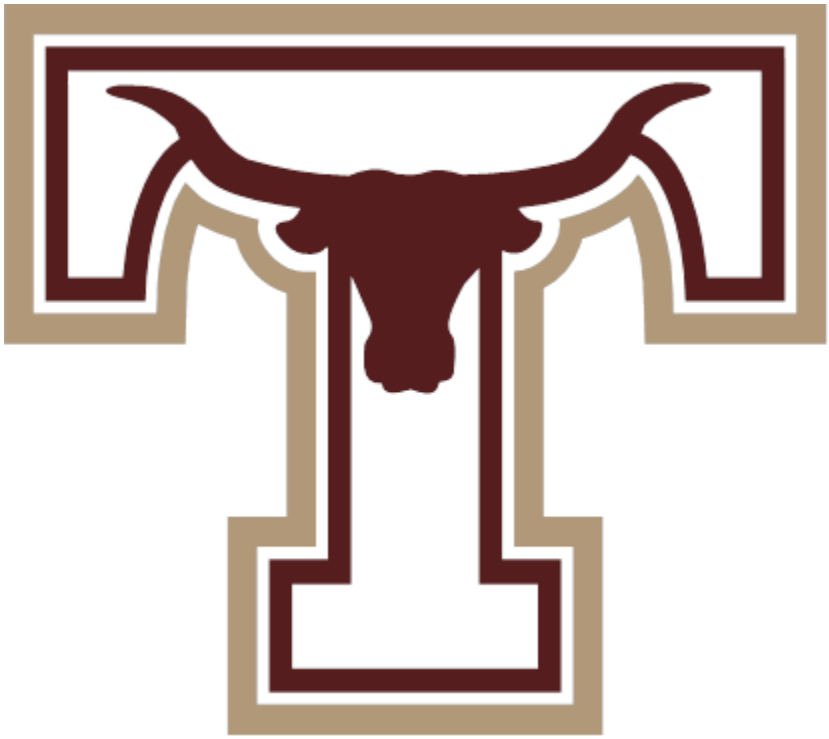
Tarkington ISD

Athletic Handbook



2026-2027

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The Tarkington ISD Athletic Handbook contains a general statement of the administrative regulations governing the overall athletic program. Provisions of this Athletic Handbook may be expanded, modified, or revoked only by the Athletic Director, recommendation of the Principal, Superintendent, or Board of Trustees. All provisions must be approved by the Board of Education. If any of the provisions of this Athletic Handbook conflict with federal or state laws, and regulations, or Board policy, those provisions are superseded by applicable law or Board policy. The provisions of this Athletic Handbook are severable, and the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability of any provision will not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the other provisions.

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LONGHORN ATHLETICS

According to UIL rules, being in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Only those students who abide by school and athletic policies will be allowed to represent Tarkington ISD.

When young men and women sign up for athletics and become a member of a team, they make a commitment. They are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the program. Students are not forced to participate. It is voluntary; therefore, they are expected to follow rules of order and behavior.

Parents should strive to help their son or daughter achieve success in athletics. Success is defined as participating at 100% of the individual's ability. We can never expect athletes to do more than they are capable; however, we do want them to obtain their fullest potential.

Supportive parents can instill this desire in student athletes long after their playing days are over by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and regulations.

The purpose of the athletic program is to do more than provide competition between two individuals and/or two schools. It is to teach fair play, sportsmanship, the understanding and appreciation of teamwork, the teaching of discipline, and that quitting means failure and hard work translates into eventual success. We will attempt to accomplish this general objective as outlined below.

1. Academic success, hard work, and dedication will be stressed on a daily basis throughout the entire athletic program. Encourage the students to grow physically, mentally, morally, and socially. They must pass in the classroom to be eligible for athletic participation (UIL).
2. Keep as many students as possible involved in a good environment.
3. Instill good work habits, sound morals, exemplary citizenship, and a high standard of sportsmanship in the athletes of Tarkington ISD. Athletes are to display positive leadership at all times in our school and community.
4. Escalate an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness. The importance of proper rest, good eating habits, and proper hygiene will be stressed at every opportunity.
5. Develop all programs in such a manner that the end result will be one of unity, harmony, and success. Mass participation is to be emphasized and encouraged especially below the high school varsity level. Students will be encouraged to participate in multi-sports at all levels of competition.
6. Instill in all athletes the desire to represent their school and community in a manner that will make citizens, parents, school personnel, and classmates proud of them.

