

# 2017-2018 SISD



## Athletic Handbook and Athlete Code of Conduct

## INTRODUCTION

School athletics has a tremendous potential for meeting the needs of our youth. Both competition and cooperation have long been prized by our American culture. Both are fostered by well conducted and competently directed athletic games. An intensive, well-balanced program of interscholastic sports should therefore be offered to all students. Interscholastic athletics for the physically gifted represents an area of great potential for practicing the pursuit of excellence.

It is therefore, the goal of the athletic program to offer this opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is this required for graduation. Student athletes and parents/guardians must understand that it is a PRIVILEGE to participate in Smithville's interscholastic athletic program. A condition to participating in the Smithville Independent School District athletic program is a commitment to follow the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures established by the district for the implementation of its athletic program. It is the goal that athletes will develop; as well demonstrate good character, and sportsmanship both on and off the playing field. It must also be understood that athletes who violate the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures shall face disciplinary action.

It shall be the purpose of the Athletic Program at the Smithville Independent School District to provide a total program of UIL sponsored sports for all students who wish to participate. This is contingent upon the participants meeting all UIL, school, and department regulations. This program shall be based on sound educational principles with the thought that athletics is an integral part of the educational program. Participants are to be students first and athletes second.

## BELIEFS

The combination of sports and academics can be a tremendous experience in a young person's life. A broad and sound sports program for all students can provide invaluable experiences for the participants.

A sound, wholesome sports program will contribute to and offer involvement to all students as participants, support groups, or as spectators. It will also serve the community by providing entertainment and establishing a common ground of interest, which will draw citizens together in support of the various sports and activities.

It is important to see athletics as a part of the total educational program. It should complement and contribute to the overall educational process.

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

## GOALS

Develop the whole student; academically, socially, and physically.

Encourage the student athlete to achieve academic success.

Teach all student athletes' personal acceptance of responsibility.

Teach all student athletes the importance of teamwork and to value each team member.

Develop an appreciation for the importance of practicing sportsmanship.

Reach the maximum athletic potential of each individual and each team.

Encourage a level of competition that will develop success within our sports program and in the future endeavors of each individual.

## GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and information within in this handbook are in addition and in no way supersedes state law; SISD policy, or the student handbook. Information about the governing body of high school athletics can be found in the following places.

University Interscholastic League [www.uiltexas.org](http://www.uiltexas.org)

TEA and UIL Side by Side <http://www.uiltexas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side>

Smithville Independent School District [www.smithvilleisd.org](http://www.smithvilleisd.org)

## Smithville Athletic Code of Conduct

The Smithville I.S.D. Athletic Code of Conduct is written to establish a standard for all athletes. We ask that our athletes work hard to follow SISD Athletic Policy. Athletics is a privilege, so all athletes will be held to the highest standard. Athletes are expected to follow the Athletic Policy during season and off season.

### Section 1: Major Offenses

Discipline to an athlete can be given from 3 separate areas: Summer, School Year, and Internet Activity.

- **Summer** – Any time after the last day of the school year to the first day the athlete returns for 2-a-days or the first day of school.
- **School Year** – Any time between the first day of school per the school calendar and the last day of school per the school calendar.
- **Internet Activity** – Any activity that is deemed inappropriate (comments and/or images posted on the Internet that are profane, immoral, portray illegal activity, or are deemed detrimental to the reputation of the athletic program.

*During an athlete's 6 year career, beginning when they enter athletics in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, an athlete will have 3 chances for improvement. After breaking the policy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, an athlete can be removed from the program.*

#### **1. Summer**

When the athlete breaks the policy in the summer, **there will be no game suspensions**, but disciplinary action will be taken. Discipline for this area is based on Class C misdemeanors, excluding traffic related violations.

