

SPUR ISD
ATHLETIC MANUAL
2008-2009



ATHLETIC PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The Spur ISD athletic program is an integral part of Spur schools. Athletics is an extracurricular activity that serves to enhance the primary objective of educating the students of Spur ISD at the highest level plausible. The coaching staff in the Spur Athletic Program understands its role in the development of top student-athletes, and therefore, will work diligently to ensure the students are living up to the standards established by Spur ISD and the community that supports it. Every decision that the coaching staff makes will be based on our athletic priorities. The three priorities all athletic policy is based on are placed in order of importance below.

1. Developing student-athletes to become excellent citizens.
2. Developing student-athletes to become excellent students.
3. Developing student-athletes to become excellent athletes.

Excellence is defined as holding oneself to the highest possible standard in a relentless pursuit of their highest possible destiny. We understand that true perfection will never be obtained, but the continual quest to be the best one can be is the closest one can get to it. We believe that excellence starts when we forget what is behind, embrace the possibilities of today, and press on with purpose toward the future. How do we accomplish this task as a coaching staff of developing student-athletes of excellence? Our philosophy of coaching is simple. We teach it, we model it, and we demand it. The characteristics of excellence we will be teaching are listed below.

I. Characteristics of excellent Citizens.

1. Genuine respect for others
2. Place their nation's best interest above their own
3. Genuine respect for policies and procedures established by our nation.
4. Value their role in making a positive impact on their surroundings
5. Strive for success in all they do.
6. Live a life that displays character, courage, and commitment.

II. Characteristics of excellent Students.

1. Genuine respect for others including administrators, teachers, and students.
2. Place their school's best interest above their own.
3. Genuine respect for policies and procedures established by the school.
4. Value their role in making a positive impact on their school.
5. Strive for success in all they do.
6. Classroom life displays character, courage, and commitment.

III. Characteristics of Excellent Athletes.

1. Genuine respect for others including coaches, teammates, officials, and opponents.
2. Place their team's best interest above their own.
3. Genuine respect for policies and procedures established by the athletic department.
4. Value their role in making a positive impact on their team.
5. Strive for success in all they do.

6. Their life on the playing field displays character, courage, and commitment.

The priorities established are the core of what our program is about. We will strive to uphold our standards in order that our student-athletes will reach their highest possible destiny.

In order to do this we believe we must possess the values of character, commitment, and courage. Character covers a broad range of ideals, but in simple terms it involves treating others as we would like to be treated under all circumstances. Character includes: humility, honesty, positive attitude, dignity, and respect. Commitment is the continual process of being faithful to the cause. Commitment includes: loyalty, hard work, sacrifice, intensity, dedication, and self-discipline. Courage is the ability to remain faithful despite overwhelming odds. Courage includes: guts, perseverance, persistence, and composure. We do not think our athletes will achieve the level of success Spur ISD desires in all phases of their life without these three qualities. We will be stressing them to our athletes.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

1. We strive to treat our players like they are our sons and daughters.
2. Athletes are students first. We will promote success in the classroom.
3. We teach our priorities and values and we will stress that our athletes uphold them.
4. We want to win! However, we want to win in a manner that does not jeopardize the development of students as good citizens and students but only enhances it.
5. The team always comes first.
6. Student-athletes are placed in positions or roles that best fits the needs of the team.
7. Playing time is determined by the coaches in charge of that particular contest. All student-athletes will not receive the same amount of playing time, but all student-athletes will receive the same opportunity to prove themselves through effort, attitude, and performance during practice.
8. We believe in strength and conditioning. Students who are strong and in great condition are going to be more successful and will be better suited to handle the physical stress of athletics with fewer injuries.
9. We believe the support of parents plays a big role in the success of the athletic program. We will work hard to communicate with parents on subjects such as game and practice schedules, expectations, and all issues pertaining to your child.
10. Athletes that do not behave in a manner that best represents Spur ISD will be disciplined appropriately.

STANDARDS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

1. Abide by the values and priorities of the athletic program.
2. Demonstrate good sportsmanship in winning and losing.
3. Attend all workouts and competitions unless otherwise arranged between coach and player.
4. Prepare for each sport with the attitude of being the best.
5. Meet the Spur ISD standards for grooming and dress.
6. Obey all athletic team rules.
7. Respect the rights and privileges of all athletes, coaches, teachers, and administrators.
8. Respect the property of others including athletic property and facilities.