Participation in the athletic program and/or UIL contests is not a right, but a privilege. No student is required to take part in the contest or activities; therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the Athletic Code of Conduct. All students must conform to these guidelines, and understand that the coaches of the sport or activities along with

the athletic director, shall have every right to remove these privileges if guidelines and procedures are not followed.

The administration of the Athletic Program should provide every boy and girl the opportunity to participate in any sport. No student in any grade should be deprived of the opportunity to begin participation in any sport if he/she has met the off-season and pre-participation requirements. Students that are eligible to participate in try-outs will be given the opportunity to do so but are not guaranteed a spot on the roster.

The general administration of the Athletic Program is the direct responsibility of the Athletic Director. This includes the arrangement of all schedules, time and place of playing games, selection of officials, and the general management of all matters pertaining to the Athletic Program. In carrying out this program, each head coach in the department shall attend to details of their respective sports.

Explanation of Athletics

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult endeavors. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of one another and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Locations and times of practices and contests
- Team requirements, practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

As your children become involved in the program at Tarkington ISD, they will experience some of the most rewarding 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 wishes. 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.

As a parent, it is very difficult to accept your child's lack of playing time, when they may play in a game, or the position on the team in which they play. It will be the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. Examples include team strategy, other student-athletes, playing time, etc.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. There will not be a conference regarding playing time without the student-athlete and coach present. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
    - Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach, and meetings of this nature do not provide a resolution.
2. 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.

Since research indicates that a student involved in extracurricular activities has greater success during adulthood, these athletic programs have been established with this in mind. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

Requirements To Participate

The following items must be signed and turned into the Athletic Department before participating in any practice or game in any extracurricular athletic activity.

1. **Physical Examination**

   A physical examination is required by the UIL. for all students entering the 7th grade and all high school students entering the 9th and 11th grades. Physicals will be required every year for all students participating in UIL sports. Whenever it is possible, Tarkington ISD provides a team physician to administer the physicals to the students at a discounted rate to the student. It is not mandatory that the team physician administer the exam. The student may go to their family physician. When students do this, they are required to use the approved UIL- form to record physical examinations. Club or organization forms will not be accepted. The physical form is available from the athletic department or from the main office on each campus. Group physicals will be scheduled in May of the preceding school year for all athletes.

   Students should be aware of the rare possibility of sudden cardiac arrest, which in athletes is usually caused by a previously unsuspected heart disease or disorder. A student may request an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to screen for such disorders, in addition to his or her required physical examination.

   An electrocardiogram (ECG) is not required. If a student requests an electrocardiogram (ECG), It is solely their responsibility to schedule and pay for such ECG. The student and his/her family are responsible for having the ECG conducted and read. Schools MAY assist in this process and MAY provide cardiac screening opportunities but schools are NOT required to do so.

2. **Athletic Department Forms Packet**

This packet, which will be completed digitally through Healthy Roster, includes: (1) UIL Acknowledgement of Rules, (2) UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form, (3) UIL Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form, (4) UIL Anabolic Steroid Form, and (5) Personal student and parent information (6) Healthy Roster (7) Drug Testing Form through High School front office. The packet should be filled out completely! Do not leave any requested information blank.

3. **Acknowledgement of Tarkington ISD Athletic Handbook**
   The student-athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form. This shows receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and guidelines contained in the Athletic Handbook.

4. **Academic Eligibility**
   A student in grades 9-12 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:
   - Beginning the 9th grade year; must have been promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th grade.
   - Beginning the 10th grade year; must have earned at least 5 credits toward graduation.
   - Beginning the 11th grade year; must have earned at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.
   - Beginning the 12th grade year; must have earned at least 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.

A student participating in UlL activities will be suspended 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 suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period and the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal or greater than a 70.

