

SPURGER INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2023-2024



STUDENT ATHLETIC  
HANDBOOK

## Table of Contents:

Statement of Purpose	Page 2
Athletic Philosophy	Page 3
Athlete Expectations of Coaches	Page 4
Reasons for Formulating Policies	Page 5
Parent/Athlete/Coach Communication Guide	Page 5-7
Athletic Code of Conduct	Page 7
Participation	Page 8
Available Sports	Page 8
Responsibilities of the Athlete	Page 9-11
Student Eligibility	Page 11
Physical, Medical, and Insurance	Page 12
Procedures when Ill or Injured	Page 12
Athletic Passes	Page 13
Social Media	Page 13-15
Dropping or Dismissal from a Sport	Page 16
Lettering Policy	Page 17-18
Athletic Department Policies	Page 19-20
Letter of Acceptance	Page 21

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Athletics exist as a part of the educational system of society and in the schools as an integral part of the educational process. Through athletics, direction is given to the physical development of students utilizing a variety of motor activities, integrated with cognitive skills, to learn discipline and responsibility and to represent the athletic department in a positive light.

The athletic program provides activities based on the needs of participants. These activities promote the respect for rules and authority, opportunities for physical excellence, and an understanding of the value of cooperation and competition through practice and interscholastic games.

Individual sports in the athletic program will begin and end on the dates specified in the Constitution and Contest Rules of the University Interscholastic League. Winning within the spirit of the rules is of prime importance as an objective of the athletic program and necessitates that every participant understands and complies with the rules of the University Interscholastic League.

## **ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

In the Spurger Independent School District, the program of competitive athletics should be comprehensive, diversified, and flexible to meet individual needs, interests, and abilities of youngsters. It should comprise an integral and vital part of the district's total educational program. Whenever and wherever competitive athletics are planned or played, it is mandatory that definite rules, regulations, and procedures be developed and implemented for the proper conduct of these activities. It is also essential that these procedures be commensurate with school district policies and in accordance with the accepted and established philosophy of education that prevails in the district.

The athletic department believes that each student should be given a fair chance to participate in competitive athletics according to his own individual and personal choices. However, we also believe that all youngsters should be encouraged and motivated by coaches to participate in a variety of activities in accordance with their interests, needs and abilities. A coach will not coerce an athlete to specialize in one sport.

The athletic department believes that athletics can do more for youngsters than teach them to play the sport or sports that they have chosen. We believe that athletics instills the desire to WIN, to attain personal goals ensuring maximum team effort, to build strength of body and mind, and strength of character. The latter of these qualities determines the success of the first three.

It is the belief of the athletic department that strength of character is the foundation upon which to build the well-developed, well-polished individual. Athletes, as people in any specialized field, have a unique role to play. Their peers, their teachers, and the community are constantly monitoring them. By constantly being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and constantly be aware of the role they have assumed. They must be certain they present to their peers, teachers, and community the respect, sincerity and honesty expected of a young lady or gentleman. The building of this type of individual can only result in pride for the youth, his parents, his school and community.

## **ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES**

Each athlete can expect the coach to:

- Run a well-organized program to enable each athlete to function effectively.
- Maintain an atmosphere conducive to working.
- Listen to your problems.
- Give you responsibility within your sport activity.
- Treat you with dignity and respect.
- Be concerned about you and your family regardless of what problems confront you.
- Be loyal to you and to do everything possible to help you advance athletically.
- Sell you to other coaches and to the public.
- Allow you to participate on the field within your personality.
- To correct you in a professional manner. Remember coaches are human and also make mistakes.
- Give to you in writing rules for each sport in addition to general athletic guidelines.
- Work within the system for a total program.

