

# **SMYER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**



## **SMYER ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2023-2024**

**APPROVED 06/10/2019**

**FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

Parents and student athletes alike, I implore you to please read this Athletic Code of Conduct as there are many new and updated items as well as the papers required for involvement in the Smyer ISD Athletic Programs.

I want to thank you beforehand in accepting your roles as parents of our student athletes and student athletes alike and I hope for all to have a safe and productive year in whatever sport you are a part of.

Sincerely,

Scott Funke  
Smyer ISD Athletic Director, 2023

**FORWARD**

Welcome to Smyer ISD Athletic Department! We are excited to have you join a program that strives to exemplify excellence. This excellence involves areas that extend far beyond winning and losing. Athletic success is the direct result of the combination of effort, teamwork, commitment, and sportsmanship. We are pleased you have joined the coaches, athletes, and parents in continuing in our pursuit of excellence.

**General Information**

Available Sports at Smyer Independent School District:

GIRLS		BOYS
FALL	SPRING	FALL SPRING
Cross Country	Basketball	Cross Country Basketball
	Track & Field	Football Track & Field
	Baseball	Baseball
	Tennis	

## **University Interscholastic League Section**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to the University Interscholastic League. The UIL is the governing body for 1,500 public high schools and nearly 2,100 middle and junior high schools in Texas. The UIL, which began in 1910, is the largest interschool organization of its kind in the world, offering 22 athletic activities to more than one million student-athletes.

The purpose of the UIL is to organize and properly supervise contests that assist in preparing students to become better citizens. Our aim is to provide healthy, character building, educational activities carried out under rules providing for good sportsmanship and fair play for all participants.

Contests could not exist without rules. Therefore, UIL rules are adopted and modified by public school administrators whose responsibility is the overall educational program of the local school district rather than individual contests. The superintendent ensures that contests remain strictly amateur and educational in nature.

The UIL athletic program is based on the premise that athletes are students first and that athletic participation is a privilege rather than a right. Students learn teamwork and group responsibility. They also learn to deal with success and to overcome adversity. Research shows those who participate in extra-curricular activities tend to make better grades and have fewer discipline problems than those who do not participate.

Throughout this publication you'll notice references to your "student athlete", rather than your "athlete" because we believe that your children are students first, and athletic participation is a privilege.

Here are some statistics to keep in mind:

- There are over one million high school football players and almost one million basketball players in grades 9-12 nationally. Of those numbers, about 250 make it to the NFL, and about 50 make an NBA team.
- The odds of a high school football player being selected to play for an NFL team are about 6,000 to 1.
- The odds of a high school athlete competing in the NBA are even greater. • The NCAA is made up of 977 schools classified in three divisions, and less than 25,000 student athletes compete for NCAA titles annually, most of whom are not on athletic scholarships.

It is important to focus on your student's academic career in addition to their success on the playing field or court.

## **Message to the Parents**

This material is presented to you because your son/daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal, athletic, and academic growth. Your family's interest in our program is gratifying to the entire staff. We believe that participation in

athletics provides student/athletes with tremendous opportunities for growth. Some of the main traits we are looking to develop in the student-athletes are: self-discipline, physical fitness, appreciation of the value of teamwork, sportsmanship, and a desire to strive for excellence.

It is our belief that the benefits derived from developing these traits will far outlast one's athletic endeavors and will continue to serve them well throughout their lives. We would love to be able to serve as many students as possible by helping them develop these traits, but athletics is a privilege, not a right, and the students must meet certain standards to be allowed to participate in our program. It is imperative that all students involved in the program understand the following Athletic Code and conform to the rules therein, and that the coaches of the sports will have every right to revoke their athletic privileges when the standards are not met.

As a parent/guardian of a student-athlete, you also have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, which are outlined in this Athletic Code. Your signature on the Athletic Code, along with the signature of your student-athlete, indicates that you understand and accept those responsibilities and obligations, and agree to cooperate with school personnel in enforcing the Athletic Code. Compliance with the Athletic Code is mandatory and essential to the success of the athletic program. Failure to comply with the Athletic Code may lead to discipline and possible expulsion from the team. In addition, student-athletes are also subject to discipline under the Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct.

