

SNYDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2020-2021



Dear Snyder Student-Athletes and Parents,

We are pleased to have you as a part of our Snyder Athletic Program. We sincerely hope that the experience you have through our athletic program will be both enjoyable and successful. Your coaches are looking forward to helping you learn and grow.

The information contained herein has been provided for you to read and study carefully, as it is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations of our Snyder Athletic Program. This handbook is used as a requirement for all of our high school programs. However, individual head coaches in each sport may give additional rules.

Any questions that you may have should be brought to the attention of your coach. He or she will be happy to assist you in any way possible. Once again, we want to welcome you to our team.

“If anything in this manual (Athletic Handbook) is in contradiction with the Student Code of Conduct of Snyder ISD Board Policy, the Code of Conduct or Policy shall prevail.”

Athletic Director/Head Football Coach

Wes Wood

ATHLETIC PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Our Athletic Program aspires to be a supportive and positive addition to the educational mission at Snyder ISD. We will uphold a respectable and competitive athletic reputation. We desire to be a program that will promote, nurture and graduate student-athletes who are molded and developed under the guidance of loving role models. Our coaches and athletes at Snyder should always represent themselves with great character and integrity while pursuing excellence in multiple sports and the classroom.

TIGER ATHLETIC VISION

Increase participation numbers and multiple sport athletes
Develop lifelong friendships, and productive members of society
Coach athletes the way we want our own children coached
Teach how to win, and how to use losing as a teaching tool

COACHING KEY POINTS

1. **Competitiveness** – Preach and coach with the constant advocacy of competing. WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP and will always have the mindset to refuse to lose. It is crucial.
2. **Physicality** – The concept to be more physical and “aggressive” will be promoted in every sport. Weakness in this area is a direct reflection on a program’s core identity.
3. **TEAM Concept** – Nothing and no one is more important than the program. Respect is essential and individualism has no place. Truly great players make those around him/her better as well. Players must want to be a part of something bigger than themselves.
4. **Discipline** – Discipline is the key to success. Without it, you have no structure.
5. **Thinking Like a Winner** – Expecting to win each contest. Attitude governs actions. A winner realizes the urgency of getting the job done, and facing the fire. Losers procrastinate, wait for someone else to try, and back down. A winner is willing to admit wrongs and mistakes, whereas a loser will transfer the blame elsewhere.

The Coaching Philosophy of Coach Wes Wood

A coach should cherish every influential opportunity with each and every one of his or her athletes. That short period of their life might be the only time they will ever be acquainted with the crucial life skills that athletics can provide. A coach's opportunity to mold relationships, provide direction, exemplify dedication, promote leadership, embody a family, and epitomize the overall "count on me" experience is one of the most unique and privileged manifestations throughout interpersonal life as a whole. If a coach's first priority is dedicated to creating respectable citizens with the utmost moral character, then, and only then, will the most tried attribute of "winning" truly follow suit. Once responsibility and accountability are established in the core of one's prophecy, then the desire and execution of WINNING will fall into place because losing will no longer be an option. The balance between an "instructor" who corrects when wrong and praises when right must ultimately express unheeding support, because only then will your team follow you; once they know they are SINCERELY LOVED.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS

Each student-athlete participating in athletics must have an on file approval sheet signed by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian. Because the school is a member in good standing with the UIL, all rules and regulations will be strictly enforced. There are specific requirements for participating in athletics. Each coach and the student-athletes will review the explanation of all team rules. Parental and athlete consent forms are to be signed and returned. By signing this form all parties will agree to abide by the rules and allow the coach to make decisions in the best interest of the team. This form will remain on file in the coach's office.

All High School student-athletes must participate in off season work-outs in their particular sports. Exceptions to this will be made at the discretion of their coach/coaches.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to play, a senior must have a minimum of 15 credits, a junior must have 10 credits, and a sophomore must have 5 credits. A freshman has to have been promoted to high school, not placed.

In all classroom work a student must pass with a score of 70 and above (honors classes have exceptions). If a student- athlete fails one or more classes, he or she becomes ineligible to participate in athletics*. A student-athlete who is not eligible because of failing classes can regain eligibility by passing at 3 weeks, or 6 weeks grading periods.

There is a one week waiting period after a report card (six weeks), or (3 weeks) before a student-athlete can begin participation again. Student-athletes have to be passing all classes including the class they failed. If a student fails the first three six weeks of the year, the student-athlete's schedule could be changed.

*Student athletes may not travel with the team, participate in any games, pep rallies, parades, be on the bench/sideline during games, or act as a manager or statistician if they are not eligible.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

The head coach of each sport will schedule all practices. Student-athletes are expected to attend every practice. When circumstances warrant one being excused from practice, permission should be requested from the head coach in advance. Injured student-athletes should make every attempt to observe practice. All squad or team members are expected to be dressed and at the designated area at the appropriate time. Missed practices can and will result in a loss of playing time. Each sport may have their own regimen for making up missed practices. There will be no mandatory practices or contests held on Sunday. Parents/spectators are welcomed at practice sessions at all times; however any interruptions to talk to players/coaches during their practice will be left up to the coach's discretion.