## REASONS FOR FORMULATING POLICIES

Spurger ISD has created the policies contained in this handbook

- To bring about a philosophy upon which to build a strong administrative organization.
- To provide uniformity of purpose and utilization of staff effort for a common cause.
- To make sure that departmental policies are in accord with those established for all other departments.
- To avoid duplication of goals and outcomes by establishing policies with the philosophy of the department.
- To allow problem solving on a local basis by formulating policies which apply to local situations.
- To enable the department personnel to arrive at decisions or solutions to problems by using a set of rules formulated specifically for a particular situation.
- To guide the less experienced personnel in any decision-making they execute in their duties.
- To avoid any personal bias if any one person is affected differently so that he will not feel discriminated against or will not be adversely affected.

## PARENT/ATHLETE/COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE

### Our Philosophy

Athletic achievement requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For all of us to be successful, effective communication must occur.

The school athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff.

We are continually attempting to improve communication with the students and parents. For our program to be truly successful, it is necessary that everyone understand the focus and direction of the program.

## **Your Expectations**

It is reasonable to expect your child's coach to inform you:

- When and where practices and contests are held.
- About his/her coaching philosophy.
- About the expectations he/she has for all athletes on the squad as well as your individual child.
- What is required to be a part of the team, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, lettering requirements, etc.
- If your child is injured during participation in a practice or contest.
- Whenever any disciplinary action results in your son/daughter being denied participation in a practice or contest.

Typical concerns of parents that are **appropriate** to discuss with a coach are:

- Any unhealthy mental or physical strain you detect in your child at home (especially when it affects his/her academic performance).
- How you can contribute to your child's skill improvement and development.
- Any dramatic changes you detect in your youngster's behavior.

## **Our Expectations**

It is **inappropriate** to discuss with a coach:

- Playing time.
- Team strategy or play calling.
- Other student athletes.

## **Coaches often need parents to inform them of:**

- Any specific health concerns about your son/daughter expressed directly and informally to the head coach at a mutually convenient time.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

Your commitment to the program, and how you plan to make a contribution to the program's success. For example, one way is to be sure your youngster is at practice each day on time and to supervise that your child gets enough rest and nutrition at home. Strategies that have worked for you in dealing with your son/daughter being successful in the past.

**If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, what procedure should you follow?**

Make an appointment with the coach. Never approach the coach after a game unless the coach requests this.

If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director to set up a meeting.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or following a contest or practice. These can be busy and emotional times for both the parent and the coach and this period does not promote objective analysis of the situation

**What should you do if the meeting with the coach does not result in a resolution to the problem?**

Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

## **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Participation in athletics means more than competition between the different individuals or the different teams representing different schools. It teaches fair play, sportsmanship, understanding, and appreciation of teamwork. It also teaches that quitting means failure, while hard work means success. With these goals in mind, this guide was set up for the use of all concerned, because the conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life.

In the area of athletic competition, a real athlete doesn't use profanity or illegal tactics. He learns the fact that winning and losing are part of the game, and that he should be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest. False athletes often display fits of temper, clown, etc., when things fail to go as desired or when replaced by a teammate. A true athlete has complete control of himself at all times.

Officials in a game are there for the purpose of ensuring that both teams will receive a fair deal. Officials do not lose a game for you. It is an athletic tradition and rule that no one except the appointed captain, and then in the tone of respect and for the purpose of clarifying a rule, will talk to the officials.

Any behavior contrary to that, which has been stated, is direct reflection to your school, to other players, and coaches and will not be tolerated.



## PARTICIPATION

It is the goal of this athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics nor is participation in athletics required. It is to be stressed that participation in the Spurger ISD Athletic Program is a **privilege**, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with Spurger ISD policy and due process procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and standards of this athletic program are not followed. Any athlete wishing to be on any athletic team in Spurger ISD must be in the strength and conditioning program during the athletic period with the Athletic Directors approval. Exceptions can be made only if there is a scheduling problem and must be approved by the Athletic Director.

