

SPEARMAN ISD



**EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ATHLETICS**

SPEARMAN ISD ATHLETICS: MISSION

Our mission is to provide a sound, competitive high school athletics program that provides student-athletes the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, ethically, and socially.

SPEARMAN ISD ATHLETICS: VISION

To be a model program excelling in academics and athletics.

Our expectations as a department is to reach the highest level of success in in each sport program. Striving to win and recognizing the overall positive production of our total program reflects upon quality of athletes, coaching, and resources provided.

LYNX and LYNXETTE NON-NEGOTIABLES

A Lynx and Lynxette is expected to carry all of the following characteristics through all aspects of their daily lives. They are not just athletes on the court, field, or track, but in the community.

I. Be Accountable

- a. An athlete's teammates and coaches depend on them to be present, make grades, give their best effort

II. Be Responsible

- a. The responsibility of being a great student-athlete and teammate ultimately falls on the student-athlete alone.

III. Be Trustworthy

- a. Teachers, coaches, and teammates should KNOW that a Lynx and Lynxette is trustworthy.

IV. Be Determined

- a. Student-athletes should be determined to win in their sport and the classroom. This determination should be seen by teachers and coaches daily.

* ALL ATHLETES AND COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO OUR NON-NEGOTIABLES.

STUDENT-ATHLETE OBJECTIVES

All student-athletes will function as an integral member of the athletic program.

Athletics at Spearman ISD consists of a considerable responsibility that requires hard work, self-discipline, and a commitment to the program. This responsibility will run parallel with academic work.

Student-athletes will be required to perform to the best of their ability. They will always follow the directions and teachings of their coaches and teachers. They will be good teammates, encouraging their peers, and put forth a selfless “team first” mentality.

Although we encourage all students to participate in sports, athletics is not for everyone. **Athletics is a privilege, not a right.** Not every student-athlete has the ability to perform well while handling the pressures of school and sports.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

One is considered a student-athlete if they participate in any of the following sports/programs:

- Cross Country
- Cheerleading
- Athletic Training
- Football
- Basketball
- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Tennis
- Golf

PERSONAL APPEARANCE & DRESS

Student-athletes will always observe good practices of personal hygiene and appearance. They will follow the Spearman ISD Dress Code Policy. They will convey an air of confidence in their every day habits, selection of clothes, and personal appearance.

- I. Personal Appearance:
 - a. All clothing, hair styles, piercings, and make-up will abide by the Spearman ISD dress code policy.
 - b. Cleanliness and personal hygiene will be common practice.
 - c. No visible body piercing other than the ears
 - d. No visible tattoos. If you have a tattoo, it will be covered.
 - e. **Do NOT wear other schools' or teams' clothing!**
 - f. **Do NOT be a distraction!**
 - i. Excess, flamboyant, or unneeded equipment or accessories may be removed. This is subject to the decision of the coach.
- II. Attire for Practices:
 - a. Student-athletes will wear assigned practice clothing.
 - b. If practice/game attire is not assigned to student-athletes by coaches, clothing must follow the Spearman ISD dress code. Keep in mind these clothes may be subject to grass stains, blood and bodily fluid, rips and tears. It is not the fault of Spearman ISD for any damage done to your personal clothing due to regular athletic conditions of the student.
- III. Attire for Travel/Games
 - a. Attire for travel will be directed by the Head Coach of each sport. This attire may include: khaki pants, ties, dresses, skirts, formal pants, dress shirts, game shirts, jeans, dress shoes or clean tennis shoes. All student-athletes will represent Spearman well.
 - b. Team dress codes will be strictly followed

CONDUCT

Student-athletes will behave in a respectful manner to all coaches, all school staff, parents, community members, and other students. All will act in a professional manner when representing the athletic program.

- I. Observe rules as they are set by the coaching staff and school administration
- II. During games and practices the students are not to be a disruption and/or distraction.
 - a. There is to be no interruption, arguing, or questioning of a coach.
 - b. Athletes will not use profanity
 - c. Athletes will cheer for their team rather than against the other team
- III. No student-athlete will be allowed on athletic department property (weight room, gym) without prior authorization from coaches.
- IV. Never conduct yourself in any manner that would reflect adversely on your moral character or that of the athletic program, or Spearman ISD. **Discipline referrals are considered unacceptable.**
- V. Treat and acknowledge all persons with the respect their position deserves (i.e. Mr., Mrs., Sir, Ma'am, Coach, etc.) Adults are not a student's peer.
- VI. Athletes performing any acts/behaviors like those listed on the Athletic Discipline Matrix will be punished accordingly. Athletes must complete punishments in order to maintain eligibility in the program.

