

Springlake-Earth ISD Athletic Code of Conduct

Participation in extra-curricular athletics is a privilege. This participation should elicit great pride among all school community members. Part of the responsibility that goes with the participation in school sports is the need to maintain satisfactory standards of behavior. The Springlake-Earth Athletics Handbook clearly defines the standards for student athlete behavior. It is the responsibility of each student athlete and his/her parents) to be familiar with the contents of this handbook. Before a student is permitted to participate on an athletic team, both the student and parent must sign a Springlake-Earth Athletics Participation form (located at the back of this handbook) and return it to either their coach or the Athletic Director. The signatures of both the student athlete and the parent indicate that each agrees to respect and abide by these rules and behavior expectations in order to participate in athletics at Springlake-Earth.

MULTIPLE SPORT ATHLETES We encourage all athletes to participate in multiple sports. Our coaches will work diligently to ensure that athletes will be able to excel at as many sports as possible. Athletes involved in multiple sports at the same time must meet each sport's requirements for practice, games, workouts, etc. Failure to meet these requirements will lead to being removed from a sport by the head coach with athletic director approval. The Athletic Director will have the final decision on conflicts that arise between coaches, keeping in mind that athletes will not be punished in one sport for participating in another sport.

QUITTING All athletes will have a two week window to get out of a sport with no penalty. If an athlete quits a sport after the two week window, they will be required to run 25 miles, which must be completed within 10 school days and witnessed by the athletic director's designee. This running must be completed before joining another sport. A parent/coach/athletic director conference will be scheduled within 24 hours or as soon as possible. If it is decided at this conference that the athlete has quit, then the above policy goes into effect.

Expectations

Coaches, parents and student-athletes:

Coach's Code

We understand that the athletic director and coaches are leaders and are dedicated to more than the X's and O's of competition. As professionals, leaders and role models for students, the athletic director and each coach will:

- Exemplify the highest moral character as a role model for young people.
- Recognize the individual worth and reinforce the self-image of each team member.
- Establish a realistic team goal or vision for each season and communicate that to athletes and parents.
- Create training rules for athletes that reflect the positive values of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- Strive to develop the qualities of competence, character, civility and citizenship in each team member.
- Provide a safe, challenging and encouraging environment for practice and competition.
- Gain an awareness of the prevention, care and treatment of athletic injuries.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game official.

- Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Strive for excellence in coaching skills and techniques through professional improvement.

CONDUCT OF PARENTS

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

The treatment of your child mentally and physically. Ways to help your child improve. Concerns about your child's behavior. Family concerns that may have an emotional impact upon your child and his or her athletic participation. It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all of the student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following items, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

Playing time, team strategy, play calling, lineups, substitutions, and other student-athletes on the team. **Other members of your child's team.**

Unacceptable Contact with Your Child's Coach

Prior to and during practice. Prior to, during, or after a contest. These are typically either very busy times or, in the case of a contest, emotional times for all parties involved. Things can and will be said that are not meant. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution.

It is of utmost importance that the proper chain of command be followed. Though we understand your desire to talk with the Athletic Director or Administration first, those phone calls first will be referred to the appropriate coach. If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach, This is the Procedure You Should Follow: 1. Call or email the coach (during an appropriate time) to set up an appointment. What Can a Parent Do If the Meeting with the Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution? Contact the Athletic Director. Any further concerns contact, the appropriate campus principal.

Athlete's Code

High school athletics provide a unique opportunity for the development of not only physical conditioning and skill but also character traits essential for success in life. We challenge every athlete to strive for the following:

Competence – the necessary level of knowledge and skill to sufficiently train and compete

- Develop the skills necessary to participate competently in the game.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the rules and conventions of the game.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the strategies of the game.

- Demonstrate a level of physical conditioning and fitness sufficient to participate competently in the game.
- Demonstrate knowledge of healthy behaviors, including nutrition.
- Understand the necessity of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in order to benefit from participation in interscholastic athletics.

