Player/Parent Football Meeting

Austin Packers Football

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Mission Statement

The Austin Packers football program strives to make a positive difference in the lives of student athletes so they can achieve their highest potential in the classroom, on the field, and in the community. We will use football to draw the greatness out of every student athlete in the program.

Program Values

Education:

Our program emphasizes the fact that our players are students first and athletes second. Education is the key to a successful future and our program strives to support our athletes' education. Our program would rather have the student athlete miss practice for a doctor appointment than to miss a class. Of course, we would prefer the student athlete not miss class or practice, however, if a choice has to be made, the student athlete would be excused from practice as long as we know ahead of time. We realize there are emergencies where communication with a coach is not a priority.

Sportsmanship:

Our program strives to be the defining program of sportsmanship in the Big Southeast District. All members of the Austin Packers football family will conduct themselves with high character in the classroom, on the field, and in the community.

Respect:

Our program is committed to creating a culture of respect within the program. Our team will consist of many diverse individuals. We will display respect to each other and also on the field to our opponents and officials.

Leadership:

Our program believes that the defining characteristic of every championship team is leadership. Leadership is a skill, and like all skills, it takes time and effort to develop. Leadership is more about trust you have earned than the authority you have been granted. Our program will provide a Leadership Academy where our student athletes will learn lifelong skills about leadership for both on and off the field.

Tradition:

Many great people have been a part of the Austin Packers football family. Our student athletes will uphold the tradition and pride that has been passed on to them. Our student athletes must understand that everything they do will be a reflection of those that came before them and therefore will have to continually work to create a program that these individuals can be proud of.

Program Philosophy of Football in Education:

Our coaching staff must be concerned with stimulating each student athlete so that they will want to secure the finest education possible. We must demand a commitment to being prepared and accountable, not only in football, but also to every endeavor in life they consider worthwhile and meaningful. The student athletes must learn that dedication, sacrifice and hard work are necessary ingredients in performing any task that will lead to the accomplishment of a valued goal. The student athlete in our program is in a unique position. They are part of a team and must learn to work and function effectively and cohesively with a wide variety of personalities. They will also represent our school in a very visible role and we will encourage them to conduct themselves with character, integrity, honesty, and pride.

*****School unexcused absences, suspensions, chemical violations and any other violations will be handled according to school and state policies*****

SECTIONS:

Austin
Byron
Faribault
Kasson-Mantorville
Stewartville
Winona

Player/Parent Information:

Preseason Requirements:

- Registration is completed online through Parent Portal.
- Complete any forms and make sure you have a current Physical on file (physicals are only good for three years).
- Participation fee paid.

Student athletes cannot practice until all of the above has been completed.

Practice Sessions (includes Team lifting): The following guidelines will be followed by all players participating in our program:

- All practice sessions begin on time. Players are expected to be dressed and ready to begin practice at the designated times. Any player who is not prepared to begin when the practice session starts will be considered tardy and may be subject to program consequences.
- All players will be dressed in appropriate equipment as designated by the head coach. Only equipment issued or approved by the head coach will be acceptable. Any equipment that is broken or in need of repair must be brought to the immediate attention of the coaches and practice must not continue for that player until the problem has been corrected.
- Absences: Players will occasionally have to miss a practice. In this case, all players must be cleared to miss a practice session prior to being gone (if possible and not an emergency). Illness may be cleared by telephone call or text to the head coach. Players who do not clear their absences may be considered unexcused and subject to the consequences that go with that infraction. Only those absences cleared by the head coach are considered excused (haircuts, jobs, hunting, etc. are not acceptable excuses).

The following guidelines cover absences and tardies:

- Excused: A player who is excused from missing (or late to) a practice or a game will maintain the status of a regular player. The player may be expected to stay after practice the following day, not as a punishment, but as a way to make up the work missed from the previous day.
- Unexcused: A player who misses (or is late to) a practice/lifting or a game that is deemed “unexcused” by the coaches will be warned for the first violation. If a second violation occurs, the player may be suspended for up to one half of the following game. After three violations, consideration for dismissal from the team will be considered. The player may be expected to stay after practice the following day, not as a punishment, but as a way to make up the work missed from the previous day.

Academics:

Football players attend Austin High School for the purpose of learning and progressing toward a high school diploma. All athletes will be students first. The standards for athletic participation in our school are minimum guidelines set to insure progression toward graduation. Any time the coaches are notified of classroom deficiencies or poor behavior by a player, steps will be taken to improve the situation. Our players will be expected to keep up with classroom requirements or they will be excluded from participation in the football program until those requirements are met.

Attitude:

The coaches expect all players to act in a manner that is in the best interest of the school district, the school, the team, their family, their community, and themselves. Hustle and hard work are expectations we have of all of the players. We expect the student athletes to listen to their coaches and do what is asked of them at all times. A player who is not acting in this positive manner may be asked to leave practice (or game) and not return until a meeting is held with the head coach, the player's position coach, the player, and a parent. A positive attitude will help us become the best football team possible.

Playing Time:

We guarantee practice time to all of the players in our program, however, we do not guarantee any playing time to anyone. At the lower levels we attempt to play as many players as possible in their games. At the varsity level, playing time is awarded to players according to their ability, their work ethic, attitude, and best interest of the team. Any concerns regarding playing time should be brought to the immediate attention of the head coach by the individual player involved. Playing time will not be discussed while on the field or immediately after a game.

