

T I S D

A T H L E T I C D E P T

Athletic Handbook

2016 – 2017

Athlete Name: _____

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****Acknowledgement Sign-Off Page must be on file for participation in Tarkington Athletic Program****

Dear Athlete and Parent,

The purpose of this athletic handbook is to serve as a guide of our expectations for our student athletes at Tarkington Independent School District. I believe the foundation for success is that of discipline, and an important key in the establishment and maintenance of good discipline is clearly defined expectations. I would like to ask each student and parent to carefully read the contents of our Athletic Handbook and sign the contract at the end of the booklet. **The Contents of this handbook along with the Student Code of Conduct will be strictly followed.**

In signing the contract you are showing your acceptance of the discipline policies outlined in the Athletic Handbook. Remember the participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. It is our goal for our athletes to represent our community, our schools, and our families with a great deal of **pride**. Let's win championships with class, dignity, and respect.

One Heartbeat,

Stan Howard

Athletic Director

Tarkington Independent School District

TARKINGTON ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

The role of athletics in the public school system is to enhance & provide meaningful social, mental & physical development for all who participate. In reality, the experience builds so much more.

Through competition, hard work, discipline, social interaction, teamwork and so many other important character traits our program will not only enhance the experience of the education process but will also develop the skills needed to be great citizens & leaders for our next generations.

Our athletic department is dedicated to developing our student-athletes in three critical areas:

1. ACADEMIC SUCCESS
2. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
3. ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

Focusing on these three areas will provide a holistic approach to developing our student-athletes in a manner that will yield life long positive results.

Stan Howard, Athletic Director

Kevin Weldon, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Michael Johnson, President

Kem Arnold, Vice President

Grant Cook, Secretary

Allen Coogler

Marcus King

Dorothy McCreight

Pete Vandver

Alma Mater

Dear old Tarkington High School that is her name.

Never, 'O never, will she love her fame, WE LOVE HER!

So we say forever, Loyal are we.

For we are bound together for eternity, LET'S WIN!

TARKINGTON

COACHING STAFF

High School: 281-592-7739

Middle School: 281-592-7737

Field House: 281-659-1729

Web Address: www.tarkingtonisd.net

Stan Howard	Athletic Director / Head Football
Kayla Baker	Head Athletic Trainer
Brittany Berton	Middle School Volleyball / High School Basketball / Middle School Track
Patrick Bricker	Assistant Head Football / Assistant Powerlifting / Recruiting Coordinator / Head Boys Track
Tom Bruce	Head Tennis / High School Volleyball
Tiffany Buntion	Middle School Cross Country / Assistant Softball
Dusty Calhoun	Middle School Coordinator / Middle School Football / Middle School Track
Mark Davidson	High School Football / High School Track
Michael Gutierrez	Head Golf / High School Football / High School Basketball
Denise Johnson	Head Volleyball
Luke Bargainer	High School Football / Assistant Baseball
Zack Kelley	High School Football / High School Basketball
Rolando Leal	Head Cross Country / High School Girls Basketball/Assistant Girls Track
Joe Maines	Head Power Lifting / High School Football - OC / Head Girls Track
Mark Marshall	Middle School Football / Middle School Basketball / Middle School Track
Ken McCarther	Head Baseball / Middle & High School Football
David Neeley	High School Football / High School Baseball
Susan Pittman	Middle School Volleyball / Middle School Basketball / Middle School Track
Greg Scharer	Head Boys Basketball / Assistant Softball
Twynia Atkins	Middle School Volleyball/Middle School Basketball
Wade Taylor	Middle School Football / Middle School Basketball /Track
Val Weldon	Girls Athletic Coordinator / Head Softball
Rachel Tucker	Head Girls Basketball / High School Volleyball

I. INTRODUCTION

The athletic program at TISD is an integral part of the total school experience for both boys and girls. It offers a variety of sports and activities to all students who have potential skill and desire to participate.

The policies, procedures and regulations in this handbook are in compliance with school board policies and administrative procedures. They are designed to provide successful experiences for students and the efficient operation of the athletic program.

This handbook supersedes all prior publications governing Tarkington athletic teams and shall be used by all principals, coaches and players in grades 7-12.

You, the student-athlete, are accountable and responsible for all policies contained within this handbook.

II. UIL (UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE) – GOVERNING BODY OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS IN TEXAS

The UIL is the governing body of academic, athletic and music competitions in the state of Texas. As participating members of this organization we are bound to the rules and regulations as established by the UIL. This includes, but is not limited to, fan conduct during contest and interaction with officials. Please be mindful that any disrespect towards officials, any behavior that is negatively disruptive to the spirit of fair play can result in immediate removal from contest and possibly prohibit attending any future events.