Tarkington ISD will follow all guidelines of UIL, including but not limited to, Constitution, Contest and Rules (CCR), each manual for the individual sports, and the parent information manual. Students who are not eligible can practice with the team as long as they have permission from the head coach. The student/athlete can practice but they are not permitted to play in a game or travel with the team.

ATHLETIC PERIOD

In order to participate in athletic team sports, athletes are required to be in the athletic period and go through the strength and conditioning program. Only the following sports will have Athletic periods: Boys (Football, Basketball, Baseball) and Girls (Volleyball, basketball,

softball). All other sports are after school only. Extenuating circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

ATTENDANCE AND PRACTICE REGULATIONS

Do not miss class, practice, or games due to unexcused reasons. A coach must be consulted ahead of time if an athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing practice without permission will directly affect playing status. If attendance becomes a habitual problem, suspension or removal from the team may result. Excused and unexcused attendance will be determined by the coach and/or Athletic Director.

- Excused missed practices- make-up conditioning; weights, etc., no playing time consequences
- Unexcused missed practices- conditioning and consequence; playing time consequences
- Excused missed games- make-up conditioning; possible playing time consequences- common sense rule (family emergency, etc.)
- Unexcused missed games- make-up conditioning and at least a one game suspension; playing time consequences
- Unexcused absence from school on the day of contest- athlete will not be allowed to participate or attend the activity

School Extracurricular Opposed to Non-School Extracurricular

It should be understood that school extracurricular activities take precedence over non-school extracurricular activities. For example, a child should not miss a school practice or contest to attend a non-school practice or contest. Ex. Club sports, AAU, individual coaching/instruction shall not take the place of school practice time or games. It is not acceptable for an athlete to miss, arrive late, or leave early from a practice or contest for a club sport or select team. If an absence from practice does occur, then it is an unexcused absence and the unexcused absence procedure will be followed. If an athlete misses a contest for a club sport or select team, then the unexcused absence from a contest procedure will be followed.

Vacations

Vacations by athletic team members during a sports season are discouraged. Parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be conflicts (i.e., Spring Break for baseball, softball, and track). In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, the athlete will assume responsibility. See Attendance and Practice Regulations. If an athlete skips a game for reasons listed above, there will be make-up conditioning and playing time consequences. Someone else was practicing in that spot.

CONDUCT OF ATHLETES

Tarkington athletes will act with respect, pride, and dignity at all times, in and out of school. A student is not required to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. Therefore, athletics is a privilege; and consequently, when these expectations and standards are violated, this privilege can be revoked. Follow and obey all guidelines set by the coach. Poor effort will not be tolerated. If you do not want to work hard and be a team player, then you should not be an athlete.

Class and Respect

Adults should receive a Sir/Ma'am response from athletes. Failure to show class and respect will result in disciplinary action. Athletes who are habitual problems in the classroom and receive repeated poor conduct may be suspended from a team on a temporary or permanent basis. If the problem continues, athletes will perform consequences assigned by their coaches. Athletes will be expected to treat all teachers, administrators, and coaches with the utmost respect.

Harassment, Hazing, Intimidation

Any type of harassment, hazing, or intimidation directed toward fellow team members or students is forbidden and may result in suspension, dismissal from the team and/or dismissal from the entire athletic program.

Off Campus and Out Of School Offenses

If a student athlete is arrested and charged with a felony crime or the use of or distribution of drugs, they will automatically be suspended from athletic activities until guilt or innocence is determined. If the student is found guilty, they will be suspended from all athletic activities for one calendar year from the date of the first suspension. At the end of one calendar year from the date of the violation, the case may be reviewed by all parties concerned to determine reinstatement procedures.

Profanity

This will result in disciplinary action. Profanity directed to an administrator, campus staff, a teacher or coach may result in removal from the program.

Promptness

Always be on time to all classes. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

Quitting

Think hard before you decide to participate in a sport. Athletics requires hard work, time and dedication. Any athlete who quits a team or is dropped from the team, will not be permitted to participate in another sport until the sport they quit is completed. They still must continue in the off-season program if they plan to continue to participate in Athletics. This athlete will forfeit

his/her award in the sport he/she left, or was removed from. *Any exception must be discussed and agreed upon by all coaches involved and approved by the Athletic Director.