1 <sup>st</sup> time:	25 miles discipline + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
2 <sup>nd</sup> time:	50 miles discipline + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
3 <sup>rd</sup> time:	1 year suspension, reinstatement approved by Athletic Director/Coordinator + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service

#### **2. School Year**

When an athlete breaks the policy during the school year, **there will be a minimum of a 1 contest suspension in addition to the mileage**. Discipline for this area is based on Class C misdemeanors, excluding traffic related violations.

1 <sup>st</sup> time:	25 miles discipline plus 10% contest suspension of scheduled games + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
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LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC

2 <sup>nd</sup> time:	50 miles discipline plus 20% contest suspension of scheduled games + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
3 <sup>rd</sup> time:	1 year suspension, reinstatement approved by Athletic Director/Coordinator + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring, or community service

As the charge increases, so do the contest suspensions. **Example: 1<sup>st</sup> time during the school year with a Class A misdemeanor would be: 75 miles of discipline plus a 30% of scheduled contest suspension. For football that would mean a 3 game suspension. For basketball and volleyball it would be a 6 game suspension.**

- Class C - 25 miles plus 10% contest suspension of scheduled games (noted in the above descriptions of discipline)
- Class B - 50 miles plus 20% contest suspension of scheduled games + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
- Class A - 75 miles plus 30% contest suspension of scheduled games + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
- Felony 1 - 100 miles plus 40% contest suspension of scheduled games + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
- Felony 2 - 150 miles plus 50 % contest suspension of scheduled games + possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service

**Examples that affect this code:** MIP's, DUI's, DWI's, burglaries, serious misdemeanors, felonies, by admission, or if a coach observes you in the act.

A student in grades 7 through 12 shall lose the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities during any period of:

- Deferred adjudication
- While under indictment for a felony, or
- While awaiting a final determination of guilt or innocence in connection with either a felony or any offense punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor, whether the felony or offense was committed on or off campus. This is in accordance with the THSCA code of ethics.

### **3. Internet Activity**

This discipline is separate from the above policy in that the offenses do not count toward the three strikes. However, depending on the nature of the offense, it could result in the athlete being removed from the athletic program.

1 <sup>st</sup> time:	25 miles discipline
2 <sup>nd</sup> time:	50 miles discipline and possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
3 <sup>rd</sup> time:	75 miles discipline and possible adult or peer counseling, mentoring or community service
4 <sup>th</sup> time:	Dismissal from program

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

*Athletes will have a timeline to complete discipline. The current coach and Athletic Director/Coordinator will determine the starting date for the punishment. 25 miles should be completed within a timeline of one month, 50 miles should be completed in 2 months, etc. The Athletic Director/Coordinator has the final say on timelines for taking care of discipline.*

## Section 2: Minor Offenses

Athletes are expected to behave in the classroom in a manner that reflects greatly on the athletic department. We hold our athletes to high standards in the classroom because you have to make the grades to compete in athletic activities. Athletes who behave in a manner which reflects poorly on the athletic department in the classroom will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Lunch Detention**

Lunch Detention – Students are placed in Lunch Detention because of bad behavior in the classroom, tardiness, and other actions that would constitute discipline.

For each day of Lunch Detention the athlete has to serve they will complete:

1 Gasser in 60 seconds or 2 horses each in 35 seconds.

### **After School Detention (ASD)**

After School Detention (ASD) - Students placed in ASD will miss practice. The placement in ASD was avoidable; therefore this will be treated as an unexcused missed practice.

For each ASD assignment, the discipline will be based on coach's discretion for whatever sport the athlete is participating.

### **In School Suspension (ISS)**

In School Suspension (ISS) - When students are placed in ISS they are not showing the commitment that it takes to be involved in athletics. Students that are placed in ISS will serve both a running punishment and a playing time punishment. Repeated placements in ISS will not be tolerated and can be reason for dismissal from the athletic program. ISS punishment will be cumulative and does not start over each time that a student athlete is placed in ISS.

