

BISON SCHOOL DISTRICT #52-1
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



2025-2026 EDITION
DREAM BELIEVE
SUCCEED

Revised 7/14/25

BISON CARDINAL ATHLETIC PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

We believe that the Bison Athletic Program will be a positive learning experience for all participants. Our athletes will be provided a sequential program focusing on fundamental and advanced skill development, competitive strategies, and teamwork. By creating this learning environment our program will allow players to not only develop into better players, but also to become more productive student athletes.

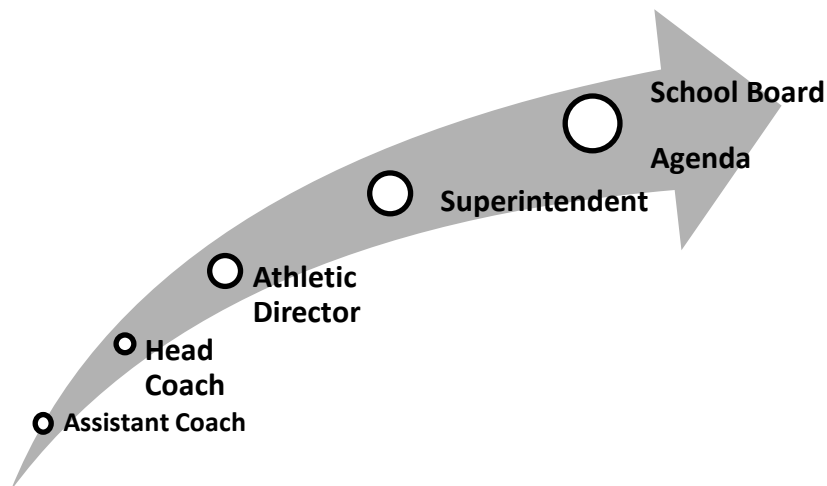
Players in these programs will strive for excellence. Excellence is achieving your very best; reaching your individual potential. Learning to do your best is a very important life lesson, which will serve the athletes on and off the court or playing field. Athletes will commit to excel in the classroom and in the athletic arena. Academic success is the priority of the coaching staff and must be the priority of each of our athletes.

Athletes will be given the opportunity to improve their skills, but they are required to maintain a positive attitude while making these improvements. The concepts of TEAM, EFFORT, and ATTITUDE will be strongly stressed. Players must put the team before themselves. They must possess the "Never Give Up" attitude, while demonstrating sportsmanship.

Revised 7/8/24

CARDINAL ATHLETICS PROGRAM

CHAIN OF COMMAND



The above graphic is an illustration of the chain of command to be used for any issue relating to the Bison Athletic Program.

PROGRAM GOALS

- ✓ Teach fundamental skills and allow each player to reach their potential.
- ✓ Emphasize knowledge and understanding of the game, athletes will become “students of the game”.
- ✓ Develop strong TEAM PLAYERS and POSITIVE LEADERS with character, strength, and skill, who demonstrate self-discipline, dedication, respect, and responsibility.
- ✓ Provide athletes the opportunity to enjoy playing competitive sports with a tradition and culture where athletes learn to win and want to win.

As a TEAM we will strive to meet ALL goals!

CARDINAL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR ATHLETES

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

- Students are allowed to participate in more than one sport/activity per season.
- To participate in an extra-curricular contest, the student must be in school the last three periods the day of the contest.
 - Exemptions to this policy include but are not limited to medical, educational, and family emergency absences that have been received **PRIOR TO ABSENCE**. This is left to administrative approval.

PHYSICALS & FORMS

Students participating in athletics need a physical according to the following schedule:

- Grades 3rd-5th will only need one physical good for three years.
- Grades 6th-12th will need a yearly physical.
 - Physicals must be completed prior to the first scheduled day of sport practices.
 - If physical has not been completed you will be expected to be at practice but will not be able to dress or participate.

