

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



STUDENT – ATHLETE

HANDBOOK

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I. WEATHERFORD COLLEGE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS PROGRAM

A. MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

The Weatherford College Intercollegiate Athletics program exists for the growth and development of its students. Intercollegiate athletics, operating under the principles of fair play and amateurism, provides equal opportunity for talented students to participate in a nationally competitive sports program that is values-based and educationally sound.

The philosophy of the Athletics Department at Weatherford College is one of integrity, ethics, and equality. The athletics department, as an integral part of the total education process at Weatherford College, strives to bring pride and loyalty to the institution. Aside from directly influencing the development of the student-athletes to their highest potential in an atmosphere of competition, we function within the framework of an educational society.

Weatherford College Athletics strive to earn and maintain a high degree of recognition and respect for the institution from those among the student body, faculty, administration, community, and alumni. A high degree of professionalism and a working relationship of cooperation in the best interest of the institution, and the student-athlete will display the athletics department as an integral part of the institution. The foundational goal of Weatherford College Athletics is for every student-athlete, who completes his/her eligibility, to graduate or continue on to a four-year program.

B. GENERAL STATEMENT OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Weatherford College's athletics policy is consistent with the mission and objectives of the college as stated in the current catalog. The basic aims of the intercollegiate athletics program are as follows:

1. To provide a well-rounded schedule of intercollegiate athletic competition for men and women in sports designed to encourage participation by a segment of the student body. The program complements and is consistent with the educational goals of the institution.
2. To encourage and develop physical fitness; to develop physical skills and emotional control; to foster good sportsmanship, self-discipline, school spirit and loyalty for both participants and spectators; and to present opportunities to participate at a high level of competition.
3. To provide an opportunity for the student body to witness and enjoy good intercollegiate athletic competition.
4. To offer the student body a rallying point and develop student esprit de corps.
5. To provide a vehicle by which Weatherford College may be projected to various communities and the media.

II. ATHLETICS GOVERNING ASSOCIATION

- A. In the conduct of intercollegiate athletics, the College Administration subscribes to the athletic policies of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA). If you have any questions regarding NJCAA and/or NIRA, or their rules, please ask your coach or the Director of Athletics.

- B. Weatherford College is a member of the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference (NTJCAC) and the Southwest Region of the NIRA.

Institution	Location
Cisco Junior College	Cisco, TX
Collin County Community College	Plano, TX
Grayson County College	Denison, TX
Hill College	Hillsboro, TX
McLennan Community College	Waco, TX
North Central Texas College	Corinth, TX
Ranger College	Ranger, TX
Southwestern Christian College	Terrell, TX
Temple College	Temple, TX
Vernon College	Vernon, TX

III. GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

A. CODE OF ETHICS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

The athletic program at Weatherford College promotes the personal growth and education of student-athletes. Opportunities are provided to represent the school, learn the art of being a team member, and enrich the community. While fairness and diversity are goals in implementation of the program, athletes may sacrifice some individual rights and privileges when accepting requirements of team membership.

To this end, the Department of Athletics has adopted a standard of ethical conduct and behavioral expectations for all athletes at Weatherford College. A balanced student-athlete will be a responsible citizen, who achieves academically and performs athletically. Violation of this code of conduct is a significant event and calls for disciplinary action.

1. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

It is a privilege and not a right to be a student-athlete at Weatherford College. On and off campus and in cyberspace communities, every student-athlete is expected to conduct himself or herself in a manner that exhibits honor and respect to a team, department, College and surrounding community for a duration of his or her tenure as a student-athlete. As a student-athlete at WC, you are expected to conform to all federal, state, and local laws as well as College regulations regarding academics, residence life, and general conduct. Students penalized for violating public laws are not exempt from further prosecution by College authorities if actions also violate College rules. In addition, the athletic department and respective coaches reserve the right to implement additional sanctions.

Weatherford College expects its student-athletes to demonstrate academic integrity and accomplishment, train and strive for their highest degree of athletic excellence and

sportsmanship, and to conduct themselves responsibly as members of the campus and larger community.