### **The Smyer ISD Athletic Department strives to provide:**

**Adequate equipment and facilities;**

**Educated and experienced coaches;**

**Appropriate competitions with certified officials;**

**Support to athletes, coaches and parents.**

Good sportsmanship is always encouraged and expected from our fans and spectators during athletic events. Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship may result in removal from the event and/or future events. In addition to attending Smyer ISD Athletics contests, you are invited and encouraged to join the Smyer ISD Booster Clubs and help promote our Athletics, Band, FFA, and UIL Academics.

We believe athletics is an integral part of the high school educational experience, both as a competitor and spectator. We look forward to working with you and to supporting your son/daughter as they participate in their chosen sport.

## **Message to the Athlete**

Smyer ISD has a history of athletic excellence. This tradition was not built overnight. It took years of dedication, commitment, and hard work by a countless number of people. As a Smyer ISD Athlete you must continue to strive to uphold this high standard of excellence.

Once you have become a member of a team, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes in this community:

- The use of vulgar, pervasive, or sexually explicit language is unacceptable anywhere and at any time.
- A member of an athletic team is to be well groomed.
  - The athletic department shall set the standards for hair and facial hair as it pertains to the specific sport.
- Clothing worn at competitions must be worn in a neat and mannerly fashion (i.e., shirts tucked in and buttoned, etc.).
  - The coach shall set the standard for dress as it pertains to his/her sport.
- Always exhibit appropriate behavior.

Your participation in athletics is a privilege and should be treated as such. Any time you wear the blue and white, you are representing yourself, your family, your school and all those that have worn these colors before you. Your behavior should be above reproach in all areas. Students, staff members, parents, and the community will closely observe your conduct. The rules outlined in this handbook are designed and intended as a guide to successful participation. Failure to follow the rules is addressed in this handbook. As a student-athlete, you will be expected to understand and abide by these rules and your team's rules. It is your responsibility to follow them to their fullest.

- **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF:** The most important of these responsibilities is to develop strength of character and positive values and behaviors. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible benefit from your high school experiences. Your academic studies and your participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as in sports, help to prepare you for your life as an adult.
- **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL:** Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can make positive contributions to school spirit and community pride. In addition, you are a role model for younger student athletes. These students look up to you and dream of being as successful as we hope you to be. Be sure the example you set is a positive one.
- **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS:** As a team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your family. When you know that you have lived up to all your commitments, that you have practiced with great enthusiasm and that you have played the game to the best of your ability, you maintain your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you.

## **Mission/Belief Statement**

The purpose of Smyer High School Athletics is to provide opportunities for all participating students to learn life-long values in a safe environment.

These values include: Cooperation, Sportsmanship, Pride, Respect and Leadership Skills. The athletes, coaches and parents of the Smyer ISD Athletic Department believe: ❖ That student-athletes will have opportunities to develop leadership characteristics through athletic competition that carry into the classroom and the future.

- ❖ That student-athletes serve as role models within the school community and are expected to act in a manner that reinforces that role.
- ❖ That self-discipline and sportsmanship are essential to a sound athletic foundation. ❖ That pride builds respect of self and others which helps create strong and lasting friendships through athletic competition.
- ❖ That participation in athletics is not a right but a privilege; with that privilege, comes responsibility.
- ❖ That a strong commitment is an important ingredient to the success of Smyer Athletics. ❖ That athletics should be fun as well as providing learning experiences.

### **~ MISSION OF EXTRACURRICULAR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ~**

One of the missions of extracurricular school activities is to serve as an extension of the classroom. There are strong lessons to be learned in athletics. One of those lessons is to set and maintain high standards of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in our schools and our society. It is up to us to provide the direction and constant vigilance under which good sportsmanship can prosper and have a positive impact on our children, the leaders of tomorrow, and ourselves.

We feel the need to stress the type of exemplary behavior that should be exhibited by all players and spectators at our events.

The value of the lessons learned by exhibiting good sportsmanship will last a lifetime. If we ever lose sight of that, then athletics, or any co-curricular activity, is not worth sponsoring. The positive actions of a coach, athlete or spectator at an event can influence how any school is perceived in each of our communities and the communities of those schools that meet on the field of play.