9. Cooperate with the coaching staff in maintaining a safe, orderly, and disciplined environment.
10. Adhere to the requirements of the Athletic Program Manual.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Student participation in athletics is NOT a RIGHT but a PRIVILEGE. Hence, policies and standards of behavior-including consequences for misbehavior can be stricter than those for students in general. The expectations for student-athletes at Spur ISD are high and the coaching staff will strictly monitor our athletes to ensure they are living up to these standards.

GENERAL CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

The coaching staff of Spur ISD prohibits the following.

1. Disregard for authority.
2. Mistreatment of others verbally or physically.
3. Profanity.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct during games and practices.
5. Property offenses including vandalism or theft and abetting such action.
6. Use of illegal drugs. (this includes but is not limited to tobacco products, alcohol use, steroid use, and prescription drug abuse)
7. Safety transgressions that include verbal threats, violence, the inciting of violence or any other behavior that places school safety at risk.
8. Disregarding dress and grooming policies.
9. Unexcused absences to scheduled practices and games.
10. Inappropriate communication with opponents or teammates via internet sites, text messaging, emails, or other electronic devices.
11. Misuse of school-issued equipment including wearing school issued apparel outside of school related events or not returning school issued apparel.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

In the event a student-athlete fails to live up to the standards of the athletic program then the athlete will be punished appropriately depending on the offense. The terms “minor” offense and “major” offense will be used to help us determine the appropriate discipline technique.

A. Handling Minor Offenses

1. Minor offenses include but are not limited to:
 - failure to follow directives by coaches, teachers, or administrators
 - profanity
 - tobacco use on school grounds or at school events
 - verbal mistreatment of fellow students or school staff
 - disregarding dress and grooming policies
 - unexcused absences to scheduled practices
 - inappropriate communication with opponents or teammates via electronic devices or internet sites.
 - misuse of school related apparel
 - conduct detrimental to the team or teammates
 - unsportsmanlike conduct in games or practices.

2. Minor offenses will be dealt with in the following manner.

1st offense – reminder (push-ups, bleachers, etc ...) & stern warning

2nd offense – *stands (5-10) & student-coach conference

3rd offense – *stands (10-20) & student/parent/coach conference

4th offense – treated as 1st major offense (see handling major offenses)

5th offense – treated as 2nd major offense (see handling major offenses)

6th offense – treated as 3rd major offense (see handling major offenses)

*Bleachers are referring to football stands from track to top of stadium. If basketball bleachers are used, then the amount of bleachers will double.

B. Handling Major Offenses

1. Major offenses include but are not limited to:

-Alcohol use.

- insubordination (refusing to comply with the policies of the program)

- Property offenses including vandalism or theft and abetting such action.

-Safety transgressions that include verbal threats, violence, the inciting of violence or any other behavior that places school safety at risk.

-individuals with multiple (4 or more) minor offenses

**Illegal drug use (non alcohol) or prescription drug abuse.

2. Major offenses will be dealt with in the following manner.

1st Offense – 25 football stands (50 snakes in gym) &

1 week suspension from all athletic contests.

Football = 1 game

Basketball = 2 games

Track, CC, tennis, golf = 1 meet

2nd Offense – Punishment doubles

2 week suspension from all athletic contests

Football = 2 games

Basketball = 4 games

Track, CC, tennis, golf = 2 meets

****Illegal drug use would be considered a severe offense and the student-athlete will move directly to the 2nd step of the discipline plan**

3rd Offense – *Discipline Committee meets and determines course of action. Possible course of action:

#1. Removal from athletics

#2. Determining amount and length of punishment

#3. Establishing a discipline contract with student

*****Parents will be notified for ALL major offenses*****

C. Discipline Committee

The Discipline committee will be in charge of making decisions in regards to the discipline procedures necessary when an athlete commits multiple (3 or more) major offenses. It will be the committee's decision on whether to remove an athlete from

athletics because of these offenses. The committee will consist of the following individuals.

- Head coach of the sport the athlete is in at the time of the offense
- Athletic director
- Secondary school principal

D. Removal from the Athletic Program

The Discipline committee will make all decisions regarding an athlete's removal from athletics for disciplinary reason.