- 1st day of ISS - 2 Gassers each under 60 seconds or 5 Horses each under 35 Seconds
- 2<sup>nd</sup> day of ISS - 2 Gassers each under 60 seconds or 5 Horses each under 35 Seconds
- 3<sup>rd</sup> day of ISS - 2 Gassers each under 60 seconds or 5 Horses each under 35 Seconds plus a suspension of one quarter of play or 2 innings

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

- 4<sup>th</sup> day of ISS - 2 Gassers each under 60 seconds or 5 Horses each under 35 Seconds plus a suspension of two quarters of play or 4 innings
- 5<sup>th</sup> day of ISS - 2 Gassers each under 60 seconds or 5 Horses each under 35 Seconds plus a suspension of three quarters of play or 6 innings
- 6<sup>th</sup> day of ISS - 2 Gassers each under 60 seconds or 5 Horses each under 35 Seconds plus a full contest suspension.
- Each day of ISS past six will result in running and a full contest suspension.
- After 10 days of ISS, the athlete may be removed from athletics or put on suspension from athletics. When a student athlete has accumulated 10 days in one school year in ISS, the student athlete, athletic director and campus principal will meet. The future of the student athlete in athletics will be discussed at this meeting. The student athlete may be removed or placed on a contract. The student's parents or guardians will be notified prior to the meeting and may attend. The parent will be notified in writing or by a phone call of the outcome of the meeting.

***If a student has not completed an ISS assignment on game day then the athlete will not be allowed to participate in that athletic contest. Athletes that are serving ISS assignments are expected to be at all practices and all contest.***

### **DAEP**

DAEP – An athlete that is placed in DAEP will be ineligible for athletic competition and practice while they are serving a DAEP placement. Upon return from DAEP a student will be ineligible for competition for the same amount of school as the placement. For example a student that is given a 20 day DAEP placement would not be allowed to compete in a competition until he or she had been back on campus for 20 school days or until reinstated by the athletic director.

**All assigned discipline must be completed before an athlete can participate in an athletic contest.**

### **Section 3: Disciplinary Appeals Process**

#### **Disciplinary Appeals Process**

Step 1 - Head Coach

- Conference with student and/or parent
- Suspension of activity
- Dismissal from activity
- Other appropriate action (example: Community Service)
- Request for appeal must be done within 5 school days

Step 2 - Athletic Director/Middle School Coordinator

- Accept appeal and reduce action

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

- Denial of appeal
- Add to action
- Other appropriate action
- Request for appeal must be done within 5 school days

Step 3 - Athletic Director [if appealed from JH]

- Accept appeal and reduce action
- Denial of appeal
- Add to action
- Other appropriate action
- Request for appeal must be done within 5 school days

\*If a parent has followed the athletic discipline appeal process, and is not satisfied, the next step will be referral to FNG (Local). Please see campus principal for a copy of FNG (Local).

#### Section 4: Hazing

Good sportsmanship is not only limited to the playing field. It is also showing compassion and respect toward your own teammates and other students. Hazing is a very serious matter in high schools across the nation. Due to the developmental stages of adolescence, many students feel a strong need to belong to a certain group or organization. As a result, many students find themselves in a vulnerable position and will satisfy the demands of someone else in order to feel as though they belong.

Hazing should not occur in Texas high schools. The University Interscholastic League and Smithville ISD take a very strong stance in the prevention of such practices. Hazing has been defined as ***“any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate.”*** An important part of showing good sportsmanship is not allowing hazing to occur in school athletics. Players, coaches, administrators and others can help to make sure that hazing does not occur within our program. If you see any act that you believe is a form of hazing, it is your responsibility to tell someone and help to stop the act. Allowing hazing to occur is the same as conducting the act itself. If everyone works together in an effort to stop hazing in our program, we can build closer teams and foster individual relationships, which are healthy to the educational process.