We are asking for your support in this effort by emphasizing to your son or daughter what is expected of them at an athletic event as a competitor or spectator. After all, such events are an extension of the school day, and we should expect the same type of respectful behavior exhibited in the athletic arena as we do in the classroom. We urge you to ask your children to demonstrate self-control and self-discipline and at the same time, enjoy the games.

Finally, we ask you to set a good example when in the stands at an event. It is only through these efforts that we can clearly communicate what is acceptable behavior. We hope that your positive example will help set the tone for those around you, so we may all enjoy the games our athletic teams are involved in.

When you purchase a ticket to an athletic event, you are given the privilege to view the action and to voice your support of our teams. We want that support to be in a positive tone, so that the educational value of these events is completely developed and clearly communicated to our students.

## ~ BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS ~

1. Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition - not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans. a. A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
2. Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
3. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups. 4. Respect the integrity and judgement of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
5. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team. 6. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
7. Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
8. Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.
9. Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.
  - a. Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.
    - i. There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct himself or herself accordingly. ii. Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal, it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.
  - b. The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators.
    - i. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

## **Parent/Coach Relations**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide greater benefit to the student. As your son/daughter becomes involved in the athletic programs at Smyer ISD, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. You have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your student-athletes. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student athlete wishes. 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. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete's program.

### **❖ Communication parents should expect from your son / daughter's coach:**

- a. Coach's philosophy.
- b. Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team.
- c. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- d. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, off season expectations, team/individual camps.
- e. Medical procedures should your student-athlete become injured during participation.
- f. Team rules, guidelines, and requirements for earning awards.

### **❖ Communication coaches expect from parents and student-athletes:**

- a. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- b. Special concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- c. Injury or circumstances that may endanger the athlete when participating.

There are situations that may require a conference between a coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following is what will be considered "Appropriate Concerns" for discussion and what is NOT up for discussion.

### **❖ Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**

- a. The treatment of your student-athlete, mentally and physically.
- b. Ways to help your son/daughter to improve.
- c. Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior.

### **❖ Issues NOT appropriate to discuss with coaches:**

- a. How much playing time each athlete is getting.
- b. Team strategy.
- c. Play calling.
- d. Other student-athletes.



**~ Procedure you should follow if you have a concern to discuss with a coach ~**

- Discuss the issue with your son/daughter first. You may find through this communication an answer, resolution, or understanding of the situation before contacting others. ○ Please give yourself time to understand your concern before approaching a coach. ○ Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.
- Call the coach to set up an appointment through the school.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, and the meeting will be set up for you.

**\*\* Attempting to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice is not an ideal time. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution, but rather escalates it. \*\***

**# What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did NOT provide a satisfactory resolution? #**

- Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
- If at this meeting, the concern is not satisfactorily resolved, the athlete and/or parent(s) may wish to make a formal complaint to the Athletic Director about the coach.
  - This should be put in writing, with a copy provided to the coach.
- The Athletic Director will investigate the concern and discuss the concern with the coach and/or the Head Varsity Coach. The investigation may include observation of practice sessions by the Athletic Director, if necessary. The Athletic Director will document the results of the investigation and subsequent action(s) to be taken to resolve the complaint in writing.
- If the concern is not satisfactorily resolved by the Athletic Director, the athlete and/or parent(s) may appeal to the Principal. The Principal will meet with the parties involved in a further attempt to resolve the situation.
- If the concern is not satisfactorily resolved at this level, the athlete and/or parent(s) may begin the formal complaint process as described in the Smyer ISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL).

**\*\* A conference that is set up with a coach and a parent shall not result in negative consequences against the student-athlete because of this meeting. \*\***

# **THE SMYER ISD ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

## **PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

The Smyer ISD Athletic Code is established under the authority of the Smyer ISD School Board. The purpose of the Athletic Code is to establish standards for the athlete in the area of academic performance and personal behavior for those individuals who voluntarily become involved in the interscholastic athletic program.