E. Athletic Authority and Jurisdiction

The Coaching staff has disciplinary authority over a student-athlete:

1. During the regular school day and while the student is going to and from school on district transportation.
2. During the lunch periods even if a student is allowed to leave campus.
3. While the student is in attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location.
4. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time and location.
5. When retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened regardless of time or location.
6. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event.
7. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property.
8. When the student commits a felony, as provided by Texas Education Code 37.006 or 37.0081 regardless of time or place.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROCEDURES

A. Student-athletes' "quitting" the program

There may be an instance where a student-athlete decides to quit the athletic program or an individual sport for personal reasons. In these situations, the student-athlete will be given a day to "sleep on it" before the athletic program decides to move forward with this process. During this time, the parent will also be informed of the student's request. After the 24 hour period, the student-athlete and coach will have a meeting to determine what is in the best interest of that student-athlete. The parent will also be strongly encouraged to be a part of this process. Arrangements for a student-athlete to return to a team after quitting will be determined by the coach in charge of that sport. Quitting one sport will NOT restrict a student-athlete from participating in another sport.

B. Parent Complaints, Concerns, and Collaboration

The Spur athletic program places a high regard on the value of parents within the program. We encourage parents to be highly involved in their child's activities by attending all games, passionately supporting your child's team on game night and at pep rallies, and giving positive feedback to our student-athletes whenever possible. The coaching staff also knows that there may be instances where you need to voice a complaint/concern or you may just want to collaborate with us on an upcoming event. We would greatly appreciate you abiding by the following procedure.

1. Have your child approach the coach about the situation first if it involves him/her.
2. If the problem is not solved, then set up a conference with the immediate coach of the team your child is a part of. (Please respect their privacy and only contact the coach at school)
3. If the problem is not resolved, please contact the athletic director through the school and set up a conference.

*We appreciate your role in the community, parents, and we look forward to the positive impact you are going to make with our program.

C. Student Release from Athletic Competition

We prefer that student-athletes ride home on the bus with their fellow teammates to encourage team unity and team spirit. However, we understand that some situations arise where you must pick up your child from an athletic event. In this situation please follow the following procedures.

1. Please communicate with the head coach of their sport in advance if possible.
2. If someone other than the parent is going to take your child home from a sporting event you **MUST** have written notification to the school 24 hours in advance of the event.
3. The parent/guardian must sign the appropriate student release form before your child is allowed to leave.

D. ATTENDANCE and MAKE-UP Responsibilities.

All student-athletes will be required to attend all workout sessions. Any student-athlete that misses a workout session due to an UNEXCUSED absence will be required to do extra conditioning in the time-frame established by the head coach of that sport and will be dealt with using the established discipline plan. An injury that prohibits an athlete from participating in a workout is **NOT** considered a workout missed **UNLESS** it includes an unexcused absence to a scheduled

workout. It will be up to the athlete to inform the coach of a workout that they will miss ahead of time unless there is an emergency situation.

E. MEDICAL CARE and EMERGENCIES

Student safety is the highest of priorities. We will implement safety procedures that, with the cooperation of the student-athletes, will ensure safety. Those procedures include:

1. Behavioral standards will be strictly enforced. (No horseplay will be tolerated!)
2. At risk conduct will be dealt with according to policy.
3. Safety hazards will be eliminated or managed appropriately.
4. Emergency plans will be in place. (Ex: lightning, tornado, fire . . .)
5. The coaching staff will be CPR and first aid certified.
6. The coaching staff will work diligently to prevent injuries by creating and implementing safe workouts.

Because athletics involves physical contact, injuries are inevitable; every possible precaution will be made to insure safety to your child. If and when an injury occurs, the staff will work diligently to care for the injury and nurse the student-athlete back to health. In emergency situations the Spur athletic department reserves the right to contact emergency medical personnel. Every effort will also be made to notify the parents in these situations.

F. UIL POLICIES

UIL rules are the guidelines that all school athletic events are played under. Spur ISD athletic department will strictly follow these guidelines. It is important to note that the UIL pays particular attention to issues regarding eligibility and the amateur rule. If you have any questions regarding these issues please contact Spur ISD to make sure we are in compliance.