

# 2021-2022 Somerville Athletic Handbook



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# Foreword

Somerville ISD athletics is a vehicle by which every student-athlete can learn more about our school and community. Somerville ISD athletics will be the model athletic program by which all others are measured. Our program will be one which prepares its athletes for life, both in winning and losing, and doing it with class and integrity. This handbook is not intended to disrupt the line of communication between the parents, the athletes, and the coaches but to encourage it. It is designed to ensure that we are all headed in the same direction, and this can be accomplished when we know what is expected. Somerville ISD administration and all members of the Somerville family have high expectations and will work to promote the highest goals.

## Athletic Vision

Our vision is to make Somerville ISD the best place in the state of Texas for academics and athletics. We will achieve this by constantly challenging our students academically, physically and through building their character. We will provide them the tools to help them be successful. Our coaching staff is committed to teaching discipline, accountability, team work, work-ethic and most importantly grit. The skills learned through athletic participation at Somerville will prepare them for any challenges they face in the future.

## Philosophy

At Somerville ISD, we believe that the athletic program contributes significantly to preparing our students for becoming productive, contributing citizens of our community and society. A comprehensive program of athletic activities expresses our commitment to ensure the development of physical fitness and personal health, the acquisition of competent performances, and the achievement of excellence in the student's chosen sports. In addition, our aim is to develop a student with an improved self-image, the ability to learn a new skill, and an intrinsic motivation for growth and development. We want to see a student who will demonstrate a willingness to accept responsibility for his/her actions, measure him/herself against standards of quality, express ideas and solutions to problems, and value fair play, honesty, and cooperation.

## **Athletic Goals and Objectives**

**Our goal:** The student-athlete shall become a more effective citizen and productive member of society.

**Our specific objectives:** The student-athlete shall learn:

1. To develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship.
2. To develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing, success and failure.
3. To encourage and develop respect for fellow athletes whether they are teammates, members of other Somerville teams, or members of opposing teams.
4. To assure that the amount of time required for athletic participation does not interfere with academic success. We want to be the best student athletes possible.
5. To develop proper attitudes toward individual health habits, appearance in and out of competition, and citizenship in and out of school.
6. To encourage competition not only for the tangible rewards but also for the development of positive attitudes that makes athletic competition valuable and worthwhile.
7. To maintain the highest standard of ethics, recognize each participant as an individual who will conduct him/herself in a manner befitting his/her responsibilities, and develop the kind of rapport with the broader school community that will improve the total educational program.

## **Beliefs of Somerville Yeguas**

1. **We believe in playing by the rules.** We will exhaust every possible opportunity that might give us an advantage in competition and /or in life. However, we will never resort to cheating or foul play. We will not jeopardize the integrity of this program, this school system, or this community.

2. **We believe in superior physical condition.** Every athlete will be expected to participate in the athletic program for the entire year. We believe that all athletes should participate in active “strength and conditioning” periods if they are not “in season.” We also believe that, while “in season,” athletes should continue to lift weights and run in order to maintain their physical strength and stamina. If we are going to make a “good” program “great,” we think it is imperative that every athlete make a commitment to becoming stronger and faster.

3. **We believe in discipline.** We realize the importance of both discipline and self-discipline in this program and in life. Although every situation is dealt with on an individual basis, every athlete must

believe that it is important to continuously strive to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to the program and his/her teammates. We support the guidelines set forth by the academic student handbook. We accept the decisions of officials without complaint, and we will be good sports at all times.

4. **We will play the game with great enthusiasm.** We will not forget that contests are meant to be FUN, which is why we all began participating in athletics in the first place. There is no greater feeling than winning. Winning, however, is not the measure of success. Working hard, playing for the “love” of the sport, and never giving up are criteria that we will gauge our success.

5. **We believe in family.** There is nothing more important than our relationships with our families. This is true for our immediate family and our brothers and sisters in our “athletic family.” The communication and commitment to our families will prove to be the difference between being “good” or “great.” It is our goal that athletes, parents, coaches, faculty, and the community all believe in the same set of goals and values. With this, we hope that all parties will encourage and support decisions to produce great athletic programs and harvest individual athletes that will be successful in athletics and in life.

6. **We will raise expectations to be champions!** Yeguas will strive to be the very best at their sport.

## **Athletic Participation**

Participation in UIL activities is a **privilege**, not a vested right. The authority to remove or deny a student’s participation in a sport or event rests with the coach, sponsor, and athletic director.