Open Door Policy:

When a player has a concern with any aspect of our program the player should first make arrangements to meet with the head coach and anyone else deemed appropriate as soon as possible. Misunderstandings and problems can be cleared up quickly and efficiently this way. Our staff hopes that if a player's parents or guardians have any concerns they will communicate first with their student athlete to see what the problem is and if their student athlete has spoken first to the coach. If the coach and player meeting has not resolved the problem then a meeting with the head coach, the player's position coach, the player, and a parent may then take place to resolve the situation. No problem is too small to discuss with the coaching staff.

Bullying/Hazing:

Bullying, hazing, and any other poor treatment of teammates is not acceptable and could lead to dismissal from the team depending on the severity of the situation. Please notify the head coach immediately if such behavior is determined to have taken place.

Parent Participation:

Parents and the public may attend any and all practice sessions. We welcome this; however, we would appreciate cooperation in doing so. All parents and general public who attend our practice sessions are asked to remain off of the field and away from drills that may be taking place. We appreciate having people watch and not distract the players or coaches from their preparation. It is unacceptable to have anyone who is not part of the team inside the fencing area around the field. We expect parents to be positive and to be supportive of their child and the program. Remember that your child cannot be positive about situations in which you do not show positive support.

Locker Room:

All players will be issued a locker within the locker room. It would be recommended that each player bring a lock for their locker. Players will be provided with all of their protective gear including mouth guards. We will provide hip and tail pads; however, it is recommended that you buy your own girdle if possible. Players will also be provided with a notebook and pencil to keep in the locker room. Players will need to purchase cleats. Players are expected to keep the locker room clean and organized. All equipment should be stored in their locker and locked whenever they leave the immediate area.

Game Day Expectations:

All players are expected to dress appropriately for school on game days. The players may wear their game jersey on game days. All injured players on the sidelines of the game will wear their game jersey. Players will be expected to dress in the uniform issued to them for the game and will only use accessories approved by the head coach. Any player who arrives late or who is not dressed in time may be subject to consequences by the head coach. Any player who forgets any equipment or any part of their uniform for away games will not be allowed to play in that game.

Bus Trips and Travel:

Players will attend away games if they earn the right to go as a participant. Players are expected to keep the bus clean and to follow all rules regarding bus travel. All players who ride the bus to the game will also return home on the bus unless prior approval has been granted by the Activities Director.

Injuries:

Football is a contact sport that can result in a variety of injuries to the player. Anytime a student athlete is feeling pain or discomfort of any kind they must make the coaches and trainer aware so that necessary care can be provided. Any student athlete who is under medical care by a physician will not be allowed to participate in any practice sessions or games without written clearance by the physician. All injured players that cannot take part in practice or in games will still be required to be at practice or games as they are still considered to be a part of the team.

NAME_____

AUSTIN PACKERS FOOTBALL
Varsity 11th / 12th Grade
Lettering Policy

Requirements for a letter:
Players must earn **40 TOTAL POINTS**.

In-Season:

Starter – Offense / Defense / Special Teams (2pts / 8 regular season varsity games = 16 points possible)

Game Participation – 2 quarters of varsity game participation (1 pt / 2 quarters played = 16 points possible)

Practice – No late or missed practices from beginning to end of season (for any reason) (10 points)

End of season – All equipment returned on time and clean (2 points)

Academics: (Student-Athlete is responsible to notify Coach Schmitt)

Fall Semester – ***A Honor Roll*** (4 points)
Fall Semester – ***B Honor Roll*** (2 points)

Volunteering:

- 100% attendance all days of Team Camps (3 points)
- Assistance (coaching) with the Packer Youth Football League (PYFL) (3 points)
- Assistance with the Packer Youth Football Camps (2 points)

Coaches Input:

- Based on level of commitment to the program and qualities of a high school student-athlete (0 – 15 points)
- You may letter if you obtain a season ending injury as long as you continue to attend practices, classes, and are respectful.
- 9th / 10th grade varsity letter winners MUST be a position starter on offense/defense/special teams and is based on coach's discretion.

In addition to the point requirement, athletes must have completed the season in good standing to letter. This includes having ALL ABSENCES cleared by personal contact with the coaches, and actively participating and making contributions daily in practice.

LETTERS WILL NOT BE EARNED – **Any unexcused practice/game – Any MSHSL rules violation – And/or if in the coach's judgment, a player's actions on or off the field do not reflect positively on the program (in addition, captains will lose their captaincy for similar actions).**

****On occasion, the coaching staff may feel an athlete's contribution is great enough and/or circumstances are such as to waive the point obligation.

Team Twitter:

@AustinPackersFB

Packer Youth Football League:

Our 3rd and 4th grade football program will be coached by student athletes on the varsity football team. Student athletes that would like to coach in this program must be fully committed to attend all practices and games unless a prior arrangement has been made with the head coach. These volunteer hours may be used as part of the requirement in the Austin Assurance Scholarship program.

Austin Youth Football League:

The 5th and 6th grade football program will be coached by community volunteers. Our program will assist this league any way possible. We would appreciate that our 9th and 10th grade student athletes assist this league by working on the "chain gang" on Saturday mornings during those games. These volunteer hours may be used as part of the requirement in the Austin Assurance Scholarship program.

Other Important Dates:

August 17th: First day of practice – must be registered on Parent Portal.

Austin Packers Football Team Rules and Policies

As a student athlete and parent, we agree to follow the Austin Packers Football Team Rules and Policies. We accept these rules and policies and give our student athlete permission to be a member of the Austin Packers football team.

_____	_____	_____
Print Player's Name	Player's Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Print Parent/Guardian Name	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

*****Please sign and turn this page in to the Head Coach*****