

Smithville ISD Athletic Handbook Addendum

26-27



Athletic Creed

We will represent Smithville ISD, parents, coaches, teams and ourselves with discipline, pride and respect.

Athletic Philosophy

The primary purpose of the Athletic Program in the Smithville Independent School District is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well being of the participants through contests and preparations. The Athletic Program is an important and integral part of the total education process and it is a privilege to represent SISD as a student-athlete. This Athletic Code of Conduct is to help parents and students understand that participation in the SISD

Athletic Program is built with rules and expectations that go above and beyond those of students who are not athletes.

Expectations of an Tiger/Lady Tiger Athletes

1. TEAM FIRST
2. ALWAYS BE ON TIME
3. PRIDE (School, Team, Self)
4. BE POSITIVE
5. SET AND STRIVE TO ACHIEVE GOALS
6. STRIVE FOR PERFECTION
7. SHOW RESPECT

Discipline

Discipline is a common denominator within any respected and successful athletic program. SISD student-athletes are representatives of the school and community and are held to higher standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property.” Discipline will be handled at the discretion of the coaching staff in accordance with SISD guidelines to maintain order and to protect students, SISD employees, and property. Student-athletes will be treated fairly and equitably. An athlete may be disciplined for, but not limited to the following actions:

1. Poor attitude
2. Leaving school or location of a contest without permission
3. Insubordination/disobedience involving directives from coaches
4. Failure to participate in a prescribed workout
5. Disrespect to coaches, teammates, or any adult

ISS, DAEP, and Suspension Policies

- A. Any athlete earning ISS will be suspended from participating in contests while in ISS. They will have to do make up conditioning at the discretion of the Head Coach as to the severity of the incident. At the end of the school day a student-athlete assigned to ISS is required to participate in practice.
- B. Multiple ISS assignments, persistent disrespect, and frequent misbehavior may result in removal from the sport and/or the athletic program.
- C. Any athlete that has been placed in DAEP or suspended from school will be suspended from team activities. As a result of the suspension the athlete will not be allowed to attend any contests or school functions, home or away. At the conclusion of the DAEP placement, the Athletic Department will meet with the athlete to discuss entry back into the sport, removal from the sport, or removal from athletics. Makeup conditioning will be assigned by the head coach and approved by the Athletic Director for athletes who have served their suspensions and are readmitted to the team.
- D. Any athlete earning two separate DAEP placements or suspensions in one school year will be removed from the athletic program.

Hazing

“Hazing” is against the law and will not be tolerated. “Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students. The term includes but is not limited to:

- A. Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body or similar activity.
- B. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, and confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or the safety of the student.
- C. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or the safety of the student.
- D. Any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

No student or school employee shall engage in any form of hazing, nor encourage or assist any other person in hazing. Acts of hazing and failure to report known hazing can result in criminal penalties, as well as school discipline.

Under **Education Code 37.152** a person commits this offense if the person commits any of the following:

1. Engages in hazing;
2. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
3. Recklessly permits hazing to occur;
4. Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student, or has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge to either the Principal or Athletic Director.

Criminal Activity

Any activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to yourself, your family, SISD, or the Athletic Program will not be tolerated. Such activity will involve disciplinary action up to and including permanent removal from the Athletic Program. There will be no use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs of any kind at any time for those students who desire to take part in the Athletic Program.

A. Use of Illegal Drugs/Substances/Formal Complaint

No athlete shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of Illegal Substances. The Athletic Department will work in conjunction with Campus/District officials and Law Enforcement on any case involving other legal substances. A formal complaint is defined as an arrest, citation, charge of any other formal action by a law enforcement authority in response to conduct by a student athlete that rises to the level of mSISDemeanors or greater. Students whose charges are dropped or who are found not guilty will not be automatically reinstated until a meeting is set up with the Athletic Director and Head Coach of that sport.