## **“ATHLETE” DEFINED**

An athlete is defined as any Smyer ISD student who is a member of an interscholastic team sponsored by SISD. This includes team members, managers, student trainers, statisticians, etc. A student who voluntarily participates in a sport sponsored by Smyer ISD agrees to abide by the SISD Athletic Code of Conduct throughout the year in which the student participates in the sport. The year is a calendar year - 365 days. Compliance with the Athletic Code is not limited to school sponsored sports activities or school premises.

The Code is not a complete list of undesirable conduct by athletes. Smyer ISD athletes are examples and role models and expected to act accordingly during their athletic career. Any student athlete whose conduct is found to be a discredit or to cause unfavorable notoriety to the athlete, the team, or SISD during their athletic career, shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, Athletic Director, or principal, whether the conduct is specifically described in the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Our athletes are to always strive for the highest in mental, physical, and moral values.

## **~ SPECIFIC ATHLETIC CODE STANDARDS & CONSEQUENCES ~**

The following rules are not an exhaustive list of conduct that subjects an athlete to discipline. At all times, student-athletes are expected to follow the SISD Student Code of Conduct and to behave in a manner consistent with the special privilege of being an SISD athlete. The consequences described below outline the range of possible discipline that may be imposed for the listed violations. However, the Athletic Director has complete discretion to depart from the listed range of discipline if the circumstances of a particular case justify a departure. Please note violations of the Athletic Code may be required to be disclosed and may reflect negatively on applications to universities, colleges, and military academies. The District reserves the right to disclose violations in its sole discretion.

Violations will be cumulative during a student’s athletic career. Accumulation will begin the first day an athlete begins trying out for any team and will continue throughout his/her entire athletic career. The first violation of any of the following codes will be considered the first offense when determining the consequence. When a second violation of any of the following codes occurs, then the second offense consequence will be imposed. Upon a third offense of any of the following codes, then the third offense consequence will be applied.

As stated earlier, these rules apply 365 days, on or off school premises, and are not limited to school sponsored activities or sports.

• **On Field Performance (Practices/Games):**

Effort and respect will always be expected. Game and practice attendance are required. Profanity will not be tolerated. Poor effort will not be tolerated.

○ **Consequences**

Punishment for missing a practice/game without permission, profanity, or poor effort in practice/game will be at the discretion of the head coach of the in-season sport.

**\*\* Note: If an athlete misses the school transportation under no circumstances shall they transport themselves to a contest. He/she must ride with their parent/guardian.**

**THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. \*\***

• **School Attendance:**

An athlete shall be in attendance in every class during the day of the contests, except as excused by the Director of Athletics/designee at least one (1) day prior to the absence.

The Director of Athletics/designee may waive this rule in cases of unusual circumstances.

○ **Consequences**

Each Offense: Suspension from the scheduled athletic contest(s) on that date; other consequences at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

• **Eligibility Requirements:**

○ **Academic Standards:**

No student-athlete shall represent Smyer ISD who has failed any class for two consecutive six-week grading periods. The athlete must carry a full-time class schedule or equivalent as determined by the principal and recommended to the Superintendent, i.e. college classes.

○ **Consequences**

Athletes who fail to meet the eligibility standards shall be removed from the athletic program until a time that the student-athlete once again becomes academically eligible either at the end of the three-week grading period or at the end of the six-week grading period. Failure to become eligible by the end of the next six weeks grading period will result in the forfeiture of participation in the athletic program for the remainder of the academic school year.

• **Behavior And Citizenship Standards:**

The athlete may not receive two (2) or more unsatisfactory marks in citizenship using the Cat Classroom Check-Up system by two or more teachers on a weekly basis. ○

**Consequences**

An athlete who fails to meet the weekly standards will not participate in the following week's athletic contest(s) (Mon-Sat). He/she will be expected to practice and will be subject to all team rules and regulations unless otherwise directed by the coach and/or Athletic Director.

- Any questions about Eligibility Requirements should be directed to the Athletic Director. Disputes about eligibility shall be resolved by the High School Principal, whose decision is final.

• **Building / Community Standards:**

All Smyer ISD student athletes are also responsible for complying with the rules in the SISD Student Handbook. Depending upon the situation, an athlete may face consequences under both the Athletic Code and the Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct.