All student athletes must register, complete forms, and physicals uploaded via the Bound website.

<https://www.gobound.com/sd/schools/bison>

EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOOL SPONSORED EQUIPMENT

All equipment/jerseys will be checked out clean and in good condition at the beginning of the season and should be turned in the same at the end of the season. Any damage will be assessed at the end of the season and if damage occurs items **will be replaced at the student/parents' expense**.

PRACTICE

The number of practices a team must have scheduled before the first competition varies by sport according to SDHSAA. The coach will have final say on individual readiness for first competition, and may limit play time if not properly conditioned.

- If school is cancelled due to weather all scheduled practices are also cancelled.
 - A non-mandatory open gym may be held in place of that practice at the discretion of, and with the permission of the Athletic Director or school Administration.

BEHAVIOR/CONDUCT

As a member of the Bison Athletic Program, you will be expected to conduct yourself with honor, pride, and class. Your behavior on and off the court or playing field, will be a reflection of you, our team, the coaching staff, our school, and our community. Behave in a manner that will uphold the integrity of this program and yourself.

TEAM TRAVEL

To ride home with anyone other than the team/coach/bus, coaching staff must be notified by parents.

- The District will provide a bus and driver for all JV and Varsity competitions. The bus is not provided for JH ONLY events. If a school vehicle is available the JH Coach will drive it, to provide team transportation.
- Students must be respectful on bus rides. This includes but is not limited to.
 - Adhere to the rules of the bus driver. They are a huge part of our program!
 - Watch your language and topics that are being discussed.
 - Pick up your trash.
 - Do not break or damage any property in or on the bus/vehicle.

COMMUNICATION

Group texting, Snapchat and Facebook messenger should not be used. If for any reason you need to contact a coach, a phone call or email would be appreciated, adhering to the 24 hour rule.

SCHOOL

You are a student-athlete. The student part comes first and is the reason that we are here. Getting help with schoolwork will be supported. If you are late to practice or miss a practice for this reason, please bring a note from the teacher you were working with. You are expected to be a respectful and responsible student in the classroom.

See eligibility policy following:

Eligibility 7-2013

To be eligible and participate in extracurricular programs (as defined below), a student must carry 5 academic units, be in school the last three periods the day of the contest, and maintain a D-. Exemptions to this policy include but are not limited to medical, educational and family emergency absences that have received PRIOR administrative approval.

Deficiency reports will be run on infinite campus 4 times per quarter; at approximately 2.5 weeks, midterm, approximately 7 weeks, and end of quarter. Dates will be included along with the annual school calendar. Ineligibility becomes effective the day following the report and students will remain ineligible until the next eligibility report is ran.

Deficient athletes will not be allowed to travel to away competitions with team.

Ineligibility does not affect a student in physical education nor does it affect practicing for any non-academic activity. Students may practice but not participate while they are ineligible.

MEDIA USAGE

Follow SDHSAA guidelines for media usage and video recording.

EXTRACURRICULAR TRAINING RULES

Student participation in extracurricular programs is a privilege and, therefore subject to eligibility requirements which go beyond normal requirements for the right to attend the public school's curricular education program.

Extracurricular programs for Bison School District include: Varsity & JV Football, Video Crew, Boys & Girls Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Volleyball, All Statisticians, All Student Managers, Track Students, School Play, FCCLA (as per anything outside the classroom), Oral Interp., FFA, National Honor Society, Pep Band, All State Band, All State Chorus, Small Group Contests, Cheerleaders, Prom, School Dances and all other school sponsored or affiliated activities or contests where the students represent the Bison School District.

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, and Vaping are prohibited:

If a violation occurs off campus, on school property, in vehicles used to transport students to/from school events, or while attending school-sponsored events, the student will face accountability for trainin rule violations.

First offense:

The first offense will result in missing two upcoming events. Students will still be expected to participate in practices but will not travel to away games. Home game attendance will be at the coach's discretion.