## AVAILABLE SPORTS

The following sports are available for student athletes in the Spurger ISD:

Basketball Boys and Girls	Varsity, Junior Varsity,
Baseball/Softball	Junior High Boys and
Track & Field Volleyball	Girls Varsity
Tennis	Boys and Girls Varsity, Junior
Golf	High Girls Varsity, Junior
Cross Country	Varsity, Junior High Boys and
	Girls Varsity
	Boys and Girls Varsity
	Boys and Girls Varsity, Junior Varsity,
	Junior
	High

\*The teams may be increased or reduced pending participation.

The UIL 6th grade pilot program allows 6th grade students the opportunity to participate in team sports. However to participate in the team sport, the student will be required to try out. Team sports will include volleyball and basketball.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETE**

All athletes have the responsibility to give their best, play to win, follow training guidelines, exhibit good conduct and fair play at all times, so as to be a credit to his/her school. Athletes, as well as coaches, are always on display, we are judged by the company we keep. Our actions in everyday life, both private and public, are a direct reflection on this athletic program and our school. The responsibilities of Spurger ISD athletes are as follows:

### **During competition, an athlete:**

Learn that both winning and losing are part of the game and must learn to accept both. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Does not use illegal tactics in an attempt to defeat the opponent or to beat the rules of the game.

Has complete control of him/her at all times. Displays of temper, use of profanity, disrespect for coaches and officials will result in loss of respect for the athlete and in disciplinary action from the coach or officials.

Will respect the decisions of the officials at all times.

### **In the classroom, an athlete:**

- must realize that he/she is a student first, an athlete second. The student-athlete must give time and energy to their academic courses to achieve acceptable grades that meet both local and TEA requirements for participation.
- must maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record. Tardiness, disrespect for teachers, and unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated. Any unsatisfactory behavior can result in Athletic Department punishment; excessive unsatisfactory behavior may result in expulsion from Athletics or from sport in season.

Attendance is required the day of competition to be eligible to compete, athletes must be on campus by 9am, unless approved by AD and Principal.

### **ON CAMPUS, AN ATHLETE:**

Must maintain proper dress and appearance, grooming, and personal cleanliness, following the rules as stated in the Student Handbook.

Will refrain from fighting, horseplay, and unacceptable behavior in and around the school building.

Will seek out avenues to become leaders in the school population.

### **During The Athletic Period And Before And After School Practice, An Athlete:**

- Will notify the coach if he/she needs to miss a game or practice that is scheduled after school hours. Athletes that leave school and will miss athletic class or practice must notify the head coach of that sport.
- Will be dressed out and prompt for roll check.
- Will maintain a neat and clean locker space.
- Will shower for hygiene purposes after each workout.
- Will dress decently as he/she leaves the dressing room.
- Will be responsible for workout clothes daily.
- Will be responsible for uniforms and equipment issued.

### **During Team Travel An Athlete:**

- Will travel to and from all out of town contests with the team. If for some reason you need to ride home with your parents/guardians, parents/guardians must sign the student out prior to leaving. Under no circumstances will you be released to ride with anyone other than your parents/guardians or a person designated by your family. Any designee must be approved by both the athletic director AND principal at least 48 hours in advance. Exceptions will be made for injured athletes requiring alternative transportation.
- Will dress neatly and properly on all trips. The type of competition, time, length of the trip, and coach's discretion may dictate the type of dress acceptable.
- Will conduct himself/herself properly on the school bus or school appointed vehicle and follow student code of conduct established in the Student Handbook.
- Will receive permission from the coach before bringing any radios, electronic games, etc. aboard the bus.
- Will be informed of the departure and return times for each trip. Every effort will be
- Will not be allowed to bring parents, family members, or friends on bus trips.

### **Dress Code:**

Athletes will follow the dress code established in the Student Handbook. Hair color will be of a natural color only, and will be worn in acceptable styles only (Ex. No green or purple hair, no Mohawks, etc.)