Hazing can be, but is not limited to the following:

- Physical Abuse
- Verbal Abuse

LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC



- Threats or Implied Threats
- Personal Servitude
- Insulting New Members of a Group
- Name Calling
- Being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public

## Section 5: UIL Academic Standards, SISD Academic Standards, Grade Checks, Tutorials

### **UIL Standards**

- All athletes from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade must pass each six weeks in order to stay eligible under the UIL “No Pass No Play” rule.
- For an athlete to be passing, athletes must obtain a grade of 70 or higher in all classes to be eligible to compete in any UIL activity.
- The athlete must also meet standards of residence, credits toward graduation, age limits, and class schedule to be eligible for varsity competition.
- All courses must be passing unless otherwise stated by UIL, TEA, and District Academic policies.
- Athletes who become ineligible will not be able to participate in athletic competition until the ineligibility period is complete and all classes meet the passing requirements. This time frame will be determined based on the eligibility calendar.
- Ineligible athletes are still allowed to practice and are expected to attend all practices during time of ineligibility.
- Have a completed Physical Examination form with the proper signatures on file in the athletic department. All student athletes will have a yearly physical on file in order to practice or compete.

### **SISD Standards**

In order to participate in SISD athletic program the students must meet the following guidelines:

1. Be a student in good standing enrolled in the SISD school district.
2. Pass all classes based on UIL, TEA, and District Academic standards.

### **Grade Checks**

- Grade checks will be done for all athletes every 2 weeks. Athletes are responsible for getting grade sheets to coaches at this time.
- If a student has a grade below 75 at the time of grade checks they will attend mandatory tutorials. Tutorials will take place in the morning before school or after school; coach will assign.
- If a teacher is not at school, a coach’s classroom will be open to go to from 7:30-7:50.

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

- Students will be counted absent if they have not checked into tutorials in a timely manner.
- Missing tutorials will be treated like the student has skipped a practice and the punishment will be the same.
- If, at any time, the athlete shows documentation of all class grades rising up to a 75, the athlete will be released from mandatory tutorials.
- Grade monitoring will run all year regardless if the student is in season or out of season.

### Tutorials

- Tutorials should be attended based on grade check forms or if the coach/athlete feels they need additional help to keep up good grades in classrooms.
- Tutorials should not be attended in a time that will keep them from practicing, if there is an alternate time to attend.
- Coaches can determine if tutorials are necessary and athletes can use practice time for tutorials as long as the coach approves.
- Notes should be presented to coaches if practice has to be missed for tutorials.

*If a student athlete fails three consecutive six weeks, that student athlete will meet with the athletic director. At this meeting the student may be put on a contract or removed from athletics for a semester. If the student athlete is removed, he or she may regain eligibility by not failing any classes for the semester that they are removed. If good standing is consistent, the athlete may return to athletics by approval from the Athletic Director/Coordinator.*

## Section 6: Equipment, Locker Rooms, Personal Appearance

### Equipment and Uniforms

- Team uniforms, warm-ups, and equipment are the property of Smithville I.S.D. and must be treated with care. Athletes are responsible for keeping their school-issued equipment clean and secure. Athletes are not allowed to wear school issued clothing to their next class or home.
- **Do not use any equipment or protective gear that is no longer safe or functional. Get a replacement.**
- All athletes must return their uniforms and equipment to their coach immediately following their last game or competition. Theft, loss, or damage of any equipment or fundraiser items is the athlete's financial obligation.

LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC

- No athlete will be allowed to check out any equipment or uniform for another sport until payment for missing or destroyed equipment is made.

### **Personal Appearance**

All athletes representing Smithville I.S.D. should establish and maintain a high standard of appearance at all times. Athletes must follow the personal appearance guidelines outlined in the SISD Athletic Handbook and SISD Student Handbook.

