

# SOMERSET ACADEMY

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## BROOKS

**2024-2025**

## **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**



## **Athletic Code of Conduct Notification Letter**

Dear Parents:

This booklet contains the Athletic Code of Conduct for Somerset Academy Brooks. It is designed to inform you and your athlete of the type of conduct expected in Somerset Academy Brooks. It is important that you and your athlete review this information together so that you will clearly understand the rules of acceptable conduct and the consequences of violations of established rules. With your support and encouragement, I am confident your student will meet behavioral expectations of the Somerset Academy Brooks Program. Those who fail to do so may expect to experience normal discipline consequences per the Student Code of Conduct, suspension, or removal from the athletic program.

Please sign this booklet's back page so we may know you have received and reviewed this Code of Conduct with your athlete. Please tear it out and return the completed form to your athlete's coach. The athlete will not compete in a contest until this form has been turned into the coach. If you have any questions relating to this Athletic Code of Conduct, please email me.

Sincerely,

Charles Pena

[Charles.pena@somersetacademytx.org](mailto:Charles.pena@somersetacademytx.org)

Athletic Director

## **Code of Conduct: Athletics 2024-2025**

Athletics is an integral part of the total educational process. There are many lessons to be learned through participation in athletics – lessons that will help you long into your adult life and after your athletic career is over. The daily practices of self-discipline, hard work, respect for authority and teammates, responsibility to your team and cooperation to work, responsibility to achieve a common goal are just a few lessons which will smooth your transition into adulthood, as well as make us a great team! Participation in athletics is a privilege. Students who take advantage of this privilege by failing to practice responsibility for the team, or follow team policy, may lose their athletic privilege.

Acceptable conduct is important because an athlete is an integral part of a team concept, and his/her behavior reflects the entire program. Furthermore, when an athlete competes against another school at their site, he/she represents our school and all that it stands for. Striving to earn respect for yourself, your school and your community should be a primary goal for all who participate in athletics.

While we take immense pride in winning, we do not condone “winning at any cost” and we discourage all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times, the athletic program must be conducted in such a way to justify it as an educational activity and opportunity.

It is your responsibility to read through and understand the enclosed team rules to reduce the likelihood of a misunderstanding. If you see a rule and you do not understand, it is your responsibility to get clarification from the Athletic Director. It is important that we cover these rules so that everyone knows what to expect in certain situations. We expect the best from you. All Somerset Academy Brooks student-athletes are expected to abide by the following guidelines.

**Note: The Athletic Department is not, and will not be held, responsible for any personal items lost, stolen, or damaged.**

### **ATHLETIC FEE:**

The 2024-2025 athletic sports fee will be due **3 weeks** from the start of the season. The athletic sports fee can be paid by cash or check. Payments should go to the Athletic Director or the

Athletic Clerk, Jesse Flores only. The fee for students playing football is \$225 and the fee for all other sports is \$125. Students pay one fee for the entire school year, even if they play multiple sports.

Fees must be paid on time. If not paid by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the season, we reserve the right to not allow the student to participate. Failure to pay a fee on time will result in removal from an activity until the fee is paid. Also, a student athlete will not be allowed to begin a new athletic season until the Athletic Fee for that activity is paid up to date. By paying this fee, it does not guarantee a right to play in a contest. However, it does provide an opportunity to be part of a successful program that will help enrich a student athlete's future development.

### **ATHLETICS CLASS:**

All Athletes (Grades 6-12) who want to participate in any sport are encouraged to be in the athletics class if their class schedule permits. It is important for each athlete, in preparing themselves for the upcoming sport, to be involved in an off-season weight training and conditioning program. Once you are in the Athletic class, you are expected to stay in the class. Athletes are required to dress out and wear proper attire for class. This includes no jewelry and no gum and proper uniform.

### **ALCOHOL:**

No student athlete, while on or off campus, should sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol.

The school will follow the Student Code of Conduct regarding any alcohol use and has a zero-tolerance policy.

### **APPEARANCE:**

Boys will need to be clean shaven during their sport season. Hair should not exceed the shirt collar or block eyes during practices and games – please pull your hair back or up in a ponytail. No excessive piercings, one piercing per ear. Tattoos must always be covered during practices and games. All other forms of dress code will comply with Somerset Academy Brooks dress code policy.

### **ARRESTS:**

Citations or arrests on or off campus regarding smoking, using/selling or possession of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, drinking alcoholic beverages, vandalism or any behavior which causes a disruption to the team or Somerset Academy Brooks may result in suspension or dismissal from the Athletics program and consequences rendered per the Student Code of Conduct. Any student or parent/guardian from Somerset Academy Brooks must notify the head coach and the

Athletic Director immediately upon any arrest or citation. Failure to notify may result in suspension or dismissal from the Athletics program.