Caps, hats, hair ties, or headbands are not to be worn inside buildings or on trips, unless approved by the coach. (Exception for on trips- if part of uniform attire)

Male athlete's hair policy is as follows: hair must be above the eyebrows, no longer than the earlobes and no longer than the bottom of the collar so as not to interfere with athletic performance.

## **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

A student in grades 6-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year, only if the student has earned the cumulative number of credits in state-approved courses indicated in the subsection:

**Beginning at the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade year** -promoted from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grad

**Beginning at the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade year** -promoted from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Beginning at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade year** -promoted from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Beginning at the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade year** -promoted from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Beginning at the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade year** - earn a minimum of (5) five credits toward graduation

**Beginning at the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade year** - earn a minimum of (10) ten credits toward graduation or pass (5) five credits the previous 12 months

**Beginning at the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade year** – earn a minimum of (15) credits toward graduation or pass (5) five credits the previous 12 months

In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for a nine week period following the initial six weeks period of the school year, a student must not have received a grade lower than 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for that preceding nine weeks period. A student whose recorded nine weeks grade average, in any course, is lower than a 70 at the end of the nine weeks grading period shall be suspended from contest in any extracurricular activity during the succeeding 3 weeks periods until the end of a 3 weeks period during which the student achieves a course grade average of at least 70 in all classes. The student will be expected to attend all practices, despite not being able to play in the games until academic eligibility has been regained.

## PHYSICAL, MEDICAL, AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

All athletes are to have on file in the Athletic Director's office a copy of the following athletic forms. These will be updated at the beginning of each school year. These include:

**Physical/Medical History Form** - All 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade athletes must have a yearly physical. Students are responsible for physicals. Current information regarding the health standing of each athlete must be completed on a standardized form and signed by the parent/ guardian.

**Acknowledgement of the Rules** - signed form required by the UIL for participation.

**Insurance Waiver\*** -required UIL form indicating primary insurance coverage for the participating athlete.

**Concussion Acknowledgment Form** – signed form relating the danger of concussions

**Cardiac Awareness Form** – form indicating about cardiac arrest and the dangers to athletes

**Steroid Agreement** – form indicating the dangers of steroid use, and a pledge not to use them

**Copy of Letter of Acceptance** - form indicating receipt of Student Athletic Handbook.

\*Athletic insurance shall be offered to all students who are participating in UIL sponsored activities that do not have health insurance of their own. This insurance will be an ACCIDENT POLICY only, not a health insurance, and it will be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the UIL and Spurgen ISD. Athletes that wish to receive medical attention must take a school insurance form with them at time of services rendered.

## PROCEDURES WHEN ILL OR INJURED

Your health is not only a personal item but also a concern of the participating team. In the event you feel ill and your condition does not improve, see a doctor as soon as possible.

An injury that could possibly hamper your ability to participate must be reported to the Athletic Director/Coach. Specific instructions regarding treatment by the coaches will be given to you at the start of the season. On all injuries, please check with the Athletic Director/Coach first. If further care is needed, the Athletic Director/Coach can direct the athlete and parents to the appropriate source of care.

Whenever you are injured or ill of a minor nature, you are required to dress out and attend any group/team teaching sessions or practice. Treatment by the Coach will be set on an individual basis. After your illness or injury stops you from participating for 3 days or more, a doctor's excuse must be filed with the Athletic Director.

## **ATHLETIC PASSES**

It shall be the policy of the Spurger ISD Athletic Program to allow members of the athletic program free admittance to all **home athletic events**. Athlete's names will be placed on a list at the gate for admission.

Only the athletes whose names appear on the list will have free admission.

Identification may be required.

Athletes that display unsportsmanlike conduct at any contest will be removed from the list.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Student-athletes are high-profile representatives of the Spurger Independent School District, and their behavior is subject to scrutiny by their peers, the campus, community, and the media. The actions of a single student-athlete can reflect positively or negatively not only on the individual student-athlete, but also on his or her team and coaches, the Athletics Department and the entire school campus. Therefore, student athletes are expected to represent themselves and Spurger ISD with honor, dignity and integrity at all times – including when interacting on social networking websites and in other online environments.