Every student-athlete is required to report his or her violations of the Code of Conduct to his or her Head Coach or to the Director of Athletics within 24 hours of such violation. This obligation is in effect year-round, including semester and summer breaks.

2. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- a. Dishonesty.
- b. Academic Dishonesty:
- c. Alcohol: Prohibited acts include 1) possessing or consuming alcohol if under the age of 21, 2) Operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, 3) Misrepresenting one's age for the purpose of purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol, 4) Purchasing, furnishing, or serving alcohol to or for an underage person, 5) Public intoxication, 6) Violations of additional Team Rules regarding alcohol use, and/or 7) Consumption of alcohol during team travel or team functions.
- d. Illegal/Prohibited Drug Use or Possession: this includes tobacco product usage, according to the NJCAA current rules.
- e. Hazing.
- f. Cyberspace (including all social networking websites): Student-athletes are permitted to have profiles on social networking websites such as Facebook or Twitter, provided that 1) no offensive or inappropriate pictures are posted, 2) no offensive or inappropriate comments are posted and/or 3) any information placed on the website(s) does not violate the ethics and intent behind the WC Student Code of Conduct, the student-athlete code of conduct, and any other state, federal, or local laws.
- g. Violence.
- h. Sexual Assault.
- i. Disrespect.
- j. Poor Sportsmanship..
- k. Gambling and Bribery: Student-athletes shall not knowingly 1) Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition, 2) Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team, 3) Accept a bet on any team representing the institution, 4) Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item that has tangible value (e.g. cash, clothing, equipment, meals), and/or 5) Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletic or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.

I. Unexcused Class Absences and Poor Academic Performance.

m. Failure to Meet Team Obligations.

B. COACH'S JURISDICTION/TEAM RULES

The coach is responsible for the total conduct of his or her sport program. All policies established by the coach must be in the best interest of the student-athlete and shall be enforced without prejudice. All training rules and rules of curfew or conduct established by the coach shall be given to each team member prior to the beginning of the season or at the time they are established. All policies related to weight loss or diet shall be cleared with the team doctor or Athletic Trainer prior to being established. Under no circumstances may fluids be denied to athletes during training periods. Any member of the WC Athletics Department Coaching Staff may enter your room for random room inspections at any time of the day or night. Any incident or violation of team rules or policies will be handled on a case by case basis by the coach.

C. PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION

Official transcripts of all previous schools, colleges, and universities attended must be on file in the Weatherford College Student Services Office. This includes an official high school transcript. Transcripts should be on file prior to enrollment, but must be received before the eligibility roster is submitted to the National Office. Physical examinations must be done on a yearly basis and on file in the Athletic Training Office prior to any participation in your designated sports, including practices. Medical information will be maintained and kept on file with the Athletic Trainer. Health insurance information must be provided by each student athlete and a copy of the family health insurance card will be kept on file.

D. INTRAMURAL PARTICIPATION

Participation is not allowed unless specific approval is given by the coach. If participation is allowed, members of intercollegiate athletics teams are not permitted to participate in intramural competition in the same sport, e.g., an intercollegiate basketball player may not enter intramural basketball competition.

E. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

You are provided with the best equipment and uniforms we can afford for your sport. Each student-athlete is expected to care for equipment and uniforms that are issued and to be sure that they are in the inventory before leaving for summer vacation. Replacement for lost or unduly damaged articles is the student-athlete's responsibility. A hold will be placed on each student-athlete's record who does not return issued equipment.

F. PLAYER INFORMATION RELEASE POLICIES

“The student-athlete’s signature on the hard copy gives the college permission to release transcripts to the NJCAA (Buckley Amendment-Public Law 93-380), and it also verifies that all information on the eligibility form pertaining to the student-athlete is correct and complete.” NJCAA By-Law Article V, Section 13.A. This also gives athletic personnel permission to release transcripts to 4 year schools, as requested and approved by the coach, for transfer placement.