Social Media

As indicated in the TISD Student Athlete Handbook, we have high expectations for our student athletes and others participating in extracurricular activities. Because each of you represent the school district, it is imperative that both your academic and athletic performance be impeccable and meet the highest of standards. This is true of conduct occurring at both home and away performances, as well as community events and other public venues, including social media. Behavioral Contract - Athletes can be placed on contract depending on behavior. This will be signed by both the student and their parent or legal guardian.

If your public conduct or use of social media diminishes the reputation of Tarkington ISD, you will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, removal from participation in extracurricular activities. Should you elect to use social media, you are solely responsible for the content on your social media page. This includes all content added by you, your friends, or members of the public who can access your page. You are also responsible for all web links associated with your social media page, including likes, shares, and tags.

Sportsmanship

The athlete will win and lose with class. Temper fits, flagrant violations of rules, etc., will not be tolerated, Total respect to officials, other team coaches or players, and anyone taking part in the athletic event will be shown. Any behavior contrary to the above mentioned or any other act which is not conducive to good sportsmanship may result in removal from the contest and possible expulsion from the athletic program.

Stealing

This will not be tolerated. Punishment may result in suspension or expulsion from the athletic program. This also includes school equipment not returned after the season has completed.

Suspension during School

If an athlete is in ISS during the school day, they are still expected to show up for all after school practices/workouts. All issues are case by case and the consequences are up to the discretion of the head coach.

Suspension from School

If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason, they will be ineligible to participate in games during the entire period of suspension. A second suspension in the same school year may result in the total expulsion from the athletic program for a time period ranging from the remainder of the school year to one calendar year. Any off-season workouts missed due to suspension must be made up prior to competing in any contest. This includes on and off campus suspension.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The general philosophy of the Tarkington ISD Athletic Department is that we will make every attempt to help an individual who makes a "mistake". However, if a "mistake" is repeated (habitual), the welfare of the program and team must take priority. All mistakes will result in disciplinary action and hopefully not repeated. Tarkington ISD is dedicated to your success and growing each of you into accountable, responsible, committed young adults who excel in your current role as student leaders.

Coaches have the right to discipline athletes on their individual teams but should exercise sound judgment in evaluating specific penalties, keeping in mind the welfare of the student. A coach will not dismiss an athlete from a team until it has been discussed in detail with the Athletic Director and parents. A twenty-four (24) hour evaluation period will exist before the final decision will be made. Also, the student will not be able to participate in any athletic contest and may be excluded from all other athletic activities (practice, trips, pep rally, etc.) during this 24 hour period. All violations will be documented and parents will be notified.

It is impossible to outline each and every disciplinary problem and the possible outcome that can arise from such distractions to the overall athletic program. However, the following disciplinary procedures cover additional scenarios with resulting consequences. Furthermore, infractions that are not spelled out specifically in the Tarkington ISD Athletic Handbook will be reviewed and treated with similar consequences.

Profane language by a student during a contest

- 1st offense- Extra conditioning/drill work
- 2nd offense- Extra conditioning and sit out the next contest
- 3rd offense- Removal from the team for the remainder of the season and a written contract to follow in order to participate in other sports in the same school year.

Profane language by a student directed towards an administrator, teacher, sponsor or coach

- 1st offense- May result in removal from the program for the remainder of the school year. If the student is an underclassman, a contract may be written if the person that the verbal assault was addressed to agrees to such contract.

Participants walking off or out of a contest area for non-emergency reasons without consulting a sponsor

- 1st offense- One game suspension, meeting with parent(s), written contract to follow and abide by.
- 2nd offense- Removal from the program for the remainder of the school year.

Unsportsmanlike actions or antics during a contest by a participant (i.e.. taunting, fighting, and/or verbal actions. This does not include roughing, flagrant, etc.)

- 1st offense- Immediate removal from the contest with a possible one game suspension, meeting with parent, and a written contract to follow and abide by for the remainder of the year. Extra conditioning drills will be administered.