DRUG TESTING POLICY

All students involved in extra-curricular athletics or programs, and students who drive and park their vehicles on school premises are subject to random drug testing per SPEARMAN ISD POLICY. Per District Policy, consent to the drug use testing policy is a mandatory prerequisite for all students in any extracurricular activity.

DISMISSAL

All will follow rules set forth by the athletic program. Flagrant violations, or continued violations of any of these rules will not be tolerated and are grounds for dismissal from the athletic program. Violations of these rules are not limited to on school property or on athletic trips. Because our students represent Spearman ISD in everything they do, **these rules apply at all times.**

- I. Coaches and administrators will meet to discuss any dismissal of a student-athlete from the athletics program. It will not be an individual decision.
- II. Dismissal from the athletic program is not limited to a specific violation listed, and is at the discretion of SISD administrators.
- III. Returning to the program after suspension
 - a. Any student that has been suspended from the athletic program may only return to the program if:
 - i. During the time of the suspension, no discipline referrals were issued.
 - ii. During the time of the suspension, the student is in good academic standing.
 - b. Returning to the program is at the full discretion of school administration.
 - c. If a student is allowed to return to the athletic program, they will be on a probationary term and may adhere to stricter rules set forth by coaches and administrators.

QUITTING POLICY

Student-athletes who no longer wish to participate in a sport season may have the desire to quit the sport. If this occurs the student-athlete may not participate in the next sport season until:

- I. the current sport season, in which they quit, has fully concluded, and
- II. all make-up/punishment workouts are completed
 - a. Each sport head coach will have specific punishment for quitting

GRACE PERIOD

Student-athletes may be given a grace period by a coach for “trying out” a sport. For example, if a student has never participated in football and wishes to try-out the sport, they may agree upon a try-out timeframe with the head coach. If, within the time frame, the student feels they do not enjoy the sport, they may transfer to off-season with no punishment or negative consequences. This would not be considered “quitting.”

GRADES

All student-athletes will abide by UIL rules. The “No Pass, No Play” law must be strictly enforced.

- I. Progress Reports
 - a. Athletes may be required to turn-in weekly grade/conduct checks to their head coach.
- II. Tutorial Requirements
 - a. Students failing a 3-week or 6-week period may be required to have extra study time in school “Rise Time”. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to make-up any missed workouts.
 - b. If it is found that students are not attending tutorials proper punishment will be discussed.
- III. Chronic Failing Grades
 - a. If a student has failing grades for two 6-week periods during a semester, he/she may be removed from the athletics program for the duration of the semester, **and may be removed from the program for the following semester.**

CLASS, WORK & ATHLETIC SCHEDULE RESPONSIBILITIES

Time-management is one of the most important characteristics of a successful athlete. The student-athlete will be organized and responsible for attending all scheduled practices and games while maintaining a standard of academic excellence.

- I. Class and athletic schedules
 - a. Athletics will not interfere with classroom instruction and vice versa.
 - b. Coaches will send-out a week's schedule in advance, or maintain a routine weekly schedule throughout the season, without drastic changes.
 - c. Season schedules will be available as soon as possible.
 - d. Special cases in student schedules should be discussed with the head coach and proper administration.
 - e. **If a student-athlete misses a day of class for an athletic event, they are responsible for their own missed school work.**
 - f. **If a student has an unexcused absence from school the same day as an athletic event, that student may not participate in the athletic event.**
 - g. Each student will communicate with teachers before they leave for an event what work they are going to miss.
- II. Work Scheduling
 - a. Student-athletes must understand their responsibility to their team. Work schedules should be created around athletic schedules. If a conflict arises, communication with the coach is mandatory and make-up workout may be assigned.
 - b. Multiple missed/late practices due to student work may result in dismissal.
- III. Other School Related Activities
 - a. Coaches and administrators should make every effort to allow student-athletes to be a part of other school-related programs.
 - b. It will be the student-athlete's responsibility to discuss scheduling with their coaches, teachers, or directors in order to minimize conflict.
 - c. If involvement in other activities prohibits the student-athlete from fulfilling his/her role in their sport the student's position may be re-evaluated.
 - d. If involvement in multiple sports at the same time creates a conflict, the sport in the most critical part of the season will take precedence. (ex: playoffs > regular season, regular season > off-season). If both sports are in the same part of their season, the student-athlete should be allowed to decide. This does not allow the student athlete to skip make-up practices.
- IV. Travel
 - a. Travel with a sports team is a privilege and responsibility that is not to be taken lightly. Travel privileges must be earned.
 - b. Arrive at least 15 minutes ahead of the announced departure time to help load equipment.
 - c. We travel to very distant towns and cities. Parents/guardians should understand return times are not always convenient. If a student-athlete needs a ride home, coaches are not allowed to travel with student-athletes in personal vehicles or singularly in school vehicles. Parents should always have timely arrangements available for student pick-up, if needed.