G. MEDIA RELATIONS POLICIES

When speaking with media members, student-athletes should always present themselves in a dignified manner. Student-athletes should respond truthfully to questions without making negative comments that will have an adverse effect on the team or the College. NEVER blame a loss on officiating or make a negative comment about an opponent.

H. GRIEVANCES/APPEALS

1. Your first step with any concerns, suggestions, complaints or compliments should always be with your coach. This allows the coaching staff to work any situation to the greatest benefit of the team and you. The coaching staff at Weatherford College is genuinely interested with your well-being and concerns.
2. After taking the first step, if your concern has not been resolved, then schedule an appointment with the Director or Assistant Director of Athletics.

I. DRUG TESTING POLICY

Weatherford College encourages its athletes to refrain from use of illegal drugs. By participating in the athletic program, the student athlete is making a personal commitment to remain free of drug use.

Policy

It shall be the policy of Weatherford College to take responsible action to recognize and prevent any drug abuse problems among its student-athletes. The Weatherford College Athletics Department believes that the use of drugs has a detrimental and adverse effect on a person’s conditioning and physical well-being. In the best interest of all concerned and to maintain the quality and integrity of the sports program at Weatherford College, the Athletics Department promotes and supports drug education and awareness.

Prohibited Drugs

Any class of drug which will alter athletic performances include: alcohol, anabolic steroids, amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, any chemical substance that is illegal according to state and federal statutes is prohibited. Tobacco product use will be prohibited at all practices, contests, and/or sanctioned NIRA, NJCAA or Weatherford College events. (See a complete listing of illegal substances in the Weatherford College Student Handbook.)

Purpose

1. To prevent possible drug use, a drug testing program will be used to discourage student athletes' drug experimentation and the possible dependence.
2. To counsel student-athletes who test positive for specific illegal drugs.

Procedures for Testing

1. Athletes from each sport can be randomly selected each semester to be drug tested. The college will pay for all initial drug tests. Drug testing may be based on suspicion!
2. The method of testing will be one of the following: urinalysis, mouth swab, or blood. The collection and coding of specimen samples are executed in a manner insuring total confidentiality and identification. All testing is done off-campus at a licensed drug testing center.
3. A student refusing testing after being contacted will be considered a positive test.

Negative Test Results

Results of the test will be reported directly to the Director of Athletics and to the respective athlete's head coach.

Positive Test Results

1. The Director of Athletics and coach will review the positive results. The coach will have a personal conference with the student-athlete.
2. A student-athlete receiving a positive test result will be subject to any of the following consequences: counseling program, suspension from practices and/or games, suspension from the team, or suspension from school.

Confidential Information

All information about athletes selected to be tested, procedures taken, results, appeals, and rehab program is confidential. The rights of the student will be protected.

J. ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM RULES

Horseplay and foul language will not be tolerated. Hours of the athletic training room will be variable due to the nature of the work. General rules for the training area are as follows:

1. No towels are to be taken from the athletic training room.
2. Athletic training staff will not be responsible for lost articles or thefts.
3. Be on time for taping or treatments.
4. Show courtesy and respect to the athletic training staff.

K. RISK OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Every student-athlete should be aware that there are certain risks when participating in athletics. Chances of injury are high in baseball, softball, basketball, and rodeo. It is very important that student-athletes follow rules set forth by the coaching staff pertaining to training, practice procedures, travel, game, use of equipment, etc.

L. LOCKER ROOMS, SHOWER AREA, TOWELS

Student-athletes will be issued lockers. For your own protection, valuables such as watches, cell phones, money, books, etc., should not be left in the locker room unless locked up. Do not place dirty laundry in lockers and don't give your locker combination to others.