○ **Consequences**

If a student athlete is disciplined for a violation of the SISD Student Handbook, the Athletic Director may be notified. A conference between the Athletic Director and student will be conducted to determine:

- Athletic Code violations
- The appropriate consequence

• **Personal Appearance And Grooming:**

Our athletes represent our community and school everywhere they go. Therefore, they should be groomed in a manner of which the community, school, and sponsors can be proud. Hair shall be clean and well groomed. It will be styled in a manner that is not distracting and/or designed to be conspicuous. It will be neatly trimmed and styled to meet the coach's satisfaction. Facial hair will be based upon the in-season sport and must also conform to the Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct. The athlete will be neatly dressed and meet school regulations regarding all clothing items. UIL regulations regarding jewelry will be followed in practice as well as competition.

• **Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, & Vaping Devices ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED:** The possession, use, consumption, distribution, purchase, sale or manufacture of, or any other improper or unlawful involvement of any kind or description with illegal drugs, controlled substances, alcohol or alcoholic beverages, anabolic or androgenic steroids, tobacco, tobacco products, E-Cigarettes, Vapor Pens, or facsimiles, "look- alike" drugs, drug paraphernalia, or substances or products that mask or tamper with any of these, is strictly prohibited. Also prohibited is the distribution, abuse or misuse of over the counter medications or prescription drugs, or other chemicals or substances.

○ **Testing:**

The District believes that they have the responsibility to detect, deter and prevent drug, alcohol and tobacco use. The District reserves the right to adopt a random testing program for District athletes.

○ **Consequences:**

Because student-athletes bear additional responsibilities as examples and role models within the school and the community, the District and the Athletic Department reserve the right to impose consequences above and beyond those listed below when appropriate. Whenever conduct may constitute a crime, a referral to law enforcement is also possible, and may be required by law.

• **Possession or Use of Prohibited Substances as Defined Above:**

- **Consequences:**

The Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct will be applied for any and all offenses.

- **Sale or Distribution of Prohibited Substances as Defined Above:**

- **First (AND ONLY) Offense:**

Exclusion from athletic events for rest of their athletic career.

- **Stealing, Property Destruction:**

To steal or be an accomplice to the act of stealing community property, school property, or the property of athletes, team managers or coaches; to destroy or deface school property or the property of others.

- **First (AND ONLY) Offense:**

Exclusion from athletic events for rest of their athletic career.

- **Gross Misconduct:**

Gross misconduct is defined as cheating, fighting, or unfavorable notoriety, violation of a civil or criminal law, or any socially unacceptable behavior that brings discredit to the athlete, parents, school or team. This includes any behavior on social media.

**\*\* Social media is defined as Facebook or other online forums. These are not an outlet to vent negativity about the Smyer Athletic Program, including its coaches or players. This behavior can have a devastating effect on the program. The acceptance of this policy indicated by the signatures of athlete and parent/guardian constitutes the acceptance of the first and only warning regarding this behavior. \*\***

- **Consequences:**

The Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct will be applied for any and all offenses.

- **Travel Regulations:**

All athletes who represent our school and community on road trips will dress in an acceptable manner and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with this code. They should be on time for all trips. All athletes who travel with the team to an event will likewise return with the team unless there is an emergency or if they return with their parents when there is a good reason for returning with the parents. This must be cleared with the head coach. If a request to ride home with the parent is granted, the coach must meet with the parent before allowing the student to leave and receive signed documentation. Failure to follow these rules will result in the following consequences:

- **Consequences:**

- **First Offense:**

Suspension from the NEXT scheduled contest(s).

- **Second Offense:**

Suspension from the next three consecutive athletic dates.