- Earrings
  - Earrings are not allowed on males when in athletic facilities, trips to out-of-town games, home games, and athletic banquets.
  - The University Interscholastic League does not permit jewelry in any competitions.
- Hair & Facial Hair
  - Hairstyles on all male athletes must be kept above the ears and off the collar in length. All male and female hairstyles must be kept neatly groomed and well maintained at all times he or she is competing as an athlete. Neatly groomed and well maintained will be defined by the athletic director.
- Tattoos
  - Athletes are discouraged from getting tattoos. Athletes with tattoos must cover what can be seen by spectators during competition.

### **Athletic Security**

All athletes are issued lockers with locks. Athletes are responsible for making sure their equipment is always put away and locked so that no one can take it or misplace it. As a Coach, an athlete, and a teammate, there are responsibilities that all need to take to make sure that equipment does not turn up missing.

1. Coach – Will make sure all players have a secure place to store items of value.
2. Athlete – Will store items of value in the secured area.
3. Team – Eliminate selfish acts such as taking or borrowing things that do not belong to you.

If the coach does not furnish the athlete with a secure place to store valuable items, then we will assume responsibility. A secure place is defined as a locker and a lock. If the player does not store valuable items in the secure place, and kept locked at all times, then the athlete assumes responsibility. SISD is not responsible for lost or stolen valuables taken to away games.

If an athlete is issued a locker with a broken lock, the athlete is responsible for telling a coach so another locker can be issued.

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

### Section 7: Athlete Travel

- All athletes are provided travel to and from any athletic competition or event.
- Athletes are strongly encouraged to ride the bus to and from out-of-town games.
- If there is an emergency during the event, and an athlete has to ride home with parents, the parents must provide the coach with a written note prior to leaving the event.
- The Head Coach of each sport has the authority to allow or deny players the right to travel separately.
- If, as a parent, you want your student athlete to ride home with another adult other than you, you must have written permission from the campus principal at least 24 hours in advance of the trip and this must be presented to the Head Coach of the sport. This practice is highly discouraged by SISD.

### Section 8: Athlete Expectations

#### General Expectations of Student Athletes

1. **Tobacco, Alcohol, and non-therapeutic drugs:** are not allowed to be used in our program, any use of these products will be subject to disciplinary action. The severity of the offense will result in more action and a possible suspension.
  2. **Profanity, Abusive Language, Inappropriate Gesturing:** We do not allow it. Each offense will result in disciplinary action.
  3. **Stealing:** Taking things that don't belong to you, especially taking from your teammates will not be tolerated. A player caught stealing will be dismissed from the program for one calendar year. Depending upon the seriousness of the offense, a player may also be prosecuted by the law.
  4. **Conduct on and off the playing field:** Smithville ISD athletes will demonstrate class at all times. Trash talking is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Praise your opponents and play beyond your ability. This is called good character and demonstrates personal integrity. Always accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity. We expect you to conduct yourself as a gentleman, or a lady, at all times. This means you are to follow school rules and procedures while attending class at Smithville I.S.D. You are to act properly in class, giving your teachers and administrators courtesy and respect. Failure to adhere to the above conduct will result in a conference and disciplinary action, or suspension.
  5. **Attendance:** Do not cut class and do not be tardy. If you must miss the athletic period, be sure that you talk to one of the coaches. You will be required to make-up conditioning that you miss. If you are tardy to the athletic period, you will run extra after the period
  6. **Injury or Illness:** Except in cases of extreme emergency, please notify the Head Coach of the sport that you are playing or the Athletic Director of any injury before you go to a doctor. If you must leave school because of illness, come by and check with a coach, so we know you may not be at practice.
  7. **Respect of Coaches:** Coaches should receive "Yes, Sir", "Yes, Ma'am" and "No, Sir", "No, Ma'am" responses from players when talking to them. Players, in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Whenever a coach is speaking to you, either individually or as a
- LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

team, you will give him or her undivided attention and will establish eye contact with him or her.