### **ATTENDING SCHOOL AND ALL WORKOUTS EVERYDAY:**

Student-Athletes are required to attend all their classes and workouts every day unless they are too physically sick to attend school. If you are going to miss the after-school workout, you are required to call the front office and contact your coach via Parent Square or email so that your absence from athletics will be excused. Be sure medical documentation or a note from your parent/guardian is sent to your coach so that he/she is aware. If you miss a workout, you are required to make up the conditioning you missed during your absence. Coaches reserve the right to revoke playing privileges until make-up work is done and is completed when necessary. Both excused and unexcused absences must be made up. If you make your own decision not to practice without notifying your coach or the Athletics department, playing time for the next contest will be decided at the coach's discretion. Excessive absences will jeopardize your position, role on the team, or even opportunity within the program. All athletes who need to attend tutoring will be excused from practice. Once tutoring is finished, athletes should return to practice with a note from the teacher.

### **BANQUET AND AWARDS:**

The Somerset Academy Brooks Athletic Department hosts two banquets, one will take place in the fall, and one in the spring. Each Athlete will receive one ticket, and two guests will be invited to attend. The coaches will be given athletic awards, subject to final approval by the Athletic Director. Athletes must finish the entire season to receive an award.

### **BE ON TIME:**

Student-athletes must be present for class when the bell rings for each period. Students marked absent, excused, or unexcused may not participate in practice or competitions on the day of their absence. A student who leaves campus without clearance from the office will be considered truant and consequences will be given.

Being on time for practice, pre-game meetings, athletics class, and all scheduled meetings is a mandatory requirement of the program. If you cannot be on time, it is your responsibility to contact the coach to let him/her know exactly where you are and why you will be absent or late.

**Sending a note or a message with someone else is not acceptable.**

### **BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT:**

Somerset Academy Brooks takes pride in the athletics program. Student-athletes should represent the campus by being an example through leadership, being respectful, responsible, present, and safe.

## **CELL PHONES:**

Somerset Academy Brooks has a No cell phone policy and there are no exceptions to this rule. This includes no cell phone use on the bus while traveling to practice or competitions. Coaches can confiscate phones at any time, due to violation of the cell phone policy. Parent communication is complete through the PARENT SQUARE app and correspondence to and from games will be done by the Coach.

## **CLASSROOM CONDUCT:**

Athletes are expected to be in class on time and follow classroom expectations. Any athlete who receives a discipline referral will serve their consequence from the school and the athletics program.

*Discipline Referral:* Failure to abide by school policies and procedures by the instructor will require the use of the 3-strike policy set by the Athletic Department. For more information scroll down to Flagrant violation.

Fighting in school or at school-related activities will be punishable according to the Somerset Academies of Texas Student Code of Conduct.

All incidents will be reviewed by the administration and the Athletic Director on a case-by-case basis.

## **CONFLICT RESOLUTION:**

If a situation arises in which there is a disagreement between coach and player/parent, the following steps must be taken to resolve the situation.

### ***Middle / High School***

1. Student-athletes should speak to the Head Coach about their concerns.
2. Student-athlete/Guardian should request to meet or email the Head Coach of that sport regarding their concerns.
3. Student/Guardian should request to meet or email the Athletic Director about concerns.
4. If necessary, the Student/Guardian can request a meeting or email the principal of the situation.
5. If necessary, the principal may call a meeting for all parties to resolve any conflicts.

## **CONTINUOUS PARTICIPATION IN A SPORT:**

Athletes will need to be consistent and committed to participation in sports. Athletes are not permitted to try out, make the team, quit, and then return to the sport. If an athlete cannot

commit to the sport fully after making the team, please communicate with the Head Coach and/or Athletic Director.

### **DRESS CODE:**

Student athletes will follow the Somerset Academy Brooks student handbook on dress code. This includes No Crocs or Slides.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Somerset Academy follows the no pass, no play requirement per UIL academic expectations.

Athletes who fail the nine-week Report Card cycle will become ineligible and placed on academic probation for three weeks. At the three-week point, the athlete must be passing **all classes** to regain eligibility. If failure continues, the athlete will remain ineligible until the next three-week grading cycle.

Athletes who fail to regain academic eligibility after the second consecutive 3-week term will be removed from the sports season.