TRY-OUTS

If the situation warrants student-athletes to try-out in order to make the team the coach will determine the criteria to be used. After a review of all the pertinent information the coach will determine who has performed well enough to make the team. No one will be able to view the scores of anyone other than him or herself. Alternating individuals or a group or team may be implemented to ensure everyone receives playing time. This alternative will be used at the discretion of the coach; the coach will speak to the parents and the student-athlete if being cut is the decision of the coach.

SPECIALIZATION/RECRUITING

- Specialization in any one sport is “discouraged” by our full Athletic Department
- All athletes are encouraged to participate in all sports
- Student-athletes will not be restricted to any one sport by a coach
- Student-athletes will not be encouraged to specialize in any one sport
- Any student-athlete, parent, or coach suspecting a violation of these rules is asked to notify the Athletic Director or Athletic Coordinator at once.

TRANSPORTATION OR TEAM TRAVEL

- Team members will travel to and from contests on school provided transportation. Student-athletes will only be released to the parents (or legal guardians) with a written/emailed request that is presented to the coach prior to leaving Snyder, or at the discretion of the coach.
- The coaches will see that teams return to Snyder as soon as possible after a contest, especially on school nights. Parents should be told when to expect the team home.
- Student-athletes should help keep the bus as clean as possible. Coaches will expect them to pick-up around their seat before leaving the bus.
- Student-athletes should be on time to meet their transportation or be left behind, unless the head coach has prior knowledge of the situation and prior approval.
- Parents will not be allowed to drive student-athletes to a contest and participate in any UIL event, unless approved by the coach.
- Parents can sign a student-athlete out after a game. Only the parent/guardian can take an athlete home. The parent must speak to the coach face to face to sign out a student-athlete

ATHLETIC DRESS CODE STANDARDS

Student-athletes will not be allowed to compete or represent their school with visible tattoos. Tattoos must be covered during contests. No facial hair. No jewelry is allowed during any workout, practice, or competition. It is a safety issue. Students will not be allowed to take pictures or play with violations.

GAME DAY ATTIRE

The Athletic Department desires to project an image of unity and uniformity, and non-individualism through game day attire. An example of the Athletic Department game day attire policy might be a designated team shirt and khaki pants required for student-athletes. Snyder ISD athletes are held to a higher standard and wearing specific game day attire would aid in reinforcing this idea. Game Day Attire may be worn the entire school day, or out-of-town. Ultimately the decision will be up to the head coach of that sport. The attire that is chosen by the head coaches will be the standard of game day attire for each sport and up to the discretion of the Head Coach.

FUNDRAISERS

Each sport may have two fundraisers to supplement the district budget of that sport. The coach must complete a fundraiser form and have approval by the Athletic Director and the Districts Chief Financial Officer.

EQUIPMENT

Student-athletes will be issued equipment throughout the school year. Each student-athlete will be responsible for the return of the equipment or payment if lost or stolen. An athlete will also be required to return all issued equipment upon the request of the coach. Prices of all equipment will be replacement costs. Athletes should lock their belongings in their designated locker before, during, and after practice (with their own lock). The Athletic Department is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items if the locker was left unlocked.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

- In order to be considered for athletic awards a student-athlete must be academically eligible and not have missed any games due to discipline the entire season.
- Letter jackets are ordered twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The head coach will have the final decision on who receives a letter jacket.
- Managers must complete two seasons of service before they will receive a letter jacket.

CHANGING SPORTS

From the time a team plays its first scheduled real contest, a student-athlete cannot quit or be dismissed from that team.

Exceptions to this rule may be permitted under these conditions:

- If the HC involved and the Athletic Director/Coordinator agree that a mid-season change would be beneficial to the athlete and our program without being unfair to the other individuals of either team
- If the athlete has a doctor's statement that he/she should drop the first sport for medical reasons and permitting participation in the second sport

Before an athlete is cleared to go to another sport, he/she must turn in all equipment and pay for lost or damaged equipment.

An athlete must not change classes or stop reporting to a sport until notified that the change has officially been made by his/her HC.

QUITTING A TEAM

WE DO NOT WANT TO BUILD A CULTURE THAT BELIEVES QUITTING IS OKAY.