Any athlete guilty of the use of Illegal Drugs/Substances/Formal Complaint on or off campus will face the following consequences:

1. First Offense- nothing less than the notification of parent and/or guardian, and game suspensions equal to 50% of the regular season schedule and extra conditioning as prescribed by the head coach. If the athlete is not in a sport at the time of incident the suspension will occur in their next sport available. If during the suspension the athlete

does not show for practices they will be seen as quitting and be removed from the team. The suspension will then take place during the student-athlete's next sports season.

2. Second Offense- will result in nothing less than the notification of parent and/or guardian, and the dismissal of the athlete from the Athletic Program for one calendar year.

B. Tobacco

No athlete shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of tobacco.

1. First Offense- nothing less than the notification of parent and/or guardian, and discipline such as game suspensions equal to 25% of the regular season schedule and extra conditioning as prescribed by the head coach. If an athlete is not in a sport at the time of incident the suspension will occur in their next sport available. If during the suspension the athlete does not show for practices they will be seen as quitting and be removed from the team. The suspension will then take place during the student-athlete's next sports season.

2. Second Offense- nothing less than the notification of parent and/or guardian, and discipline such as game suspensions equal to 50% of the regular season schedule and extra conditioning as prescribed by the head coach. If an athlete is not in a sport at the time of incident the suspension will occur in their next sport available. If during the suspension the athlete does not show for practices they will be seen as quitting and be removed from the team. The suspension will then take place during the student-athlete's next sports season.

3. Third Offense- nothing less than the notification of parent and/or guardian, and the dismissal of the athlete from the Athletic Program for the remainder of the year.

C. Alcohol

No athlete shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of alcohol.

1. First Offense- nothing less than the notification of parent and/or guardian, and discipline such as game suspensions equal to 25% of the regular season schedule and extra conditioning as prescribed by the head coach. If an athlete is not in a sport at the time of incident the suspension will occur in their next sport available. If during the suspension the athlete does not show for practices they will be seen as quitting and be

removed from the team. The suspension will then take place during the student-athlete's next sports season.

2. Second Offense- nothing less than the notification of parent and/or guardian, and discipline such as game suspensions equal to 50% of the regular season schedule and extra conditioning as prescribed by the head coach. If an athlete is not in a sport at the time of incident the suspension will occur in their next sport available. If during the suspension the athlete does not show for practices they will be seen as quitting and be removed from the team. The suspension will then take place during the student-athlete's next sports season.

3. Third Offense- nothing less than the notification of parent and/or guardian, and the dismissal of the athlete from the Athletic Program for the remainder of the year.

D. Theft

Any athlete guilty of theft on or off campus will face the following consequences:

1. First Offense will result in removal from the Athletic Program.

**PLEASE do not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing rooms.
Lockers should be kept locked at all times.**

*Criminal activity includes the above mentioned activities but is not limited to them.

Grooming and Dress

All athletes must be groomed and dressed appropriately following the SISD Dress Code found in The Student Handbook. This applies to participation AND to attendance of all school related events. Head Coaches may have dress and grooming standards above and beyond the SISD Dress Code.

Attendance

Practice attendance is required to participate in that week's game. If an athlete is going to be absent, he must call in or speak personally to a varsity coach in the sport being missed. That coach will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused. **NOT CALLING IN OR**

SPEAKING TO A COACH IS AN AUTOMATIC UNEXCUSED ABSENCE. The reason for the absence then becomes irrelevant.

1. An excused absence makeup conditioning will be assigned by the Head Coach of each sport.
2. An UNEXCUSED absence makeup conditioning will be assigned by the Head Coach of each sport.
3. A tardy absence makeup conditioning will be assigned by the Head Coach of each sport. After 15 minutes a tardy is considered an absence.
4. Absences and tardies **MUST** be made up as soon as possible or the first day an athlete is physically able.
5. If an athlete makes no attempt to make up conditioning he/she will be removed from the sport and treated as quitting the sport.