The popularity of social networking websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) has grown tremendously during the last few years. These websites can serve as valuable communication tools when used appropriately. The use of social media, however, has the potential to cause problems for both the student-athlete and the school environment. Almost anything a student-athlete posts on a social networking site may be viewed by others, and both the media and the general public are more likely to view the profiles of student-athletes than the profiles of other students.

The Athletics Department has developed this Student-Athlete Social Networking Guideline in order to:

- provide recommendations and suggestions for student-athletes to help them use social media in a safe and responsible manner
- outline important rules that student-athletes must follow when using social media

## **Important Suggestions & Recommendations Regarding Social Networking Sites**

Some students mistakenly believe social networking websites have a veil of privacy about them and assume their profiles are viewed only by a close circle of friends and fellow students. To the contrary, the content on most of these sites is accessible by anyone in the general public unless security and privacy features are used. The public nature of these websites has created personal safety and personal welfare concerns. For example, student-athletes have been stalked or sexually harassed and assaulted as a result of their Facebook profiles. Fans of opposing teams have taunted student-athletes based on information obtained from social networking sites. Student-athletes also should be aware that potential employers and graduate school admissions officers now regularly screen applicants by conducting “Google” searches of an applicant’s name and by reviewing the applicant’s social networking profiles. Students are being passed over for interviews and denied admission to universities based on the content of their profiles.

Student-athletes should be very careful about what personal information they share on the internet. For their own security, protection and welfare and that of their teammates and friends, the Athletics Department strongly recommends and advises student-athletes to:

- Keep phone numbers, physical addresses, birthdates, current whereabouts, travel plans and other personal information strictly confidential. This information should not be contained in a student athlete’s personal online profile.
- Limit the access of others to e-mail addresses and screen carefully those whom a student-athlete may accept as “friends” on a social networking site.
- Use whatever security and privacy features are available to restrict the ability of others to view a student-athlete’s site or to post pictures, messages and other content on a student-athlete’s site.
- If an individual contacts a student-athlete via a social networking site and the nature of the contact makes the student-athlete concerned for his or her safety or uncomfortable in any way, the student athlete should immediately contact a parent, a coach, or a campus administrator.

## **Rules Regarding Social Networking Sites**

Participation in Spurger ISD Athletics is a privilege and not a right. As a condition of being a student-athlete in Spurger ISD, student-athletes must abide by the following rules related to the use of the internet and social networking sites:

Any postings or communications via social networking websites which disrupt either the educational or athletic environments or which advocates the violation of any school or team policy would be unacceptable.

Student-athletes may not post online any pictures, information or other content that might cause embarrassment to themselves, fellow student-athletes, teams, coaches, the Athletics Department or the campus (examples: obscene images or language, nudity, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs, sex, or illegal activities).

Student-athletes may not post any content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual, teammate, coach, faculty member, or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).

Student-athletes may not post any content online that would constitute a violation of the Spurger ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Student-athletes may not post any information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the Athletic Department or the school which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).

Student-athletes are required to abide by all laws related to the use of the internet (including state and federal privacy laws such as FERPA and HIPPA), and student-athletes are personally liable for any violations of those laws.

**Student-athletes in Spurger ISD are required to abide by rules set forth in these guidelines.**

The failure to do so will be considered a violation of the student-athlete code of conduct and/or the Spurger ISD student code of conduct. The violation may result in disciplinary action by the athletics department and the campus.

**1st Offense** - Warning and parent meeting with the head coach. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.

**2nd Offense** – Parent meeting with the head coach and the Athletic Director. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.

**3rd Offense** – Parent meeting with the head coach, principal and the district Athletic Director. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.



