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### Parent/Coach Communication

Effective communication is essential and coaches do their best to share information with parents in a timely manner. Much of the communication from coaches goes directly to their student athletes, so be sure to discuss with them information they received from their coach.

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Coaches expect that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it at the appropriate time and place.

### What Parents Can Expect from an Austin High Coach

- Team practice and contest locations and times.
- Team requirements (fees, equipment, rules).
- Information on how the program will handle a player injury (note: players injured during a game or practice should see the Austin High trainers for evaluation).
- The coach's philosophy.
- Expectations for your student athlete and their Maroons team.

### What Austin High Coaches Expect from Parents

- Expressing concerns about their student athlete directly to the coach.
- Specific concerns regarding the coach's philosophy or expectations.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Their student athlete's commitment to their academics as well as the Maroons program.

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### Communication Procedures (When You Need to Meet)

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

#### Step 1: Parent and Head Coach Meeting

1. Call or email the head coach of your program to set up an appointment. If the coach cannot be reached, call or email the Austin High Athletic Coordinator to set up a meeting.
2. Think about what you expect to accomplish from the meeting.
3. Be professional and stick to discussing the facts.
4. Do not confront the coach before, during, or after practice or a game. These times are often emotional and do not promote resolution. Always wait 24 hours after a game before reaching out to the head coach.

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### Step 2: Meeting with the Athletic Coordinator (If Step 1 is Unsatisfactory)

If the meeting with the head coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Call or email the Austin High Athletic Coordinator, or Athletics Admin, to set up a meeting with the Athletic Coordinator or Associate Athletic Coordinator. The head coach may be part of this meeting.
  2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.
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### Spectator Behavior Expectations

When attending an Austin High athletic event, you are a guest of the school district. Your behavior reflects Austin High, AISD, and the entire program.

- Cheer for your team and enjoy the competition. Cheer loudly. Applaud great plays. Do not intimidate, negatively engage with, or ridicule the other team or its fans. Never yell at players on the opposing team.
  - Call out in positive manner players on the Austin High team. Recognize and show appreciation for good plays.
  - Respect Officials: Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Do not yell at officials or otherwise argue with them.
  - Use only cheers that support. Be a positive role model through your own actions.
  - Parents and spectators who engage in undesirable behaviors should be aware that the school can remove them from the premises and prohibit them from attending future contests. AISD and UIL have specific rules governing fan behavior.
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We appreciate your commitment to upholding the Maroon Standard. Stronger Together, Loyal Forever!