- 8. Promptness:** Always be on time. On trips, the bus will wait for no one. If you happen to miss the bus, you will have to get your parent, guardian, or school official to bring you to the contest and it will be the coaches' discretion as to whether you play. You will be dressed and ready in your position by the designated time during the athletic period. Certain situations will overrule this.
- 9. Participation:** An athlete will not be allowed to participate in a contest or practice if he or she has not been at school at least two periods of the school day. Certain situations will overrule this.
- 10. Dress:** Should be very professional in uniform and out. Everyone will wear his or her uniform in the same manner. No one will be different. We will furnish your equipment, so don't bring equipment from home. Do not wear any jewelry in practice or during a game. Your appearance away from the field house/gym, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program.
- 11. Excused Workout:** Telling the coach that you will not be at practice prior to the start of practice will result in an excused workout. Though the workout is excused, you will still be responsible to make up the conditioning that you missed. Each head coach will explain the running for his or her sport at the start of the season to each team.
- 12. Unexcused Workout:** This is when the athlete does not tell a coach that he/she is leaving school or when he/she does not show up during the athletic period or at practice. It is also unexcused if you disobey a coach, or if you are sent to detention for tardies or behavioral reasons. The discipline for unexcused workouts will vary from sport to sport. Each Head Coach will explain the punishment for unexcused workouts at the beginning of the season. Excessive unexcused workouts can lead to removal from the athletic program.

Failure to comply with the general expectations can result in extra running or even dismissal from the team or athletic program.

### Section 9: Quitting a Sport

Any player beginning a season in a sport is expected to fulfill their commitment to that team. The whole premise of our program is built on commitment, responsibility, and a never give up attitude. Concerns and frustrations can usually be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and coach. The season is defined as the 6th official practice until the final game. Any athlete who quits one sport cannot go to another sport until the first sport is over.

Any athlete wishing to quit a sport must complete the following steps:

1. Meet with their coach and express his/her desire to discontinue participation in that sport.
2. Have his/her parents sign a form stating that they are aware of their child's decision and agree.

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

A high school player quitting a sport in season may not begin participation in another sport without the written approval of the head coach of the sport they are quitting and the head coach of the sport the athlete is going to. Participation is considered after school practices, use of facilities after school, or athletic contests. A junior high player quitting a sport during the season will not be eligible to start another sport for 6 weeks from the time the player quit.

**Section 10: Quit Form**

Refer to next page.

## SMITHVILLE ISD ATHLETIC QUIT FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_, grade \_\_\_\_\_, have decided after careful consideration to remove myself from the Smithville ISD sport of \_\_\_\_\_ . I have been given a three (3) day consideration period to evaluate my decision. I feel that the best decision for my teammates and for myself is to quit. I understand that by quitting, I will forfeit any participation in \_\_\_\_\_ for one (1) year. I can return after the one (1) year period only with the Athletic Director's and the head coach's approval. I also understand that if I quit again in any sport, I may forfeit any future participation in the athletic program.

Reason for quitting:

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Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 11: Athletic Passes

Each athlete will be given an athletic pass to be able to get into the sporting events for free at the High School and Junior High. You must show your pass to get into the game. Saying that “I am in athletics” is not good enough. The athlete can pick up their athletic pass from their coach. If the athlete loses their pass, they must pay a \$10.00 fee to be issued another.

### Section 12: Athletic Awards

#### **Letter Jackets**

Athletes will receive, upon the head coaches’ recommendations, an athletic letter jacket. Students will receive only one jacket with one varsity letter during their high school career.

Listed below are the criteria to letter for each sport. The head coach, however, has the right to issue or withhold a letter jacket for extenuating circumstances, such as injuries, value to a team without meeting playing time quotas, team violations, etc. Coaches must provide documentation of these circumstances to the Athletic Director.

All athletes in all sports must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible for a letter jacket.

1. All athletic awards will conform to guidelines established by the UIL.
2. Athletes must participate in varsity sports to receive a letter for that sport.
3. An athlete may receive only one major award, for example a letter jacket, for their four-year career.
4. Must complete the scheduled season in the lettering sport in good standing.
5. Not been suspended from any games due to violations of team rules and regulations.