## **DROPPING OR DISMISSAL FROM A SPORT**

There will be times when some athletes find it necessary to quit playing a sport before, during, or after the season. Reasons for such a decision will vary widely, but despite the reason, the following should be adhered to:

The athlete should think the whole situation through before reaching a final decision and talk with the Athletic Director and coach. As such, an athlete will be given 24 hours to make his/her decision.

The athlete should talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached without having to quit. A conference between the parents, athlete, Athletic Director and coach or any combination thereof, may be required and is highly recommended before an athlete will be permitted to quit.

All equipment must be returned clean. Missing equipment must be paid for.

If an athlete wants to return to a sport, he/she must consult the appropriate coach. The decision will be left to the discretion of the coach with regard to allowing the athlete to return or not to the team. Disciplinary measures will be up to the coach's discretion.

If the athlete decides to quit one sport or is suspended from a sport, before that athlete can join or return to another sport they must have a conference with the Athletic Director and the coaches involved. If it is decided to allow the student to return, the student must complete 3 miles for four consecutive days plus the conditioning missed before they can return to play, which must be witnessed by the Athletic Director or a coach appointed by the Athletic Director. (This does not keep the student from practice – only contests.)

**If an athlete decides to quit a sport then that sport will have to be concluded before the athlete will be allowed to start another sport.**

\*Note: There will be a 5-day grace period when an athlete enters a sport. If the athlete quits within the grace period there will not be a penalty for quitting.

## **LETTERING POLICY**

Extracurricular activities require an effort that exceeds that of the normal school duties. When a student gives of herself/himself to promote excellence in the area of athletics, the Spurger Athletic Department honors these students. Those athletes who meet the demands of varsity competition are honored with a special award. The award given to these varsity lettermen is a letter jacket. The Spurger Letter Jacket is an award that represents hard work, dedication and perseverance; which are qualities instilled by the Athletic Department, Administration and School Trustees. Therefore, when an athlete wears the Spurger Letter Jacket, it is the responsibility of the athlete to uphold the honor and integrity of the Spurger Independent School District.

### **TO LETTER:**

**\*\* Participate in at least fifty percent of the varsity contests of which a proportion must be district contests as follows:**

Basketball	4 games
Baseball / Softball	4 games
Volleyball	4 games
Track / Cross Country	participate in the district meet
Tennis	participate in the district tournament
Golf	participate in the district tournament

**\*\*Participate means actual playing time**

**TO RECEIVE A LETTER JACKET:**

An athlete must have accumulated five (5) points (in that sport) based upon the Spurger ISD award jacket point system.

The athlete must be at least a sophomore.

The athlete must be in good standing with and active in the athletic program.

Those athletes that acquire the required points (5) for a letter jacket will be measured for the jacket at the end of the season in which they qualify for the award. Jackets will be distributed upon arrival, during the summer, or at the beginning of the following school year.

**POINT SYSTEM:**

Varsity sport letterman or girl	3 points
Junior varsity sport participation	2 points

**REASON FOR LOSS OF POINTS:**

The athlete quits during the sport - loss of points for that sport.

An athlete removed from the athletic program due to discipline reasons - forfeits all points accumulated.

**EXCEPTION TO POINT SYSTEM:**

Any senior who has not accumulated enough points for a letter jacket but has met all other requirements and has participated in the athletic program for at least three years, including his/her senior year, can be recommended for a letter jacket by his/her coach or coaches. A senior athlete short of points and/or lacking in the three-year participation requirement, but has exhibited high standards and work habits may be recommended by their coach to receive a letter jacket. The Athletic Director and principal must approve the awarding of a letter jacket under this clause.

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES - SPURGER ISD

The following rules apply to all Spurger ISD athletes at all times during the school year. This is not an all-inclusive list; prudent judgment will be made in assessing disciplinary action for the various offenses.

### **ABSENCE FROM CONTEST/WORKOUT:**

Workout time is valuable to you and your teammates. If you must be absent from a workout or a contest, you must notify the head coach. If you are sent home during the school day for any reason, it is important that you let the coach in charge know that you will not be at practice. Failure to report an absence will result in additional makeup work when you return. The coach in charge will determine the amount of additional work in concurrence with the Athletic Director. By following the call-in procedure, the athlete will lessen the amount of makeup work required for participation.