Each athlete should be encouraged to participate in as many sports as their interests and abilities will allow. No athlete will be influenced to give up participation in one sport in order to concentrate on another sport.

It is important that athletes and parents understand that belonging to an athletic program is a privilege that requires sacrifice and commitment. A commitment where all parties involved rely on each other and promote **TEAM** first mentality and making a choice to sacrifice an easier way of school life. All athletes are students, but not all students are athletes; therefore, this choice is not for everybody and must be taken seriously.

## **Athletic Communication Expectations**

1. Communication you should expect from your student’s coach:
  - a. Locations and times of practices and contests.
  - b. Team requirements, e.g., practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning.
  - c. A parent meeting before season will be scheduled to cover rules and expectations.

2. Communication coaches expect from parents:
  - a. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice about concerns.** These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature may not promote thoughtful resolution. The coach will schedule a meeting at an appropriate time and place. If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, **the next step is to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.** The participants in this meeting will be the parents, coach, athletic director, and if appropriate the student-athlete.
  - b. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
  - c. Behavior in a manner that is positive and supportive for the program and the student.
  - d. Parents, please withhold from talking to son/daughter during a game. This allows the student-athlete to concentrate on the game and the coach.
  
3. Expectations and Communication coaches expect from student-athlete:
  - a. Advanced notice if a practice or contest has to be missed.
  - b. Participation and attendance at all contests and practices.
  - c. A positive attitude that contributes to the growth of the student-athlete.
  - d. 100% Effort in the classroom, practice and games!
  
4. As your child becomes involved in the athletic program at Somerville ISD, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding and difficult moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. Examples of these situations include the treatment of your child, ways to help your child improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.
  - a. **Playing time will never be discussed.** It will be the coach's discretion to make all student-athlete decisions about playing time; who plays, and position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents. In addition, coaches will only speak with you of your athlete only!
  - b. Coaches are educational professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student-athletes involved.

## **REQUIREMENTS to PARTICIPATE in UIL Activities**

**The following items must be turned in to the Athletic Department/Coach/Nurse before participating in any game in any extracurricular athletic activity.**

A. Physical Examination/Physical History

Somerville ISD requires all athletes to get an annual physical examination beginning in the 7th grade.

The physical form is available from the coaches. Use only the approved UIL form to record physical examinations. Club or organization forms will not be accepted. The physical covers all sports for the year.

## B. Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes the Emergency Information Form, Sports Medicine Form, Acknowledgement of Rules, General Eligibility Rules, Concussion Acknowledgement Form, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form, Steroid Acknowledgement Form, Media Form, Photographic Consent & Release Form, Medical History Form, Physical Examination Form, and Athletic Handbook Signature Form.

## C. Acknowledgment of Somerville ISD Athletic Handbook

The last page of this handbook should be signed by the student-athlete and the parent/guardian. It should then be returned to the Athletic Department. This shows receipt of the Student-Athlete Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies contained in the Somerville ISD Student-Athlete Handbook.

## **Academic Eligibility**

A student in grades 7-12 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:

- Students must have the required number of credits for eligibility during the first six weeks of school (5 entering 10th; 10 entering 11th; 15 entering 12th). Grades are not applicable at the end of the school year because all students are academically eligible during the summer recess. The number of credits earned or academic promotion from the previous grade level in grades nine and below determines UIL eligibility for the first six weeks of the next school year.

A student participating in UIL activities will be ineligible from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class. This ineligibility continues for three weeks, and the following week on Friday, the ineligibility will be removed if the student is passing ALL classes with a grade equal to or greater than a 70 at the three week mark. In addition, students must be in good standing with the athletic department in order to compete in athletic events. The Athletic Director and the head coach of that sport will determine "Good Standing."

## Expectations of Parents

1. Please be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses to them if they are not playing. Encourage them to work hard and do their best. Remember, your son's or daughter's athletic ability doesn't have any bearing on your parenting skill, but how hard they work, how coachable they are, and how good of teammate they are is a direct reflection of you.
3. Encourage athletes to follow the rules. Whether they are a first stringer or seventh stringer, players must follow rules.
4. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer your head off; but, don't become belligerent. Coaches work with athletes and know their talents. Respect that.
5. Insist that the athletes respect team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.
6. Encourage the athletes to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
7. Encourage your athlete to play for the love of the game.
8. Remember that the coach is involved as a coach because he/she is sincerely fond of children and is an experienced professional. Coaches have different ways of dealing with people and situations. Athletes' lives are enriched by interaction with different types of leaders.
9. Remember: At a competition, you, the parent, represent your town, your school and your son/daughter. Please be a positive role model.
10. Always show respect for the officials and the decisions that are made by the officials.