### Section 13: Parent Guidelines

#### **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Make sure your child understands that win or lose, you love him or her. Be realistic about your child’s athletic ability.
- Help your child set realistic goals.
- Emphasize “improved” performance, not winning. But, help them to understand athletics is about competition.
- Don’t relive your own athletic past through your child.
- Control your emotions at games and events.
- Be a “cheerleader” for your child and other children on the team.

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**



- Respect your child's coaches. Communicate with them in a positive way. Encourage others to do the same.
- Be a positive role model.
- Be sensible, responsible and keep your priorities in order. There is a lot more at stake than a win or loss.

### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

- Coach's philosophy.
- Expectations the coach has for the team.
- Locations and times of practices and contests.
- Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations.
- Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

As your child becomes involved in interscholastic athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- What your child needs to do to improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child is not playing as much as you may wish. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

- How much playing time each athlete is getting.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling.
- Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary please follow the steps below:

1. Call the coach at school to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director and ask him to set up a meeting with the coach for you.
3. Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
4. Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.
5. **Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.**

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach didn't provide satisfactory resolution?

1. Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
2. At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

#### Section 14: Coaches Expectations

##### **Coaches' Expectations**

1. Allow and encourage all interested students to participate in athletics in some capacity.
2. To have a coordinated program for each sport from the lowest grade offered to the varsity level.
3. To develop fundamental skills and strategies in each sport.
4. To improve the skills necessary for competition at a higher level in each sport. Presentations of high expectations do result in high performance. Establish high team and individual goals and stress the need for high personal intensive efforts.
5. To develop the desire in all athletes to be a part of a successful program and to contribute to a competitive team.
6. To instill good habits, sound morals, and exemplary citizenship in the students.
7. To instill the value of fair play, loyalty, cooperation, and a high standard of sportsmanship in all student athletes.

LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC

8. To provide as much competitive experience as possible for all athletes. Emphasize at all levels of competition the realization that athletic competition is a privilege that carries definite responsibilities with it such as training, loyalty, scholastic eligibility, improvement, courage, perseverance.
9. To promote the academic achievement and personal development of all athletes to grow physically, mentally, and socially. Create in all students a greater interest in the value of education.
10. Instill in all athletes the desire to represent their school and community in a manner that will make parents, teachers, citizens, and fellow students proud of them.
11. Develop all programs in such a manner that the end result will be one of unity, harmony, and success.

## An Open Letter to the Fans University Interscholastic League

Dear Fan,

You walk up to the stadium or field ready to see a clash between your high school team and your most hated rival. You pull out your hard earned cash for that ticket, that golden ticket that allows you to a seat where you plan to “help” your team with constant berating of the opposing team and officials. You feel it is your duty as a fan to do everything you can for your team, and your role is to call it like you see it from 50 feet away in the stands.

What you don’t understand is that your verbal abuse does nothing more than tear at the fabric of high school sports. The players on the athletic field, court or diamond are not being paid to play; they are not professional athletes that have to deal with fans like you on a daily basis. It is a privilege, not a right, for these athletes to compete as much as it is a privilege for you to sit in the stands and watch.

But what about your golden ticket that you paid good money for, doesn’t that entitle you to something? Yes, you get the opportunity to watch two schools show off their skills and what they have learned in the athletic classroom. Other than that, your ticket gives you little more than a first-come-first-serve spot on a crowded row of bleachers. Contests could not exist without rules, and just as the players have to abide by rules on the field, you too have to follow the rules in the stands.

It’s not all your fault; you probably had someone much like yourself at your high school games. Hopefully it’s not the case, but you may never have seen proper spectator decorum. The UIL has a few basic tips that can help steer you in the right direction.