Second offense:

A second offense will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Please Note: If time is not completed in a given school year, the time left is carried in the next school year, beginning with the first day of practice in the fall.

BISON HIGH SCHOOL OVERNIGHT SPORTING EVENTS & FIELD TRIPS

Rules of Conduct

All students on overnight field trips will abide by the following rules:

1. All school rules apply while traveling. This includes the use of inappropriate language, dress code, and all other school rules and policies as indicated in the student handbook.
2. Students will be in groups at all times and assigned to a chaperone. Students will follow the set itinerary and remain with their groups.
Absolutely, no one goes anywhere off hotel/lodging premises without a chaperone.
3. Malicious or willful damage or theft of property by a student shall result in the student being returned to the district. Parents and students assume full financial responsibility for damages, transportation, and other associated cost.
4. Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or any illegal drugs will result in notification of proper authorities and possible immediate return of the student to the district at the parent's expense. If illegal activity results in detention by authorities, parents shall have the responsibility for all intervention, counsel, and transportation. Possessing or being under the influence of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol will result in an administrative disciplinary action of suspension upon return to school.
5. All medications (prescriptions and non-prescriptions) are to be held by the staff member in charge of the trip. Special consideration is given to those with asthma inhalers and those who need medication unexpectedly throughout the day. All medication containers must be labeled with the student's name. The medical release form should include parental approval for administration of non-prescription medications. None should be given out without checking for allergies and parent permission.
6. Males shall not be allowed in the rooms of females and females shall not be allowed in the rooms of males at any time, for any reason. If this occurs, an administrative disciplinary action will occur. No sexual or inappropriate activity or contact is permitted on overnight trips.
7. No room service is allowed. No pay per view movies or long distance phone calls are to be made from the room.
8. Curfew will be established nightly and adhered to strictly by all students. "Curfew" means that students are to be in their assigned rooms at the designated time. Students are not to leave their rooms after bed check. A violation of curfew will result in administrative disciplinary action.
9. Check your hotel room upon arrival. If there is any existing damage, immediately report it to your adult advisor since you will be held responsible for any damage to your room.
10. Each chaperone will be assigned rooms to monitor during the time in the hotel. Adjoining rooms must be locked at all times. Please do a head check of each assigned room before taping students in each night. Chaperones will monitor the hallways or hire a security firm to be sure students remain in their room. Lights out is usually an hour after we return to the hotel from the day's itinerary. Lights out means that students are to be in their room with the lights off, TV off, and no telephone activity. The rooms must be quiet, and students need to respect other guests in the hotel.
11. Each chaperone will keep 1 key per assigned room to be used in case of emergencies. This key will not be used to enter the room unless it is deemed necessary by the designated chaperone and there are two chaperones present. Luggage, rooms, etc., are subject to search at any time if chaperones have reasonable suspicion that the luggage or personal items contain contraband.
12. When checking rooms before checkout, if there is trash all over and the furniture is moved, please call the students back to put the room back in its original condition.
13. The trip organizer shall hold a mandatory meeting with parents, students, and chaperones prior to the trip. Failure of the parent to attend the meeting may result in the student not participating in the activity.
14. If a student becomes a severe discipline problem, the parent(s) will be contacted. If conduct requires immediate departure, it will be at the parents' expense.
15. Students shall be instructed not to advise others about hotel locations and are not to let visitors into their room. Any family visitations during the trip should be pre-arranged and approved in advance by the school.

16. Emergency Communication: An emergency protocol must be in place between staff and adults supervising students and the staff member in charge and school site. Communication should include at a minimum:

- a. Cell phone numbers for all adults on the trip and the school emergency contact number
- b. List of students assigned to each supervising adult
- c. List of applicable travel destination phone numbers: hotel, bus company, etc.