HONORS/AWARDS

POLICY:

Students who meet expectations or who go above expectations will be rewarded accordingly.

PROCEDURES:

- I. Letter Jackets
 - a. Letter jackets will be awarded according to each Head Coach's standard for their respective sport.
- II. Superlatives
 - a. If available, a student-athlete may be recommended for superlative awards through multiple professional organizations. These awards may be performance and/or academic-based.
 - b. Each year, coaches will discuss Athletic Banquet superlative awards for each sport.
 - c. The following Awards may be given for each sport. Not every award has to be given each year.
 - i. Cross Country
 1. Outstanding Runner
 - a. May have Male and Female Categories
 - ii. Football
 1. Most Valuable Player
 2. Defensive Player of the Year
 3. Offensive Player of the Year
 4. Lineman of the Year
 5. Special Teams Player of the Year
 6. Practice Player of the year
 7. Off-season Athlete of the Year
 - iii. Athletic Training
 1. Most Valuable Student Athletic Trainer
 2. Outstanding Student Athletic Trainer
 - iv. Boys Basketball
 1. Outstanding Lynx
 - v. Girls Basketball
 1. MVP
 2. Fighting Heart
 - vi. Swimming
 1. Fighting Heart
 - vii. Track
 1. Outstanding Male Athlete
 2. Outstanding Female Athlete
 - viii. Tennis
 1. Outstanding Male
 2. Outstanding Female
 - ix. Golf
 1. Lynx Golfer of the Year
 2. Lynxette Golfer of the Year
 - x. Overall
 1. Iron Woman Award
 2. Krista Kirkland Award
 3. Iron Man Award
 4. Sgt. Cameron Meddock Award

STUDENT AND PARENT ACCEPTANCE

STUDENT:

I, _____, have read the extra-curricular athletics handbook and agree to comply with the policies and procedures of the Spearman ISD Extra-Curricular Athletics Handbook. I have read and agree to comply with all of the following policies:

- _____ PERSONAL APPEARANCE & DRESS
- _____ CONDUCT and DRUG TESTING
- _____ DISMISSAL POLICY
- _____ QUITTING POLICY and GRACE PERIOD
- _____ GRADE POLICY
- _____ CLASS, WORK & ATHLETIC SCHEDULE RESPONSIBILITIES
- _____ HONORS/AWARDS

Student Cell #: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT:

I, _____, am the parent/legal guardian of the above student. I have read the policies and procedures of the Spearman ISD Extra-curricular Athletics Handbook. I will support my student-athlete, their team and coaches, and help in promoting a positive competitive environment with high moral standards and expectations. I have read and agree to comply with all of the following policies:

- _____ PERSONAL APPEARANCE & DRESS
- _____ CONDUCT and DRUG TESTING
- _____ DISMISSAL POLICY
- _____ QUITTING POLICY and GRACE PERIOD
- _____ GRADE POLICY
- _____ CLASS, WORK & ATHLETIC SCHEDULE RESPONSIBILITIES
- _____ HONORS/AWARDS

Parent Cell #: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:

My promise, as athletic director to you, the parent, is to provide a productive educational experience for your child. I am aware that your child's educational needs are of utmost importance and I am very excited about the opportunity to educate your child in the fulfilling realm of competitive athletics.

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