Character – *the pattern of beliefs, attitudes and therefore behavior that relates to moral strength, constitution and essential qualities that characterize the S-E ISD community*

- Be dependable in fulfilling obligations and commitments.
- Accept responsibility for consequences of actions; don't make excuses or blame others.
- Strive to excel.
- Be committed.
- Persevere (give 100% effort; don't give up when faced with setbacks).
- Demonstrate truthfulness.
- Play by the rules of the game.
- Control anger and frustration; refrain from displays of temper and bad language.
- Accept winning/losing gracefully, congratulate opponents, don't sulk or display other negative behaviors.

Civility – *to demonstrate behavior that exemplifies appropriate respect and concern for others*

- Practice good manners on and off the field
- Refrain from trash talk and other put-downs of opponents or teammates.
- Treat all persons respectfully, regardless of individual differences.
- Show respect for legitimate authority (e.g., officials, coaches, captains).
- Be fair and treat others as you wish to be treated.
- Listen to and try to understand others.
- Be sensitive and compassionate to others.
- Actively support teammates and others.

Citizenship – *social responsibility as part of a "community"*

- Be faithful to the ideals of the game, including sportsmanship.
- Keep your commitments to team (e.g., be diligent about practice and following training rules).
- Show team spirit, encourages others and contributes to good morale.
- Accept responsibility to set a good example for teammates, younger players, fans and school community.

Personal Conduct

Participation on an athletic team in the Springlake-Earth High School is a privilege. Athletes are expected to represent Springlake-Earth High School by conducting themselves with dignity, respect and sportsmanship.

An Athlete:

- **Must be academically eligible.**

- **Must not accumulate excessive unexcused absences in a subject.** To do so may result in the athlete being declared ineligible to participate in athletics for a portion of or the entire remainder of the season.
- Must, at all times, exhibit the highest standards of personal behavior while in or outside of school.
- Must not possess or use alcoholic beverages, smoking materials or illegal drugs.
- **Must be in attendance and on time for all practices and contests** unless there is a valid reason and excuse.
- **Is responsible for all equipment/uniforms issued to him/her.** Equipment or uniforms are not to be worn at any social event, for general school use or throughout the community other than athletic events. Any equipment not returned must be paid for by the athlete.
- **Must travel to and from all contests by means of designated school transportation,** unless otherwise authorized by the coach and/or athletic director.
- **May not drop a sport of a particular season and try out for an overlapping sport of the next season without the mutual consent of the coaches involved.**

DRESS AND GROOMING

All athletes will abide by the dress and grooming code outlined in the Students' handbook. Any dress or grooming not perceived acceptable by the Head Coach or Athletic Director will be corrected immediately. The athlete will be on suspension and missed practices will be considered unexcused until the dress and grooming meets policy standards. Corrective measures initiated by a coach will include but is not limited to:

1. Physically straining exercises. 2. Suspension from contests. 3. Removal from the sport and/or the athletic department.

Violations and Penalties

A violation of any part of the Athletic Code may result in denying a student the right to participate for part or all of the sport season.

NO ATHLETE SHALL HAVE SEVERE MISCONDUCT OR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT SCHOOL

1st Offense Corrective measure initiated by a coach.

2nd Offense Corrective measure initiated by a coach.

3rd Offense Corrective measure initiated by a coach and possible suspension from contests or removal from athletics. This will be handled on a case by case basis determined by the severity of the misconduct and behavior.

NO ATHLETE SHALL EXHIBIT DIRECT INSUBORDINATION

1st Offense Corrective measure initiated by a coach, may also include suspension and/or removal from athletics

2nd Offense Suspension and/or removal from athletics.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY Any athlete involved in criminal activity not mentioned above will be dealt with on an individual basis by corrective measures according to school and athletic policy.

Each coach is responsible for administration of this code for his/her sport. Additional rules may be established for each sport. Any participant whose conduct is judged to discredit himself/herself, the team, or the Springlake-Earth High School, whether or not such activity takes place during or outside school hours and sessions of the sport season, will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, athletic director, and/or principal.

Signing this document affirms each individual's commitment to the ideals presented herein.

Date: _____

Athlete's Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Coach's Signature: _____