DRESS/GROOMING

Dress should be very professional in or out of uniform. Everyone will wear the uniform in the same manner. WE ARE A TEAM! It is against UIL Guidelines to wear any type of jewelry during athletic events. No earrings are allowed in the athletic field house or any school event. Also, covering a piercing with a Band-Aid will not be allowed during practices or contests. Hats, caps (exception-school issue), bandanas, and rags should not be worn on athletic trips, except during competition with the coach's approval. If caps are to be worn. they need to be matching and part of a uniform. Shoe color must be approved by a coach prior to wearing in competition. Game uniform shirt tails must be completely tucked in at all times during a contest unless designed otherwise. Once you have left the locker room, the shirt tail should remain in at all times until the completion of the qame. This includes pre-qame. bench time. half time. etc. Uniformity and class will be apparent when traveling to other towns, communities, schools, restaurants, etc., as representatives of the Tarkington ISD. They should be groomed and dressed in a manner that our community, school, and sponsors will be proud. Giving up untidy fads of dress and appearance is a very small sacrifice.

Note: Violations of the above standards of grooming and dress may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

These will not be allowed. First offense may result in dismissal from the team. Second offense will result in dismissal from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

Any videos, pictures, etc., showing student athletes engaging in illegal activity, using drugs, alcohol, tobacco or conducting in any behavior that may be damaging to the program, will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, a two (2) contest suspension, extra conditioning, and a discipline contract. This includes, but is not limited to, e-mails, Instagram, Snapchat, X(Twitter), Facebook and Tik Tok, as well as any other form of social media.

Steroid Testing and Random Drug Testing

The Board of Trustees adopted a policy of random drug testing for all participants in extracurricular activities. The State of Texas is requiring steroid testing of athletes. The consequences for a failed drug test are as follows:

- **1st Positive Test-** A student will be suspended from all extracurricular competitions for 20 consecutive calendar days. This includes all activities that take place before or after the school day. The student will continue to participate during the school day's athletic period. After the first positive test, the student shall be subject to participation in each random testing period for the remainder of the student's high school career. The athlete

will be required to make up all games and practices missed while on the 20 day suspension.
- **2nd Positive Test-** The student will be suspended from all extracurricular activities for one calendar year.
- **3rd Positive Test-** The student will be dismissed from the program for the remainder of their time at Tarkington ISD.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

The athletic budget provides sufficient money to field well-equipped teams in all sports. While this equipment is not always the most expensive available, it is always good equipment that provides the utmost protection.

With proper care and inspection, it can be kept in use for extended periods of time. Proper care of equipment relies basically on the use of common sense and mandatory inspections. This includes keeping equipment as clean as possible at all times, repairing equipment as soon as possible, and discarding equipment beyond repair and age limits of protective head gears.

Do not take equipment or clothing home. Return equipment that you are not using to your coach. To reduce the spread of infection, do not use other players' equipment.

ATHLETES ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN ISSUED TO THEM. DO NOT TAKE IT HOME!

Equipment should be hung in lockers as instructed. You are to clean your equipment as needed. When you change into your workout gear, your street clothes should be hung in the same manner. Latrines and toilets are to be flushed, showers and faucets turned off, and all trash picked up and thrown in the trash. Do not leave towels on the floor. We are classy and professional athletes because we practice the same image we promote.

INJURY OR ILLNESS

All injuries should be reported to a coach and/or trainer on a daily basis. If you are injured, you will be required to attend daily treatment(s) at times designated by the Athletic Trainer. Remember, there is a distinct difference between injury and pain, and this will be determined by the athletes, athletic trainer, and physicians when needed. Due to insurance purposes, we ask that you consult with the Athletic Trainer before going to the doctor. If you must leave school because of illness, come by the coach's/trainer's office and check with one of the coaches to ensure an excused absence. If you are ill or injured, we do not expect you to work out. However, if you are at practice, we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group from station to station unless given special permission by the head coach. Updates are to be made within Healthy Roster. Athletes are expected to be "Cleared" before returning to play.

Emergency Procedures for Severe Head Injuries

Student athletes who have received a severe blow to the head will be handled in the following manner:

- The student will be kept still and not moved.

- EMS will be called for evaluation of the injury and transportation to the local emergency room.
- Parent or guardian will be notified of the injury at the same time EMS is called to the scene of the injury.