Coaches should take the following steps if a player asks to quit:

- Inform the Athletic Director/Coordinator and parents.
- Discuss reasons for wanting to quit
- Keep the student on the roll until the change has become official
- Collect all equipment

Student-athletes who quit a team will not be allowed to participate on any other varsity team for the rest of that semester, plus the next semester. The change can be made if the HC and the Athletic Director/Coordinator agree that a mid-season change would be beneficial to the athlete and our program. Student-athletes who quit athletics and then want to return to athletics will be required to complete a 10/10, and cannot participate on varsity until the next school year. All scenarios are at the discretion of the AD.

OFFSEASON/PRESEASON

It is the goal of the athletic program to protect the integrity of each sport, and continue to strive for excellence. The off-season training prepares student- athletes for in-season

sports and promotes safety by getting them ready physically and mentally. All student-athletes will have to be active participants in off-season training before they can participate in that particular sport. The only exceptions will be for student-athletes participating in another sport that would cause him or her to miss off-season training for the next sport.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

The conduct of a student-athlete at Snyder High School is closely observed in many areas of everyday life. It is important that actions be above reproach at all times.

Therefore, all student-athletes must observe these guidelines for conduct

- Conduct in competition: The student-athlete must be gracious in defeat, be modest in victory, and maintain complete control at all times.
- Conduct at school: The student-athlete should set examples for all students by following rules set forth by the administration and individual teachers.
- Conduct on trips: The student-athlete represents not only him or herself, but also the community, school, coaches, and parents. Therefore student-athlete that the athlete will dress and behave in an acceptable manner.
- Student-athletes are held to a higher standard than normal students.

VIOLATIONS

Violations can be designated as “MINOR” or “MAJOR”.

MINOR violations are generally thought of as mistakes made from time to time. While these mistakes may not pose a problem if they are isolated cases, it is the concern of the Athletic Department that these violations or infractions do not repeat themselves.

Examples of “MINOR” violations include, but are not limited to:

- Dress Code, Shaving (males), Tardiness, Office Referrals, etc.
- In School Suspension (ISS)
- Cheating, Lying, Vandalism, and Theft
- Tobacco Possession, Tobacco Usage, Tobacco Distributing
- Any other listed in the extracurricular code of conduct
- Inappropriate touching including “making out” in public places
- Profanity (cussing)
- Repetitive minor violations could be moved to persistent defiance which is a major violation

MAJOR violations are a problem, and will be addressed by the Athletic Department immediately. Examples of “MAJOR” violations include, but are not limited to:

- Off-Campus Suspensions
- DAEP Placements
- Failure of School Mandated Drug Tests
- Being Cited or Proven Guilty of: Drug Possession, Drug Usage, Drug Distributing
- Being Cited or Proven Guilty of: Alcohol Possession, Usage, or Distributing
- Bullying, Racism, or Sexual Harassment
- Getting Arrested
- Threatening with a deadly weapon
- Repetitive minor violations could be labeled as a major violation

PROCEDURES

The Athletic Director/Coordinator will determine whether a Minor or Major violation of the Athletic Handbook has occurred. Upon determination of an Athletic Handbook violation, the following individuals will be notified:

- The student and possibly the parent(s), or guardian(s) and/or the appropriate school official or counselor to provide support and guidance in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs, mood altering chemicals, and other prohibited activities.
- Nothing in this Athletic Handbook limits the authority of a coach to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for student-athletes who break team rules or conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Coaches will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches will strive for consistency in deciding punishment for Athletic Handbook violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion when dealing with disciplinary actions. Violation of any of the aforementioned rules by a student-athlete participating in any sport will be subject to the following disciplinary action(s):

All violations will fall under “MINOR” or “MAJOR” categories and the guidelines of those infractions will be followed as outlined:

- 1st Offense – If applicable, School Policy Suspension (14 days) from the date the offense occurred, and parent contacted. Athletically: 10 for 10 and 5 hard yards.

- 2nd Offense – If applicable, School Policy Suspension (90 days) from the date the offense occurred, and parent contacted. Athletically: 10 for 10 and 5 hard yards or possible removal from athletics at the discretion of the athletic director.
- 3rd Offenses – If applicable, School Policy Suspension (180 days) from the date the offense occurred, and parent contacted. Athletically: 10 for 10 and 5 hard yards or possible removal from athletics at the discretion of the athletic director.