During the ineligibility period, the athlete must continue to practice with the team but may not travel or participate in a contest with the team. The athlete may participate in an organized scrimmage within the team practice.

Failure to attend practice may constitute immediate dismissal from the team. Athletes will be expected to maintain eligibility throughout the school year. This includes when the athlete is “out of season.”

Student athletes may not leave school early for any games or tournaments if failing any academics courses.

Student athletes will report to “Mandatory Tutoring” on dates and times set by their coaches. If the athlete fails to meet academic requirements, the following protocol will be in effect:

--Parent/Guardian Contact

--Parent/Guardian Contact + Coaches Meeting

--Parent/Guardian Contact + Coaches Meeting + Administration Meeting

--Re-Evaluation of student-athlete and dismissal of the athletic program

### **FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS (3 STRIKE POLICY):**

(Examples: Stealing, Vandalism, Ejection from Contest, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Excessive Profanity, any type of Extreme Anarchism, Use of Tobacco Products/Drugs, Excessive Referrals,

Excessive Absences/Tardiness, Unacceptable Verbal/Nonverbal Conflicts between Players/Coaches, ISS, or Out of School Suspension, and fighting)

Athletes must uphold the student code of conduct and the Somerset Academy Brooks' expectations. Any type of behavior or actions that jeopardize the athlete's participation in the athletic program will not be tolerated. Athletes will be given a 3-strike policy to maintain status in the athletic program. The athlete and families are responsible for assuring that the program's expectations and goals are your primary purpose.

Strikes must be signed and returned before participation in the next game.

**\*\*First Strike:**

- Notification by phone and letter to parents; Signed letter by Athletic Director, parent and player.
- Suspension from one (1) contest
- Extra conditioning following the next practice
- All practices and team activities must be attended throughout suspension to be eligible to compete in the next contest
- NOTE: ALL SUSPENSION TIME MUST INCLUDE COMPETITIVE COMPETITION

**\*\*Second Strike:**

- Coach and/or Athletic Director will have conference with parents, signed letter by Athletic Director, parent and player.
- Suspension from two (2) contests.
- Extra conditioning following the next practice
- All practices and team activities must be attended throughout suspension to be eligible to compete in the next contest
- NOTE: ALL SUSPENSION TIME MUST INCLUDE COMPETITIVE COMPETITION

**\*\*Third Strike:**

- Athletic Director will have conference with parents and administration, signed letter by Athletic Director, parent and player.
- Meeting analysis for dismissal/removal of athlete from the athletic program
- Signed approval of dismissal from the Parents/Guardians, Athletic Director, and Administrator

**ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES:**



No athletic participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of any controlled or otherwise illegal substance.

The school will follow the code of conduct for any possession of illegal substances.

In addition, the Athletic Department has a zero-tolerance policy for illegal substances.

### **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:**

An athlete that receives In-school suspension will not participate in practice or the athletic contest for the day. The athlete will serve a one game suspension for receiving ISS.

### **INJURIES: NOTIFY A COACH IF YOU ARE INJURED OR ILL:**

If an athlete is injured during practice or a game, notify the coach before leaving if they are not aware of the injury. It is important to report an injury in a timely manner. An incident report will be provided to the parent or guardian by the coach. Your safety and health are always the number one priority. If you are injured and capable, you are still required to attend the practice and watch so when you are physically able to return to play you will know what to do. While being injured does not excuse an athlete from practices/games, they are encouraged to attend. If you are too ill or injured to attend practice, a doctor's note will be required.

### **LETTERMAN JACKETS:**

The athlete must play on Varsity team at least one school year. The Athletic Department will approve letterman sport patches chosen. The Athlete's family will purchase letterman jacket.

### **PHYSICALS:**

A physical examination is required to be done yearly for all students wanting to try out and participate in Athletics. An up-to-date physical is required prior to trying out for any sport. The physical must use the proper form provided by the school. If the athlete has asthma, an updated Asthma Action Plan is required for the Athletic Department to have on file. This is a state requirement.

### **PLAYING TIME:**

Playing time is based on attendance, effort, skill, academic standing, sportsmanship, and student conduct. Correspondence must be sent via email or Parent Square to the Head Coach within 24 hours regarding any questions or concerns about playing time.

### **PRACTICE:**

Athletes must be at all practices. Practices are closed to parents or families. Tutoring is excused for missed practices. Athletes must communicate with coaches and return to practice with a note.

## **PRACTICING WHILE ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE:**

Any athlete becoming academically ineligible during a sport who **fails to continue to practice during that ineligibility period** will be removed from the team.