LETTERING

All athletes must complete the season (no quitting, ISS, removal, etc.) in order to letter with the exception of an injury. They cannot miss part of the season due to academic ineligibility and still qualify for a letter jacket or awards.

All lettering is at the discretion of the head coach with the Athletic Director's approval. If a student does not meet all criteria, they may still letter because of their effort and positive contribution to the TEAM.

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, And Volleyball
Participate in 1/2 of the varsity games scheduled. Be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

Cross Country/ Track
Anyone who places in the varsity district meet or participates in 1/2 of the varsity schedule. Be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

Powerlifting
Participate in 1/2 of the scheduled varsity powerlifting meets or qualify for regionals. Be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

Tennis/Golf
Participate in 1/2 of the varsity district tournament, have won at least 1 varsity tournament during the year or qualify for regionals, be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

MULTIPLE SPORTS

Athletes are encouraged to participate in more than one sport. THIS MAKES THE OVERALL PROGRAM STRONGER. All sports are classified in one of three seasons: fall (Football, Volleyball, and Cross-Country), winter (Basketball), or spring (Baseball, Softball, Track, Tennis, and Golf). An athlete may not start a winter season sport while still participating in a fall sport. An athlete may not start a spring sport while still participating in a winter sport. Coaches will work together in scheduling contests to ensure minimal conflict. Selection of the team will be at the discretion of the coach. The head coach in each sport has the absolute total discretion as to

who plays, how long they play and under what circumstances they play or do not play. It is highly recommended that parents be flexible when letting their children play multiple sports, yet be realistic about spreading their time too thin. Academic performance should be a students' first priority.

Participation in school sports takes precedence over any league/club sport. No athlete will be permitted to miss school workouts or games for club or individual workouts or games. Conflict in several school extracurricular activities will be up to the sponsors and coaches to work out a solution for the student athlete to participate in all activities (if possible). If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on relative importance of each event (district vs non-district games/playoff vs non-playoff games etc.), relative contribution the student can make, how long each event has been scheduled, and talk with parents.

SPORTSMANSHIP: PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

Any student/athlete or spectators who are removed from an athletic event by an official, police or administrator is subject to suspension from all athletic events for the remainder of that season or year. Any fan who disrupts an athletic event is subject to suspension or banishment from all athletic events at Tarkington ISD. This includes but is not limited to; yelling or using inappropriate/offensive language toward coaches, players, coaches' family members, officials, etc.

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and 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 take place.
- Show respect for ALL 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.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (drugs, etc.) before, during and after the game on, or near the site of the event.
- 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.

- DO NOT post distasteful or negative comments or pictures on any social media network (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, and Tik Tok, etc.) about our school, our coaches, or any athletes. Disciplinary actions may be taken by the coaches and/or school.

TRAVEL

All athletes in middle school and high school represent the community and school district. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with this code. Violations may result in suspension from the next contest, and any incident of a serious nature may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team or program.

1. Be on time for all trips or you will be left and not permitted to play. Punctuality is imperative and tardiness will not be tolerated.
2. Dress appropriately as directed by the coach.
3. Show respect for opposing teams' facilities. Make sure not to abuse dressing rooms in any way. Leave the dressing rooms cleaner than when we arrived.
4. Be mannerly in all eating establishments. All student participants will sit in restaurants or at other special events as a group.
5. Do not take personal valuables on road trips, and avoid the possibility of losing these items or having them stolen. The athlete is responsible for their valuables.
6. All athletic personnel making the trip on the team bus will return on the team bus unless an emergency situation arises. Any Extenuating Circumstances that require a student to travel with a parent or guardian must be pre-approved with the HC. An initial after the game is still necessary. The utmost effort should be made for teams to travel to and from contests together. This builds the "team" concept.

TARKINGTON ISD ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM

This acknowledges receipt of the 2026-2027 Tarkington ISD Athletic Handbook. The handbook should be kept for reference throughout the year for both parents and students. In accepting this Athletic Handbook, I accept the privileges and responsibilities as a participant in the Tarkington ISD Athletic Program and promise to uphold the rules and guidelines set forth in this handbook.

Please complete and return this form to the Athletic Director.

Student's Name: _____

(Printed)

_____ _____

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