Participation in the Athletic Period

All athletes will participate in the All Sports Strength and Conditioning Athletic Period, unless academic reasons are in place. This is to maximize the athletes' athletic potential in every sport they wish to participate in.

1. Refusal to participate or dress out can result in dismissal from the athletic period.

Quitting a Sport

No athlete will be allowed to quit a sport and begin another sport until the first sport is finished in its entirety. Anyone leaving a practice or game without permission of the Head Coach will be considered as having quit the team. We want to encourage athletes to finish what they start.

1. Quitting a sport will result in the athlete running 20 miles before the athlete can begin the next sport.
2. If an athlete quits more than one sport, they will be removed from the athletic program for a calendar year from the day they quit the sport. This includes over multiple years or seasons.

3. An athlete and coach may agree to part ways but this must happen before 25% of the season has been completed. Anything after this mark will result in quitting.

Social Media

Student-athletes will be held to high standards regarding pictures and posts on social media. Posts and/or pictures that are considered to be bullying, harassing, inappropriate, illegal, or otherwise objectionable by the Athletic Department may result in disciplinary action from the Athletic Department and/or the Campus Principal.

Required Forms

The following forms are required by SISD and the UIL for student-athlete participation:

1. Emergency Information Card
2. Sports Medicine Form
3. Smithville Media Release
4. Acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook form
5. Photo Release Form
6. General Eligibility Rules Form
7. Acknowledgment Of Rules Form
8. Concussion Acknowledgment Form
9. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form
10. Physical and Physical History Form
11. Handbook Acknowledgement Form Signed by Parent and Student

Travel Expectations

Before Boarding

- Wear required travel attire.
- Bring all required equipment, uniforms, and personal items.
- Represent the school with professionalism from the time you leave campus.

During the Trip

- Stay seated while the bus is moving.
- Use respectful language and appropriate behavior at all times.
- Keep noise at a reasonable level.
- Keep the bus clean; dispose of all trash before exiting.
- No food or drinks unless approved by the coaching staff.
- Keep aisles clear and emergency exits unobstructed.
- Headphones should be used for music or videos.
- No horseplay, yelling, or distracting the driver.
- Cell phones may be used appropriately unless otherwise directed.
- Social media posts should positively represent the team, school, and community.
- No inappropriate photos, videos, or comments.
- Follow all directions from coaches and the bus driver immediately.
- Help clean the bus before exiting.
- Thank the bus driver before leaving.
- Athletes are encouraged to ride home on the bus. If an athlete can not the parent and only the parent can take their child home. Please let the coach know 24 hours before the trip so plans can be arranged.

Eligibility

Any student in grades 9-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the required cumulative number of credits in state-approved courses:

1. Beginning the 9th grade year- must have been promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th.
2. Beginning the 10th grade year- must have at least 5 credits towards graduation.
3. Beginning the 11th grade year- must have at least 10 credits towards graduation or during the preceding 12 months they must have earned 5 credits.
4. Beginning the 12th grade year- must have earned 15 credits towards graduation or during the preceding 12 months they must have earned 5 credits.

A student participating in UIL activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student receives a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (*other than an identified honors or advanced class*). This suspension continues for 3 weeks. The grades will then be reviewed at the end of each three-week period. The suspension will be lifted once the student is passing all classes with a 70 or

above during a grade review period. You may only gain eligibility at the progress report, you cannot lose eligibility. **ALL academically ineligible student athletes are required to participate in practices. Failure to do so will be treated as quitting the team by the Athletic Department.**

Administration of Athletic Program

The Head Coach of each sport is responsible for making sure that all students are knowledgeable of both individual and participation procedures. Each sport is required to conduct a pre-season parent meeting to cover team rules, practice expectations specific to that team.

In all sports, if all uniforms and equipment are not turned back in or paid for in full, then that student will not be allowed to participate in any future sport until his/her items are returned. *If the equipment is lost or misplaced, the athlete is required to pay for the lost items.*

The Athletic Director administers all aspects of the Athletic Program including the finalization of all sport schedules, setting of time and place of events, selection of officials, and adjustment thereof. The Athletic Director is also responsible for the general management and oversight regarding all matters pertaining to the Athletic Program. The Head Coaches then attend to the specific details within their respective sports.