## Expectations for the Student-Athlete

Athletics at Somerville ISD is a privilege; furthermore, a student is not required to participate in athletics to graduate from school. Student athletes are required to conduct themselves with pride and dignity. **Because participation in athletics is a privilege, a student athlete who violates general policies or procedures will be subject to discipline/consequences.**

The coaching staff will work with each individual student athlete to ensure appropriate sportsmanlike behavior. The coaching staff will address any violation of policies (sportsmanship, training rules, missing practice, poor attitude, etc.) with the desire to help the student-athlete. If the violations are

repeated, the student will receive/could receive disciplinary action up to and not excluding removal from athletics.

The welfare of the Somerville Athletic Department and the student teams will take priority. Coaches and parents should remember the following points when dealing with athletic discipline:

1. A coach has the right to discipline an athlete on his/her team keeping in mind the welfare of the **TEAM** as well as the welfare of the **INDIVIDUAL**.
2. Every violation/confrontation should first be addressed by a conference with the athlete to discuss the violation and reaffirm the expectations of the coach and the athletic department.
3. A coach should exercise sound judgment in evaluating situations and penalties being as consistent as possible. Make the punishment fit the violation.
4. A coach will **NOT** dismiss a student from the athletic program without first discussing the situation with the Parent and Athletic Director.

## Organization of Teams

It is the philosophy of the athletic program and the desire of the coaching staff to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program. It is also a goal of our program to persuade athletes to participate in as many sports as possible. Coaches of every sport are encouraged to select as many students as they can to a team without compromising the integrity of their sport. Obviously, time, space, facilities, equipment, athletic ability and other factors place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. However, when developing procedures in this regard, coaches should strive to maximize the opportunities for student athletes without diluting the quality of the programs.

**1. Middle School Teams** – At this level, students become accustomed to interscholastic practice and play. For many, it is their first introduction to competitive sports, different from recreation in its demands and philosophy. Gaining experience through training and play should be of utmost importance, not the win/loss record. At this level of play, the focus is on learning athletic skills and games rules, fundamentals of team play, social-emotional growth, and healthy competition.

**2. Freshman/Junior Varsity Teams** – This level of competition has an increased emphasis upon team play, physical conditioning, and refinement of basic skills. Although being successful on these levels is important, winning is not the sole objective. This is the level at which the athlete displays his/her readiness for the execution of skills at game speed. Athletic abilities, commitments, and positive attitudes will be rewarded and tested in competitive game situations. An attempt will be made to allow as many participants as possible to participate, but not all will participate equally. At these levels, participation will be based on the degree of effort, skill improvement, ability to compete

and execution of skills at game speed demonstrated by the student-athlete in practice and during contests.

**3. Varsity Teams** – Varsity competition is the culmination of each sport program. Squad size at the varsity level is limited. The number of participants on any given team is a function of the number needed to conduct an effective and meaningful practice and to participate in the contest. It is vital that each team member has a role and is informed of its importance. The number of roster positions is relative to the student's acceptance of their individual roles in pursuit of the team's goal. While contest participation over the course of a season is desirable, **a specified amount of participation at the varsity level is never guaranteed.**

## **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The school administrators and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential to maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is the major consideration and transcends any other consideration. Athletics is a privilege in Somerville ISD, and students choose to be part of the program. Since student-athletes represent their school and, in many instances, their community, student athletes are held to **higher standards of behavior** than those specified in the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of the athletic policy that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct will result in independent disciplinary actions by the Athletic Department and Administrators.

- Use of profanity- we will not allow it.
- Stealing- taking things that don't belong to you, especially taking from your teammates will not be tolerated. An athlete caught stealing is subject to punishment, which can include dismissal from the athletic program. Stealing could also be interpreted to involve athletic/school equipment not turned in after the season is completed.
- Individual conduct- do everything you can to add class to our program. Each student-athlete should not do anything detrimental that would take away from the team or the athletic program.
- Yeguas should be noted for their clean, tough, and competitive play at all times. We will play like Champions! Coaches know that each athlete does not have the same skill, but coaches expect each athlete to perform to the best of their ability.
- Respect for coaches- athletes should respond with "yes sir," "yes ma'am," "no sir," "no ma'am." Players in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Whenever a coach is speaking with you, either individually or as a group, you should give them your undivided attention.
- A Yegua athlete will show respect to all teachers, administrators, and other adults with whom they come into contact.
- A Yegua athlete will be **on time** for all classes, practices, trips, and any other scheduled

event unless he/she has notified the teacher or coach in advance.