- **Third Offense:**

Suspension from participation in athletic contests for up to six calendar months. 12

- **Leaving a Team:**

Quitting is an intolerable habit to develop. It will be highly discouraged. An athlete who quits a sport will not be allowed to participate in any other sports for one calendar year. While we understand that not every student athlete is cut out for all sports, a period of “trying out” the sport will be acceptable. During this time, the student athlete may “try out” for the sake of their own experience. If they choose to no longer pursue the sport that they are “trying out”, **they may leave under the conditions that they have not yet participated in a scrimmage, game, or have not been a part of the team for no longer than two weeks.** It is during this time that a coach has the option to “drop” the student athlete only after a letter written by the parent(s) / guardian(s) is submitted. Only extenuating circumstances cited by the coach of the sport in question can alter this penalty. The coach is required to notify the Athletic Director of said release within three working days.

**An athlete desiring to drop from the team after the “try-out” period or after team selection has been made, may be subject to a consequence at the discretion of the Athletic Department Administration.** A meeting between the athlete, parents, coach and Athletic Director will be held to decide the validity of a release or consequence, which could include exclusion from athletics for the next sport or season. **The decision of the Administration is final.**

**\*\* Note: Coaches have the right to recommend to the Athletic Department Administration the dismissal of participants from the team roster for conduct considered detrimental to the team. Release can be done with or without consequence.**

**The decision of the Administration is final.** \*\*

• **Conflicts in Co-Curricular Activities:**

Despite all scheduling efforts by the administration, conflicts will occur between athletic and non-athletic activities and events. The following guidelines shall apply to students who experience conflicts between SISD school-related activities:

When a conflict occurs between two scheduled activities the student’s first duty is to notify both coach/sponsors as early as possible. The coach/sponsors will attempt to resolve the conflict to best allow the student to participate in as many activities as possible. The student will then be advised of the recommended solution to the conflict. It is expected that the student will follow the recommendation OR propose an equally acceptable alternative.

When a conflict occurs between a competition/performance and a scheduled practice, students will be expected to attend the competition/performance (without loss of group membership or standing in the other activity).

When a conflict occurs between scheduled practices, the students will be expected to participate in one (without loss of group membership in the other activity). Frequently missing practice sessions may jeopardize a student's standing within his/her group or team. Frequent conflicts will be balanced to the extent possible so that the student attends

both activities equally.

When a conflict occurs between competitions/performances, students may participate in one activity without loss of group membership or standing in the other activity. There may be times when students may simultaneously participate in multiple SHS activities/events by prior arrangement with the sponsors/coaches.

It is strongly recommended that any athlete participating on an interscholastic team shall refrain from participating on any recreation or non-school sponsored team in another sport while the interscholastic sport is in season. The first obligation and responsibility of the athlete is to Smyer High School's academic and athletic programs.

• **School Equipment:**

Students are responsible for all school equipment issued to them. Athletic uniforms, both practice and game, are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. This equipment is not to be used for any other purpose. When the season is completed all school, equipment is to be returned to the school. There are no exceptions to this policy. The theft of school equipment is larceny and Texas law regards larceny as a felony.

Students who violate this policy are subject to school rules, the Athletic Code, and may be referred to law enforcement.

Students, who wish to wear a uniform for pictures, need a coach's approval first. Any such pictures are to be taken in good taste and with pride. Remember, any time you wear the blue and white, you are representing yourself, your family, your school and all those that have worn these colors before you.

The athlete is financially responsible for all the school equipment issued to him/her. Wearing or using said equipment for personal use will be regarded as theft.

• **Public Display of Affection (PDA):**

Public displays of affection such as kissing, hugging, and/or holding hands by athletes at school and school functions is inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Offenders will be subject to consequences listed in the Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct.

• **College Recruitment Policy:**

In the event you should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, you have an obligation to work through your coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible.

• **Locker Room Privacy Policy:**

Using devices of any kind to capture or transmit images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing areas, training rooms, weigh-in rooms, showers, restrooms, or other areas where there is an expectation of privacy.

○ **First (AND ONLY) Offense:**

Exclusion from athletic events for rest of their athletic career.

• **Hazing:**

**HAZING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Because hazing is unsafe and can discourage participation as well as negatively affect a student's enjoyment in athletic participation, all forms of hazing are strictly prohibited.