## **QUITTING OF A SPORT:**

An athlete that quits a sport without notice to the coach or Athletic Director will not be allowed to participate in another sport during the school year. The athletic fee will not be refunded.

## **SOCIAL NETWORKING, WEBSITES, AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:**

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that Somerset Academy Brooks extracurricular participants' personal electronic communication is appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication including Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook, photo sharing, inappropriate texting published or appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Extracurricular participants are responsible for texting and electronic communications on the internet through their personal websites and postings on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd, vulgar, or obscene comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Communication on the internet or by electronic means by extracurricular participants that are published and as a result cause disruption or damage to school district property at Somerset Academy Brooks or another school district are also inappropriate.

Any member of the Somerset Academy Brooks athletic program who is involved in inappropriate, disruptive, negative, lewd, obscene, or sexual pictures, comments, or statuses on any social networks such as, but not limited to, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube or Facebook may result in suspension or dismissal from the athletic program.

Behaviors identified by the Texas Education Code, Section 37.007, may also result in suspension or dismissal of a student from the athletic program. Students must remain aware that being a part of an extracurricular activity is considered an honor and a privilege and not a right. Therefore, it requires observance of all discipline policies whether a student is at school or school-related activities.

The discipline consequences of violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct may include suspension or dismissal of the student from the athletic program. Such actions shall be taken by coaches, directors, or sponsors only after consultation with the campus athletic coordinator (where appropriate) and/or school administration. A behavioral contract may also be used following various infractions. Consequences for some rule violations may be addressed by coaches through discipline within the student's program. Additional disciplinary consequences

can also be imposed by the appropriate school officials for conduct or behavior that violates the District's Code of Student Conduct.

Note: If the offense occurs during the summer, the suspension from activities will begin with the first week of competition/activity.

If the offense occurs during the sport season or period of extracurricular activity, the suspension will begin with the next competition or extracurricular activity as determined by the coach, director, or sponsor.

### **STOLES:**

Athletic stoles are provided by the Athletic department at graduation. Athletes must participate in a Varsity sport to receive an Athletic stole.

### **THEFT:**

Any extracurricular participant guilty of theft on campus will be subject to consequences plus he/she will also face the following consequences:

A first offense will result in a 3-6-week suspension of the student from game competition determined by the circumstances involved in the theft. If there are not 3-6 weeks left in that sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in the subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required. A meeting with the Athletic Director, students' parents, and the student -athlete before they may return. Also discipline actions according to the student code of conduct.

A second offense will result in dismissal of the student from extracurricular participation for the remainder of the school year. Another contract will be required. A meeting with the Athletic Director, students' parents, and the student -athlete before participation in any other athletic program.

A third offense will result in the dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular activities.

### **TOBACCO:**

No student athlete participant shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of tobacco. This includes an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device.

The school will follow the Student Code of Conduct for any tobacco or e-cigarette use.

In addition, the Athletic Department has a zero-tolerance policy for any type of Tobacco products.

## **TRAVELING WITH THE TEAM BEFORE & AFTER CONTESTS:**

Somerset Academy Brooks will provide transportation for athletes to some practices (if necessary) and all competitions. If an athlete is to be transported to a contest, it is important that the athlete returns from the contest with the team. If an athlete is to travel home (with parents/guardians only), they are to notify the coach within 24 hours of the competition. On the day of competition, if the athlete has not notified their coach of travel arrangements after a contest, they will be expected to travel home with the team. There will be no exceptions. Athletes must be signed out by their parents before taking them from a contest.

A student athlete MAY NOT use their personal vehicle to transport themselves or any other student athlete to an offsite practice or competition if a bus is provided by the school.

## **UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:**

All uniforms and equipment are property of Somerset Academy Brooks. All Athletes must turn in their uniforms at the end of each season. The Athletes will be held responsible and will pay to replace any lost or unreturned uniforms/ equipment. If not returned, the athlete will not be permitted to participate in another sport until all equipment is returned or the replacement fee is paid in full. Seniors will not receive a diploma or transcript until the school's property is returned.

**2024-2025**

**ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT**

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**Name of Athlete (Printed: First, Middle, Last)** \_\_\_\_\_

All who sign below have read all the attached information, rules, regulations, and procedures. We each agree to abide by this document and the other NFHS, TEA, TSCAAL and Somerset Academy Brooks documents to which parts of this document refer.

This contract begins on the first day of athletic participation, August 30, 2024, and continues until the dismissal of school, June 1, 2025, or throughout the completion of an athletic competition that extends into the summer.

**This must be signed and returned before competing in a game.**

Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_