- Yegua athletes are expected to excel in the classroom. Weekly grade checks will provide motivation for athletes.
- A Yegua athlete will remember at all times when he or she is on an athletic trip that they are representing their school and their community.
- A Yegua athlete must remember that he or she is recognized first as a Yegua athlete. With this in mind, one must think before they act, and not devalue the character of their school, community, and athletic program.
- An athlete's school is one of the most important factors in his or her maturing process. They will always remember their junior high/high school days, so one must remain **loyal** to his/her school and its spirit.
- Good sportsmanship is a must in being a true Yegua athlete. An athlete never loses his or her poise by expressing anger at an opponent during competition. It is natural to become angry at times during a contest or game, but real **champions** can control their feelings and come back stronger by channeling that anger rather than causing the TEAM to be penalized. An athlete will accept the decisions of the officials and show respect for their authority. An athlete should never "act out" in front of fans whenever he/she disagrees with an official.
- Hazing or bullying will not be permitted at anytime! Serious consequences including being removed from the athletic program may be incurred.

## Grooming/Athletic Dress

All athletes must be groomed and dressed appropriately following the Somerville ISD Dress Code found in the Student Handbook. This applies to participation and to attendance of all school related events. **Head coaches may have dress and grooming standards above and beyond the Somerville ISD Dress Code.**

## Social Media

Student-athletes will be held to high standards regarding pictures and posts on social media. Posts and/or pictures that are considered to be bullying, harassing, inappropriate, illegal, or otherwise objectionable by the Athletic Department may result in disciplinary action including removal from the athletic program by the Athletic Department and/or the Campus Principal.

## QUITTING

Anyone that chooses to quit a sport will sign a quitting form (reinstatement type of punishment) and **not be able to return to competitive competition in that sport until the completion of running two miles per day for five consecutive days.** The coach at his/her discretion may make an exception to this rule. A clear understanding is to be reached by the coach and the athlete at the time the sport is dropped. **The athlete will not be allowed to participate in his/her**

**next sport until the sport they quit is completely over.** Anyone leaving a practice or game without permission of the Head Coach will be considered as having quit the team.

Athletes wishing to quit a sport will be given a 24 hour “cooling off” period before a final decision is made.

If the coach and Athletic Director agree that the quitting of one sport to participate in another is in the best interest of both sports and the athlete, the running punishment can be waived.

\*\*\*\*Quitting a sport will cause the earned letter jacket credit to be revoked. (No matter if the season is almost over). In addition, any athlete that quits a sport will not be considered for the MVP athlete of the year award.

There will be a **TWO-Week window at the beginning of each sport where a student can decide if he/she wants to participate in that sport. If the first contest is within the two-week window, then the decision not to play must be made prior to the first contest.**

**\*\*\*This window is provided only for students that do not have any prior junior high/high school experience in the respective sport. \*\*\***

## **Travel**

All athletes are required to travel to and from the destination of all athletic contests with the coach or sponsors by transportation means furnished by the school district. The only exceptions are:

- A. Injury to a participant which would require alternate transportation
- B. The athlete had an appointment scheduled by parent/guardian and is too late to travel with the team to the contest.
- C. Athletes will be allowed to return home from contests with their **parent/guardian only**, under the following condition: The coach must have the parent sign a sheet verifying that the parent/guardian is taking his/her child and relieving the coach and district of responsibility for the athlete.

## **Letter Jackets** (will be awarded at sports banquet every year)

To earn the jacket, the athlete has to complete the season.

Jackets will be earned by completing:

- 2 varsity sports in a year or
- 1 varsity sport for 2 years

## Awards

(1) *Awards Schools May Give.* A member school or member school district may give one major award not to exceed \$70 in value to a student during that student's high school enrollment at the same school for participation in UIL interschool competition(s) listed in Section 380. Each year a member school or member school district may give one additional award per student per interschool activity listed in Section 380, not to exceed \$20 each. Schools may give a student the \$20 minor award for an activity during the same school year the \$70 major award is given for that activity. A school may contribute to major awards in honor of winning a UIL State Championship event.