Unexcused absences from athletic class will result in 3 miles for each absence or other consequences such as towel pushes or eggs (coaches discretion). **Excessive absences can result in expulsion for athletics.**

(Ex. ISS, AEP, unexcused absence from school, makeup must be completed daily to participate, and continual AEP assignment could be reason for removal from the athletic program). Disciplined teams win CHAMPIONSHIPS. It is the cornerstone of all successful organizations. Do your part and bring PRIDE to yourself and the Spurger ISD.

### **TOBACCO / VAPING:**

Tobacco/Vaping is not allowed. School policy will be followed, in addition to:

1<sup>st</sup> offense – 3 miles or eggs or towel pushes at coaches discretion and one game suspension

2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 6 miles or eggs or towel pushes at coaches discretion and suspension from sport in season, if not in a current sport then suspended from first half of next sport

3<sup>rd</sup> offense – suspension from athletics for one calendar year

### **ALCOHOL:**

Same as the tobacco rule.

### **ILLEGAL DRUGS:**

Illegal drugs are not allowed. School policy will be followed, in addition to;

**1st offense** - dismissal from athletic competition for one calendar year (athletes may participate in class and practices)

**2nd offense** - athlete will be banned from Spurger ISD Athletics

**The above infractions include texting, tweeting, or posting pictures of these actions on social media.**

**PROFANITY/DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR:**

Profanity and disrespectful behavior will not be permitted on the field, court, dressing room, or on the school campus. Disciplinary action for these offenses will be outlined at the beginning of the season. Discipline will in all cases match the severity of the offense. This can include additional running to probation and suspension. Additional offenses will result in expulsion from the program.

**REFUSAL OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES:**

Any athlete who refuses disciplinary measures for minor offenses will be dismissed from athletics for one calendar year.

**APPEAL:**

Athletes may appeal expulsion at a meeting with the coach, athletic director, principal, and parent/guardian. If a compromise can be reached, the athlete may be reinstated. An athletic contract between athletic director, athlete and parents must be signed and honored to reinstate the athlete.

**NOTE:**

Athletes will receive additional guidelines from their individual coaches of each sport, which have been approved by the Athletic Director.

## LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

The rules, regulations, and standards set forth in this Athletic Handbook are designed to give each athlete a sense of responsibility and pride through membership in the Spurger Athletic Program whether they are on the field/courts of play, in the classroom, in our community, or while visiting another city. Therefore, your signature commits you to abide by all regulations set forth in its content. As a Spurger ISD student-athlete, you must also abide by the following additional regulations. Failure to do so may result in suspension from a team or total athletic program.

- I will strive for excellence in all my activities at all times while a member of the Spurger ISD Athletic Program.
- I will faithfully abide by the training rules set forth in the handbook. I realize that failure to do so will result in the specified punishment.
- I will abide by the practice schedules and complete my workouts each day.
- I will personally notify the athletic department when I cannot attend workouts and will only miss under extreme circumstances.
- I will abide by the coaches directions, instruction, and decisions of the athletic department.
- I will be responsible for the proper care of school issued equipment.
- I will pay for any equipment I am responsible for losing, damaging, or destroying.
- I have read the Athletic Handbook from cover to cover and fully understand my obligations, responsibilities, and duties to myself, my parents, my coaches, my school, and the community of Spurger.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## A NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF SPURGER ISD ATHLETES

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian I have read this manual and am aware of all policies and operational procedures concerning Spurger ISD Athletics. We ask you to assist us, as your son's/daughter's coaches, to see that his/her athletic experience is worthwhile, rewarding, and a fun part of the educational process. Please take time to familiarize yourself with your son's/daughter's expectations. Thank you for your cooperation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date