M. INSURANCE COVERAGE

Primary health insurance coverage for each student-athlete is highly recommended and should be on file with the Athletic Trainer. However, your attention is called to the following statements:

1. The insurance we carry at Weatherford College is a supplemental/secondary athletic policy. Any injury to the athlete would be applied to your primary policy. Any cost your insurance company does not pick up, we will submit to our insurance company.
2. All bills must be sent to your primary coverage company first before our athletic policy can go into effect.
3. It is important to know that our insurance will only cover injuries that are athletically related and occur under the direct supervision of the coaching staff. Bills not paid by your primary insurer must be presented to the Athletic Trainer.
4. Student-athletes must pass a physical examination by a physician or certified medical personnel before reporting for practice and before being insured.
5. Report to the Athletic Trainer within 24 hours of the first occurrence of symptoms for an evaluation. Referral decisions will be made by the athletic training staff.
6. Injuries that are pre-existing or are determined to be the result of a pre-existing condition will not be covered by Weatherford College insurance policy.

*Except for absolute emergencies, you must see our Athletic Trainer PRIOR to any doctor or clinic visit.

N. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The NJCAA and NIRA eligibility rules require that student-athletes maintain academic eligibility. It is your responsibility to know these rules, but generally you must pass 12 hours per full time semester that you have been enrolled. Coaches and Weatherford College personnel will monitor student-athletes class attendance and performance on a regular basis. If problems arise that cause a student-athlete to drop below 12 hours, the student-athlete must contact the Head Coach before dropping. Students who have excessive absences may be administratively removed from the class by the instructor.

O. ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Weatherford College is very interested in the academic progress of its student-athletes. Academic progress should be the primary objective of all student-athletes. The Weatherford College staff will attempt to help each student-athlete be academically successful. Each student-athlete must do his or her part to ensure success. Attending class is required for each student-athlete. Due to the travel to athletic contests, some classes will be missed. Arrangements with the instructors should be made **in advance** for these unavoidable absences. Student-athletes should talk with their instructors regularly, get all assignments in when required, and always be cooperative. If there is a problem, the instructor should be contacted as soon as the problem is evident. The Success Connection and the Streib Center are available to each student for tutoring purposes.

P. SCHOLARSHIPS

The Weatherford College Athletic Department has scholarships to cover tuition, fees, books, room and board awards are determined by each head coach within their budget. Education related expenses can also be met through Pell Grants, student loans, and work-study. The college will honor the scholarship of any student-athlete injured or cut from the squad during their respective activity during the year covered by the letter of intent.

It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that the correct aid is charged for bookstore purchases.

If you add or drop a class after classes begin, it is your responsibility to notify financial aid immediately, so they can adjust your scholarship, if needed.

Unless, due to a college error, athletic scholarships will not be applied to student accounts or refunded to students after census (count) day.

Q. PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW AT WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

• Brent Baker – Interim President	Mince Building, UL	817-598-6271
• Bob McKinley – A.D. & Basketball Coach	BJCG Athletic Ctr	817-598-6256
• Keri Waller – Athletic Admin Asst	BJCG Athletic Ctr	817-598-6355
• Jeff Lightfoot – Asst. A.D. & Baseball Coach	R. Williams Ball Park	817-598-6353
• Chad Massengale–Asst Baseball Coach	R. Williams Ball Park	817-598-6257
• Johnny Emmons – Rodeo Coach	Ag Building	817-598-6247
• Mark Osina – Men’s Basketball	BJCG Athletic Ctr	817-598-6351
• Brittne Haley – Asst Women’s Basketball	BJCG Athletic Ctr	817-598-6258
• Haylee Williams – Softball Coach	Softball Field	817-598-6208
• Chris Flanagan – Asst Softball Coach	Softball Field	817-598-8845
• Doug Jefferson – Assoc. Dean, Athl Advisor	Student Services, LL	817-598-6247
• Adam Finley – Exec. Dean, Student Services	Student Services, LL	817-598-8831
• Faith Stiffler - Housing	Coyote Village	817-598-8874
• Erin Davidson – Food Services	Doss Student Center	817-598-6285
• Andra Cantrell -Business Services	Business Building, LL	817-598-6260
• Gwen Crabtree – Director, Testing	Student Services, UL	817-598-6488
• Carleton Dunn - Bookstore	Doss Student Center	817-598-6286
• Chief Paul Stone-Campus Police	Couts Hall, LL	817-598-6316
• John Turntine – Director of Student Life	Doss Student Center	817-598-6482