(2) *Awards Students May Receive.* A student may not accept from any source other than the school attended or the school district, any award in money, product or service for competing in an interschool contest except as follows. (A) A certificate, medal, trophy, ring, or other symbolic award for participating in any UIL activity which counts on UIL standing, if it is given:

(i) By the school, or school district in accordance to the limitations in Section 480 (a)(1);

(ii) The District Executive Committee or the entity that organized the competition (i.e., the regional director or zone director);

(iii) The UIL or one of the professional, education organizations sanctioned by the UIL; or

(iv) An outside source approved by the school or school district.

(B) A medal, trophy, patch or other symbolic award for participating in an invitational athletic contest which does not count on UIL standing, in an activity which the UIL sponsors as listed in Section 380, if it is given by the organization conducting the contest or competition. (Sports which are not sanctioned by the UIL do not come under this rule.)

**DISCIPLINE** (*Discipline yourself, so others won't have to!!!*)(Expectations/Rules/Discipline for each sport will be found in the appendix of this athletic handbook.)

Discipline is a common denominator within any respected and successful athletic program. SISD student-athletes are representatives of the school and community and are held to higher standards. Board Policy (FO) states:

*"...sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property."*

Discipline will be handled at the discretion of the coaching staff in accordance with SISD guidelines to maintain order and to protect students, SISD employees, and property. Student-athletes will be treated fairly and equitably. An athlete may be disciplined for, but not limited to the following actions:

1. Poor attitude.
2. Leaving school or location of a contest without permission.
3. Insubordination/disobedience involving directives from coaches.
4. Failure to participate in a prescribed workout.
5. Disrespect to coaches, teammates, or any adult.

## **ISS, OSS, DAEP, and SUSPENSION POLICIES**

- Student-Athletes that are in Out of School Suspension for an entire day or multiple days will not participate in the number of games that they were suspended. Student-Athletes in Out of School Suspension are not allowed to attend any Somerville school function at home or away.
- Student-Athletes in In-School Suspension on the day of a game will not participate in the game that day. However, the student may attend the activity. However, the student can't ride the bus on an away game. Student-Athletes who are in ISS, when there is not a game, can still participate in practice, but consequences will be given from the coach.

A. Multiple ISS, OSS, persistent disrespect, and frequent misbehavior may result in removal from the sport and/or the athletic program.

B. Any athlete that has been placed in DAEP or suspended from school will be suspended from team activities. As a result of the suspension the athlete will not be allowed to attend any contests or school functions, home or away. At the conclusion of the DAEP placement, the Athletic Department will meet with the athlete to discuss entry back into the sport, removal from the sport, or removal from athletics. Makeup conditioning will be assigned by the head coach and approved by the Athletic Director for athletes who have served their suspensions and are re-admitted to the team.

C. Any athlete earning two separate DAEP placements or suspensions in one school year will be removed from the athletic program

Each situation may require a different type of discipline. Whatever type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become better persons. Failure to accept this on the part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program.

## **GAME CONDUCT**

Promoting the integrity and spirit of Somerville ISD athletics is essential. Any student-athlete who engages in a fight before or during a competition will be suspended for the remainder of that competition. Any student-athlete who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct, as deemed by the head coach before or during a competition will be disciplined under the discretion of the coach. Depending on the seriousness of the above incident(s), the student-athlete could face further suspension from future contests or removal from the team or athletic program.

## ACADEMICS

Student-athletes should manage their time in such a way as not to have to miss practices, competitions, or school in order to participate in athletics and achieve successfully in academics. If this cannot be done, the student should NOT be involved in athletics. Academics must always be a higher priority than athletics.

## ATHLETIC PERIOD

**Students participating in a UIL sanctioned sport must be in the athletic period unless there is a conflict with an academic class they must have to graduate.**

## ATTENDANCE

A. School attendance is required to participate in a contest that same day. (1/2 Day Morning or 1/2 Day Afternoon)(This is 4 class periods)

B. Practice attendance is required to participate in that week's game. If an athlete is going to be absent, he/she must call in or speak personally to a coach in the sport being missed. That coach will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused. **NOT CALLING IN OR SPEAKING TO A COACH IS AN AUTOMATIC UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.** The reason for the absence then becomes irrelevant.