DUAL PARTICIPATION

- All student-athletes participating in Snyder Athletics make a commitment to the team, their teammates and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the student-athlete. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. Another integral part of that commitment is to place the Snyder Athletic team above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity and attend all practices and games scheduled by Snyder coaches.
- If an athlete chooses to miss a Snyder Athletic practice because of participation in an activity not under the auspices of Snyder, the student- athlete could fall under the guidelines of a “Major” violation.
- If a student- athlete chooses to miss a Snyder Athletic practice because of participation in a non-Snyder ISD event, the student-athlete could fall under the guidelines of a “Major” violation.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult and complex vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

1. Communication parents should expect from the coach:

- Coaches Philosophy
- Expectations
- Location and times of practice
- Team requirements
- Injury procedures

2. Communication coaches should expect from parents:

- Concerns about their child only during a pre-arranged meeting
- Specific concerns in regard to the coaches philosophy/expectations
- Schedule conflicts

3. Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- Treatment of your child
- Improvements needs for your child
- Behavior concerns

4. Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

- Playing time
- Strategy
- Play calling
- Any situation dealing with other athletes
- Statistics

5. If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedures should be followed:

- Call the coach to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached call an assistant coach
- If no coach can be reached call the Athletic Director/Coordinator
- Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting
- Stick to discussing facts as you understand them
- Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both parties. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

6. What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Call the Athletic Director and set up a meeting. The athlete, coach, and parents need to be present.
- At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.
- It's difficult to accept when your child is not one of the best athletes, or performing at the desired level. We all need to understand the coaches first priority is the team, and your child is second. Student's involvement in extracurricular activities has been proven to increase their chances of success later in life. We hope this information helps make the experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and cheer for your team, and enjoy the competition. NOT to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students, and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people; just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations or calls may take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public. THEY ARE HUMAN.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censoring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming
- Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility
- There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails himself or herself of it is expected to conduct himself or herself accordingly
- Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and will) remove them from the premises due to any type of disruptive behavior. Disruptive behaviors can be defined as but not limited to foul or abusive language, berating of officials, taunting of opposing fans, players, or coaches, lack of cooperation with school officials, not remaining in the bleachers, refusing to leave a restricted area, etc. Spectators may be removed from Snyder events for violating any of these rules. Spectators removed from two contests will be prohibited from attending Snyder contests for the remainder of that season. Spectators removed three times will be prohibited from attending Snyder contests for one year. Severe violations (fighting, refusal to leave and behavior requiring police

involvement, etc.) may result in an immediate ban from all events for the remainder of the year (or lifetime).

- Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.
- The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

WEATHER AND RELATED CONDITIONS

An educated and informed decision will be made in determining if a practice or a contest can be held when there is a question concerning the weather. No student-athlete will be put at risk in order to have practice or play a contest. We have an indoor facility at our disposal for practices to help protect our student-athletes.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The district shall excuse student-athletes from attending school and extracurricular activities for the purpose of observing religious holidays when it is a tenet of their faith that they must be absent from school during such time and if, before the absence, the parent, guardian, or person having custody or control of the student submits a written request for the excused absence. The district shall excuse the student-athlete for days on which religious holidays are observed. Excused days for travel shall be limited to no more than one "day to" and one "day from" the site where the student-athlete will observe the holidays. Student-athletes excused under this provision shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up the contest(s) or practice(s) missed during the absence. The absence will count as an excused absence with a reasonable amount of time given to make up for any missed practices or contests.

DRUG TESTING

All student-athletes will be subjected to random testing during the school year. Drug testing will follow the school board district approved policy. Consequences for failing drug tests will be considered "MAJOR" violations and consequences will go as outlined under the school board approved policy.

All medical issues must be addressed with the Athletic Trainer.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Anything on social media should advance the mission of our school district and or athletic program. Parents and Students need to be aware of the harm that can accompany social media outlets. Do not post information, photos, or any other item online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, or your school. Potential scholarships, admittance into college, and future employment could be affected when improper information is posted on social media.

If slanderous statements are made, possible consequences could be issued to the offender upon the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or Girls Coordinator.

REQUIRED POSTINGS

Parents can access the UIL Parent Information Handbook and the Texas Education Code SUBCHAPTER F. SAFETY REGULATION FOR CERTAIN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES at

http://snyder-shs.ss5.sharpschool.com/programs/athletics/athletic_handbooks/.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*You are not required to sign this page if you sign or initial the electronic copy in Arbiter or check any box signifying that you have read this handbook

A condition for participation in the Snyder ISD Athletic Program is to sign an acknowledgment that the student-athlete has read and understands the Athletic Handbook. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must also sign an acknowledgment. The acknowledgment states that the signing party understands the consequences for engaging in prohibited conduct.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN

DATE _____ GRADE _____

I have read the Snyder ISD Athletic Handbook and agree to these rules as a condition for my voluntary participation in Snyder ISD Athletics. I understand that failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures related to my athletic participation.

Students Name Printed _____

Students Signature Signed _____

I have read the Snyder ISD Athletic Handbook and understand the requirements for my child's voluntary participation in Snyder ISD Athletics. I understand the consequences that my child will face if he or she fails to adhere to these rules and agree to such terms.

I am aware of the sections dealing with Parent/Coach Relationships and Behavior Expectations of Spectators. I agree to abide by the conditions stated therein. I agree to allow my child's name and photo to be used in the newspaper, or any other social media network to be recognized for their accomplishments.

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name Printed _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name Signed _____