I, _____ understand that failure to comply with any of the Bison School District overnight sports field trip rules may result in my immediate departure from the trip and/or penalties outlined in the Student Handbook or established rules of the organization involved in the trip. Any violation of law or trip rules may result in my parents being contacted immediately and the proper authorities being notified.

Student Signature: _____ Date : _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bison School District

**Medical and Insurance Information and
Parent Consent for Student Travel and Medical Treatment**

Student Name _____
Last First MI

Home Address _____ Home Phone _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Wk Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Cell Phone Provider _____ Email _____

Local Relative/Neighbor _____ Phone _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

List known allergies (food, medications, etc.) If none, so state _____

List special medical problems. If none, so state _____

List any medication(s) the student is presently taking and the purpose. If none, so state _____

If your child requires medication (prescription or non-prescription) please keep medications in original containers and be sure they are labeled with the child's name. Medications should be left with the trip advisor or a designated chaperone who will administer the medication.

I, the undersigned, being the parent or the legal guardian of _____ DOB _____

Hereby grant permission for the above name student to receive the above stated medication on our school sponsored trip by an adult chaperone. I release the school and its employees from any claims or liability connected with its reliance on the permission.

Signature of responsible party: _____ Relationship to student: _____

MEDICAL INSURANCE INFORMATION

Medical Insurance Company _____ Policy # _____

Student Social Security # _____ Group/Plan # _____

Current Physician _____ Phone #: _____ Ins Co. Phone # _____

Please attach a copy of your medical insurance identification card.

If you do not have medical insurance coverage please read and sign the following:

For and in consideration of emergency services and goods rendered by or through the attending physician(s), the undersigned hereby guarantees payment in full immediately upon receipt of the final billing.

Signature of responsible party: _____ Relationship to student _____

CONSENT FOR TRAVEL AND FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

I, the undersigned, being the parent or the legal guardian of _____ DOB _____

Hereby grant permission for the above named student to travel to **Bison School Events**, during the **2023-2024 school year** and hereby grant authorization to the coach/supervisor(s)/chaperone(s) of this school trip/event to obtain any emergency medical and/or surgical treatment and procedures from a physician or hospital emergency room physician on behalf of the above named minor. I also grant permission for the coach/ supervisor(s)/chaperone(s) to administer medication as indicated by physician.

Signature of person giving consent Date Relationship to student

Please complete and return signed form to the school on date received.

BISON SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC FACILITIES/WEIGHT ROOM WAIVER
Must be updated annually

IN CONSIDERATION of being given the opportunity to participate in using the Bison School Athletic Facilities' and Weight Room, I, for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree and represent that I understand the nature of athletic activities and weightlifting, and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity.
2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that (a.) ATHLETIC AND WEIGHTLIFTING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death (Risks"); (b.) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place or the negligence of the names below; (c.) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time: and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.
3. AGREE AND WARRANT that I will examine and inspect each Activity in which I take part and that, if I observe any condition which I consider to be unacceptably hazardous or dangerous, I will notify the proper authority in charge of the facilities' and will refuse to take part in the activity until the condition has been corrected to my satisfaction.
4. HEREBY RELEASE, discharge, and covenant not to sue Bison School District, the school board, their administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers and employees, other participating organizers, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered of the Releasees herein) from all liability, claims, demands, losses or damages on my account caused or allege to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the releasees or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations; and I further agree that if, despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the releasees, from any litigation's expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as a result of such claim.

PARENTAL CONSENT

I, the minor's parent and/or legal guardian, understand the nature of athletic and weightlifting activities and the minor's experience and capabilities and believe the minor to be qualified to participate in such activity. I hereby release, discharge, covenant not to sue, and AGREE TO IMDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the releases' from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages on the minor's account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or part by the operations, and further agree that if, despite this release, I, the minor, or anyone on the minor's behalf makes a claim against any of the above releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the releases' from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss liability, damage, or cost if any may incur as the result of any such claim.

Please sign on back and return to office.

Name of Participant: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____