**Hazing includes, but is not limited to:**

Any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of harming a student or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person, or damage to his or her property; any type of physical force, harm or injury inflicted by athletes on their team members such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing an unwanted substance on the student's body; any type of coerced or involuntary sexual or physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other coerced or unwelcome confinement, restriction or other forced activity by athletes on their fellow team members; any coerced or involuntary activity by athletes on their team members that subject the athletes to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects their mental or physical health, safety, or welfare; or any coerced or involuntary activity inflicted, encouraged or mandated by athletes on their team members, such as the consumption of alcoholic beverages, illegal, unauthorized, or foreign substances of any type whatsoever, tobacco or tobacco products, over the counter medication or prescription drugs, or any other unreasonable risk of harm or activity that adversely affects an athlete's mental or physical health, safety, welfare or interest in the sport.

For purposes of this rule, a team member's voluntary participation in hazing is not necessarily a defense to a claimed violation of this rule. Athletes who organize or initiate hazing activities, but do not directly participate in them, are equally subject to possible discipline as students who directly participate in acts of hazing.

In addition, student-athletes are expected and required to report suspected violations of this rule. Athletes may be disciplined for failure to report known hazing violations or for falsely denying knowledge of known hazing activities.

○ **Consequences:**

Because student-athletes bear additional responsibilities as examples and role models within the school and the community, the District and the Athletic Department reserve the right to impose consequences above and beyond those listed below when deemed appropriate. Whenever conduct may constitute a crime, a referral to law enforcement is also possible, and may be required by law.

▪ **For Any Allegations Made:**

- The individual(s) will be placed on immediate probation whereas they will NOT be allowed to participate in any manner of workouts, athletic events, or even allowed into the athletic facilities until a time that the investigation has been completed.
  - The investigation may, or may not, include some manner of police involvement.
- Once the investigation has been concluded and it has been acknowledged that a manner of hazing has taken place, the



individual(s) will be subject to varying degrees of consequences as described in the Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct and may include the removal from athletics for the remainder of their athletic career.

• **Miscellaneous:**

Not all violations of the Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct will result in discipline under the Athletic Code, but if the student is suspended out of school they shall not practice or participate on the day/days of their suspension.

Consequences include scrimmage dates, scheduled, and officially recognized or sanctioned competitive events.

During an athletic code suspension, the athlete shall participate in practice sessions and attend all team functions unless specifically excused by the coach.

If the athlete is not presently involved in a sport, the consequence will be applied during the next sport in which he/she is involved. If the consequence exceeds the number of contests remaining in that sport, the balance of the consequence will be pro-rated and applied during the next sport (using that sport's schedule) in which the athlete participates.

• **Coaches' Rules:**

It is expected that daily attendance in practice sessions is a requirement of team membership. Coaches will establish, and publish, any team rules and expectations, which can be an addition to this Code.

Coaches who invoke their right to suspend/penalize a team member for a violation of a team rule, which is not considered a violation of The Athletic Code, will notify the Director of Athletics of the situation before a consequence is invoked. The purpose of notification is to record the infraction in the event it is affected by a previous infraction or may influence a future infraction.

Membership on a team does not dictate any level of participation in contests. Only the coach of each team maintains the discretion of assigning "playing time."

• **Playing Time:**

It will be the goal of the coaches to make sure every sub-varsity player gets some playing time in the games, though this may not always be possible. At the varsity level, the goal will be to secure the win before the coach considers playing all his/her reserve players.

## **REQUIRED FORMS MUST BE TURN INTO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE**

As an athlete you ARE NOT eligible to participate in any sport UNTIL the following items have been completed & turned in:

1. Emergency Contact Form

### **~ UIL REQUIRED FORMS ~**

Required Forms for Student Participation. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required annual forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage, or game.

2. Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form (required every two years). As a minimum requirement, a Physical Examination Form must be completed prior to junior high athletic participation (6<sup>th</sup> going into 7<sup>th</sup>) and again prior to first (8<sup>th</sup> going into 9<sup>th</sup>) and third years (10<sup>th</sup> going into 11<sup>th</sup>) of high school athletic participation. Local district policy may require an annual physical exam. The form must be filled in and signed by either a Physician, a Physician Assistant licensed by a State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, a Registered Nurse recognized as an Advanced Practice Nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners, or a Doctor of Chiropractic. Examination forms signed by any other health care practitioner will not be accepted.
3. Medical History Form (required EVERY year). Each year prior to any practice or participation, a UIL Medical History Form signed by both a student and a parent or guardian is required. A Medical History Form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both a student and a parent or guardian.
4. Parent or Guardian Permit. Annual participation permit signed by the student's parent or guardian.
5. Rules Acknowledgment. Annual UIL Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.
6. Parent/Student Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Form. The parent/guardian of each high school athlete, along with each high school athlete, must annually sign the UIL Illegal Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form.
7. Concussion Acknowledgment Form. Annual UIL Concussion Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.
8. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form. Annual UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.

## **POTENTIAL DANGERS IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

### **~ WARNING ABOUT THE INHERENT DANGERS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION ~**

Student athletes and parents should be aware that any athletic participation will always have inherent dangers. Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in sports, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers using appropriate equipment, proper training methods and common sense.

The UIL encourages student athletes in all sports, and their parents, to discuss risks and risk minimization with coaches and school administrators.

Parents and student-athletes should fully understand and appreciate the risk of serious personal injury associated with participation in the sports program provided by Smyer High School. Participation in school athletics involves flying objects, swift movement of bodies, and unavoidable collisions. Athletic activities are hazardous and could include serious injuries such as paralysis, head injuries, or possible death.

Taking part in such activities is calculated risk-taking on the part of the student-athlete and parents. Reducing injuries to a minimum is a continuous goal of our coaching and administrative staff.

## **INJURIES & INSURANCE OR WAIVER**

Smyer ISD **DOES NOT** assume, financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a **VOLUNTARY** program in which students participate if they so desire. They do this at their own risk. Parents are responsible for any and all medical expenses incurred during the season.

## **INSURANCE COVERAGE**

Each athlete has Supplemental Insurance for any injury through athletic participation. This insurance is secondary and does NOT become active until the individual's insurance has been exhausted.

To help eliminate any CONFUSION or MISUNDERSTANDING concerning the insurance program we ask you to please follow this procedure:

- Please have your son/daughter notify their coach and/or trainer of all injuries. • Have an accident report form filled out by the coach under whose supervision the accident occurred.
- Please see the attached Insurance Form at the back of this packet for consultation.

## **IN CLOSING:**

It has been mentioned in the document above that participating in athletics is a privilege, not a right, for our students. That is certainly true, but let it also be noted by the parents that the coaches of Smyer ISD also consider it a privilege for us to coach your sons and daughters. We sincerely believe that our athletes will develop self-discipline, physical fitness, an appreciation for the value of teamwork, sportsmanship, and a desire to strive for excellence. Young people who finish their high school education possessing these qualities are sure to do well in their chosen field. These are the true rewards of participating in athletics, much more than the wins and trophies. It is with this in mind, that the coaches at Smyer ISD will go about the business of coaching your children.

## Athletic Handbook Signature Page

I have read the Smyer ISD Athletic Handbook and will do my best to adhere to its guidelines and to accept the consequences for any violations. I understand that this Handbook is additional to the Smyer ISD Student Code of Conduct and is not intended to replace it. I also understand that further, more specific guidelines may be added by the coaches of the various sports/programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Printed

Name of Athlete) (Signature of Athlete) (Date)

As the parent/guardian of a Smyer athlete, I acknowledge receipt of this handbook. Additionally, my signature indicates that I have read and understand the following Spectator Code of Conduct:

I acknowledge that high school athletics should be a positive event for my son/daughter. I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting or using profane language or gestures.

I will respect the coaches and will not question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field or on the court. If I wish to speak with a coach, I will follow accepted protocol and seek this formal meeting through the Athletic Director.

I will not ridicule or make negative statements at the student, the team, or the coach for making a mistake or losing a competition.

I will teach my student to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without hostility or violence.

I also understand that if I fail to follow the rules and guidelines, I could be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, coach or administrators of the school.
- Written warning.
- Game forfeit through the official or coach.
- Fan/Parental season suspension.
- Moratorium on attendance of athletic contests for up to one year or more, as determined appropriate by the School Administration.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signature of

Parent/Guardian) (Date)