1. An excused absence - makeup conditioning will be assigned by the Head Coach of each sport.
2. An UNEXCUSED absence - makeup conditioning will be assigned by the Head Coach of each sport along with loss of playing time.
3. A tardy absence - makeup conditioning will be assigned by the Head Coach of each sport after practice. After 15 minutes a tardy is considered an absence.
4. Absences and tardies MUST be made up as soon as possible or the first day an athlete is physically able.
5. If an athlete makes no attempt to make up conditioning he/she will be removed from the sport and treated as quitting the sport.

C. Activities that may lead to unexcused absences.

1. Club Sports activities – A club is a sports program outside of the school that is not affiliated with UIL athletics. The SISD Athletic Department views the athlete's obligations to the school team as the first priority. Missing a school contest or practice for a club event will be an unexcused absence. If an athlete pursues club participation, he/she must:

- Contact all Head Coaches of sports at the school in which he/she participates and be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the team.

## **CONFLICTS in EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

A student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations at some point. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students must do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about participating in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsors or coaches who are involved when a conflict arises. When a conflict arises, the Head Coaches or Sponsors will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on the following:

- A. The relative importance of each event. (District supersedes Non-District, Playoffs supersedes District, Varsity supersedes JV, game supersedes practice.) If this does not solve the conflict, then:
- B. The importance of each event to the student.
- C. The relative contribution the student can make.
- D. How long each event has been scheduled.
- E. Talk with parents.
- F. Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either a faculty sponsor or coach.
- G. **This rule pertains only to contest/practice conflicts involving school activities and does not include sports outside of school such as travel ball, etc.**

## **EQUIPMENT ISSUE and RETURN**

Somerville ISD Athletics provides each team member with the best and safest equipment available. All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (except normal wear and tear) or the athlete is expected to compensate the athletic program for the lost or damaged equipment. A student will not be allowed to participate in any other athletic program until all issued uniforms and equipment are returned in good condition or purchased.

## **INJURY OR ILLNESS**

If you must leave school because of illness, contact or come by the coaches' office. If you are ill or injured, we don't expect you to work out, but if you are at school, we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group or team unless given special permission by your head coach. If you need medical attention for an injury, we have an athletic trainer on call to evaluate athletes.

## **LOCKER ROOM BEHAVIOR**

Athletes are expected to behave in locker rooms (both home and visitors') like they would be

expected to act at home. General dressing room behavior is as follows: No running, horseplay, hazing, or throwing objects.

## **LOCKER ROOM CLEANLINESS**

Locker rooms are expected to be clean at all times. This goes for both the home/visitors' locker rooms. Clothes, shoes, backpacks, school work, and etc. should all be placed in the lockers; not on the benches or floors. Team discipline will be at the coach's discretion if this rule is not followed. Also, cleats are not to be worn inside the gym area.

## **Drug Policy/Criminal Activity/Alcoholic Beverages/Tobacco**

(See Student Code of Conduct)

\*\*\*\*\*Any other sections not listed in the Student-Athlete Handbook **MUST BE FOLLOWED** by the Somerville ISD Student Handbook.

## **Stadium Regulations**

- SISD stadiums are an extension of the school campus. Tobacco use is prohibited at all SISD buildings and facilities. Students are under the authority of the Somerville ISD Administration. All school policies are enforced at stadiums.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed on stadium premises (or within 300 feet of the stadium).
- No air horns or mechanical noisemakers are permitted.
- Food and drink cannot be brought into the stadium.
- Students cannot return to the stadium after they leave.
- Spectators are not allowed on the playing areas at any time without administrative approval.
- No loitering is permitted in the aisles or exits.
- No loitering is permitted outside the stadium. All persons shall either enter the stadium or leave the premises.
- Admittance to the stadium is by ticket or authorized pass only.

# STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

## Somerville I.S.D.

I understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in the Somerville ISD Athletic Handbook. I also understand and agree that my child \_\_\_\_\_ shall be held accountable for the behavior and consequences outlined in the Somerville ISD Athletic Handbook. I understand that any athlete who violates the Athletic Discipline and Conduct Codes shall be subject to disciplinary action. I also understand that my child will not participate in any games until this sheet is signed and returned to the coaches. If you have any questions regarding the policy handbook please call the Athletic Director at (979) 596-2331 ext. 129.

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Student Signature Date

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Parent Signature Date

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Athletic Director Signature Date Received