1. The field of play is the athletic classroom for student-athletes. Instead of math and science they learn teamwork and group responsibility in addition to dealing with success and overcoming adversity. You wouldn’t dare interrupt a teacher giving a test to his or her students, yet you do it to coaches and student athletes routinely in their classroom.
2. Your ticket does not entitle you to disrespect or degrade others in any way. Everyone who is a part of high school athletics gives their best effort and that commitment to educational athletics should be celebrated.
3. Understand that the student-athletes you are watching will make mistakes, and no participant should be ridiculed at any time because of their efforts. Many of them are still learning the games they play and can easily be disheartened by a rogue fan attacking their performance.
4. High school coaches are actually full-time teachers first and coaches second. Anyone who tries to reverse this order is taking the first step to destroying a program. No one wants a program to fail, but the merciless pressure you put on him or her as someone who had nothing to do with the building of the program can bring it down.
5. Officials are present to promote the game and the student-athletes involved. They make judgment calls in good faith based on their knowledge and extensive training. A lot of time and effort has gone into making sure that they know the rules better than you. Respect their decisions.
6. Finally, you are a guest of the school and should act like one. Winning is an admirable goal of competition, but it is nothing if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and common sense.

-University Interscholastic League

**LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC**

## *Student Athlete Sportsmanship Policy*

### **Trustworthiness**

Trustworthiness- Be worth of trust in all I do.

Integrity- Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor. Do what is right even when it is unpopular or has a personal cost.

Honesty- Live and compete honorably. Never lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or un-sportsman like conduct.

Loyalty- Be loyal to my school and team. Put them above personal glory.

### **Respect**

Respect- Treat all people with respect at all times, and require the same of other student-athletes.

Class- Live and play with class. Be a good sport. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. Give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

Disrespectful Conduct- Do not engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations or actions that demean individuals or the sport.

Respect Officials- Treat contest officials with respect. Do not complain about or argue with official calls or decisions made during an athletic event.

### **Responsibility**

Importance of Education- Be a student first, and commit to getting the best education I can. Be honest with myself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically, or the character to represent their institution honorably.

Role Modeling- Consistently exhibit good character and conduct myself as a positive role model. Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and I am expected to represent my school, coach, and teammates with honor both on and off the field. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is at the sole discretion of the school administration.

Self-Control- Exercise self-control. Do not fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration. Have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.

Healthy Lifestyle- Safeguard my health. Do not use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.

Integrity of the Game- Protect the integrity of the game. Play the game according to the rules.

### **Fairness**

Be Fair- Live up to the highest standards of fair play. Be open-minded, and always be willing to listen and learn.

LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC

### **Caring**

**Concern for Others**- Demonstrate concern for others. Never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to others or myself.

**Teammates**- Help promote the wellbeing of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

### **Citizenship**

**Play by the Rules**- Maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.

**Spirit of Rules**- Honor the spirit and the letter of the rules. Avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

### **Overall Acceptable Behavior**

- Applaud all participants during team introductions, regardless of team affiliation.
- Show respect to officials and accept their judgments as part of the contest.
- Cheerleaders should lead fans in positive cheers that promote sportsmanship and fair competition.
- Participants should shake hands before and after each contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, keeping the value of education paramount.
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at the end of a contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone show concern for an injured player, regardless of team affiliation.

### **Overall Unacceptable Behavior**

- Attempts to distract opponent during contests such as yelling or waving arms during opponent's free throw attempt, serve, etc.
- Antagonizing, disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booming or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances following a game.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.

LOYALTY – COMMITMENT – TEAMWORK – PRIDE – DISCIPLINE – WORK ETHIC

**I have read and understand the requirements of this athletic manual. I understand that I am expected to perform according to this manual, and that there may be sanctions or penalties if I do not.**

Student Athlete Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Athlete Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understand the requirements of this athletic manual. I understand that my student athlete is expected to perform according to this manual, and that he or she may be sanctioned or penalized if they do not.**

Parent/ Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Smithville Athletic Manual 2017-2018