Sports Specific Rules and Handbooks

Each Head Coach will develop a Parent and Player Handbook for their sport with additional Rules and Regulations specific to that sport. The handbook must be approved by the Athletic Director and a copy will be on file in the Athletic Department Office. A copy will be distributed by the Head Coach to all parents/players during their pre-season parent meeting. The acknowledgement form must be returned with player and parent's signatures on it to the Head Coach before the student can participate in the sport.

Varsity and Sub-Varsity Team Selections

Choosing the members of a Varsity and sub Varsity Squad is the sole responsibility of the Head Coach of these squads. An athlete may be moved up or down based on the Head Coaches discretion. If the Head Coach chooses to hold tryouts for a certain sport, the Head Coach prior to tryouts shall provide the following information to all candidates for the Team:

1. Extent of tryout period
2. Criteria used to select the team

3. Number of candidates to be selected
4. The practice commitment if they make the team
5. Game commitments

Conflict in School Activities

A student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations at some point. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students must do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about participating in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsors or coaches who are involved when a conflict arises. When a conflict arises, the Head Coaches or Sponsors will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on the following:

- A. The relative importance of each event. (District supersedes Non-District, Playoffs supersedes District, and Varsity supersedes JV.) If this does not solve the conflict, then;
- B. The importance of each event to the student.
- C. The relative contribution the student can make.
- D. Talk with parents.
- E. Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either a faculty sponsor or coach.
- F. This rule pertains only to contest/practice conflicts involving school activities and does not include sports outside of school such as travel ball etc.

Award Policies

UIL rules prohibit athletes from accepting anything of value other than as listed in these policies. All athletes must adhere strictly to all training, attendance, conduct, discipline, and appearance rules as set forth in these policies and the individual sports' handbooks the entire school year before the Yearly Sports Banquet to be considered for any athletic awards. Completion of the sport's entire season by an athlete is required in order for the student to be eligible for any recognition for that sport. All scholastic eligibility rules established by the school board, UIL, and TEA must be met. Coaches recommend athletes for awards. Schools may give one major award jacket, not to exceed \$60 in value, to a student during high school enrollment at the same school for participation in one of the UIL inter school competitions. One additional symbolic

award, not to exceed \$10 in value, may be presented for participation in each additional UIL activity. The \$10 award shall not be given to a student for an activity during the same year that the major award is given for that activity. In order to qualify, athletes must participate in 75% of District games as well as 50% of all the periods, quarters or innings being played on varsity.

Injury or Illness

If an athlete must leave school because of illness or injury, he/she should call or come by the Athletic Trainer, Head Coaches Office, or Training Room and let his/her coach know the circumstances. If an athlete is ill or injured, he/she may or may not be able to participate in practice but is expected to attend practice unless specific arrangements have been made with the head coach. The following order is the recommended procedure for an injury:

1. Meet with Athletic Trainer
2. The trainer will refer to physicians or other medical personnel as needed.
3. Follow up with Athletic Trainer for treatment and physical therapy.

*Treatment times will be before or after school and not during the athletic period.

Updated 12/10/2020

SISD Acknowledgment and Disciplinary Policies

I have read the SISD Athletic Code of Conduct and understand that the purpose of these expectations is to ensure fairness and discipline in our athletic program. I understand that my son/daughter must abide by these rules while participating in the SISD Athletic Program and also will follow the SISD Athletic Handbook.

Parent Name print: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the SISD Athletic Code of Conduct and understand that the purpose of these rules and regulations are to ensure fairness and discipline in our athletic program. I also understand that I must abide by these rules if I wish to participate in SISD Athletics. I also understand that each coach will have additional rules and requirements as they pertain to their sport.

Student Name print: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