Very insightful information that is important to the student-athlete and parents can be located on the UIL website including the Parent Information Manual. This information may be accessed at: <http://www.uil.texas.edu/>

III. SPORTS AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPATION AT TISD

Cross Country	Boys & Girls – Middle School, JV and Varsity
Football	Boys – 7, 8, 9, JV and Varsity
Volleyball	Girls – 7, 8, 9, JV and Varsity
Power lifting	Boys & Girls – Varsity
Basketball	Boys & Girls – 7, 8, 9, JV and Varsity
Tennis	Boys & Girls – 9, JV and Varsity
Track & Field	Boys & Girls – 7, 8, JV (boys only) and Varsity
Baseball	Boys – JV and Varsity
Softball	Girls – JV and Varsity
Golf	Boys & Girls – Varsity

IV. PARTICIPATION & MAKING THE TEAM

It is the goal of this athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is participation in athletics required. It is also stressed that participation in the Tarkington ISD athletic program is a privilege, not a right. *Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with Tarkington ISD policy and due process procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and standards of this athletic program are not followed.*

In some sports we are limited by several factors that can require the Tarkington Athletic Department to reduce the number of student-athletes participating by having tryouts. All tryouts for teams will be based on criteria that are considered skill related to the particular sport. Head Coaches will develop a tryout protocol that must be approved by the Athletic Director & Superintendent. Every athlete trying out will be evaluated on his or her individual athletic merit. Decisions will be based on ability and is the sole discretion of the coaching staff.

Student-athletes that do not make the team will be considered for other support roles in the program, allowed into strength & conditioning program or possibly removed from athletics.

V. ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL TISD STUDENT-ATHLETES

All student-athletes are expected to give his or her best, play to win, follow training guidelines, exhibit good conduct and fair play at all times so as to be a credit to our school. Student-athletes, as well as coaches, are always on display. We are judged by the company we keep. Our actions in everyday life, both private and public are a direct reflection on this athletic program and school.

THREE PILLARS OF BELIEF

1. Academic Success

The student-athlete is expected to display success and a commitment to excel in the academic setting. Not only is it a UIL requirement within the "No pass, no play" guidelines but furthermore it is the primary focus of what the educational experience encompasses. Our focus is "The Graduate" and working to ensure that our student-athletes have their priorities in order.

2. Character Development

As a student-athlete you are an on-field or on-court representation of our school district and community. It is critical that you display qualities and characteristics that are consistent with how we want to be represented. The character you possess will not only set an excellent example of what our community is about but will also enhance your growth as an individual later in life.

3. Athletic Success

Student-athletes within the Tarkington Athletic Department will be expected to physically and mentally prepare themselves at a high level in accordance to coaching directives. In addition, all student-athletes will be expected to compete with a champion's mindset and given all out effort in any situation, be it in the competitive arena or off-season training.

VI. EXPECTATIONS OF A TARKINGTON STUDENT-ATHLETE

In general you are expected to:

- **Be committed** – The first step to commitment is mindset, the second step is action.
- **Be accountable** – Be someone that your coaches & teammates can depend on.
- **Be a great person** – Give respect before you expect to get it, be polite to everyone, be thankful of what you have and give praise to others.

In the classroom setting:

You are a STUDENT first, an athlete second. Below you will find several strategies that are expected of a Tarkington student-athlete:

- Be on time
- Be prepared
- Pay attention
- Take notes
- Turn in assignments
- Study for tests
- Be respectful towards teachers or substitute teachers
- Be respectful of classmates
- Act with behavior suitable of a Longhorn or Lady horn

Tutorial / Study Hall Policy

Any student-athlete with a grade below 75 must attend a tutorial session for that particular class. If the student-athlete has multiple classes below 75, a tutorial session must be attended for each of these subject areas.

If a student-athlete's grade has subsequently changed since the grade report, the teacher of record may write in the grade change and sign to release the student-athlete from tutorial / study hall for that particular class.

Understand, this program is designed to assist in your academic progress. It is not intended to be a punishment but a program designed to aid you in academic success and support your ability to stay academically eligible.

Student-athletes that become academically ineligible are still expected to attend and participate in all scheduled team practices.

During Competition:

A Tarkington student-athlete will be held to the highest standard and expectation. You will be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. You will take the fields and courts understanding that you represent your school and community and will be expected to represent both with honor.

- Play with enthusiasm – Be excited, be loud, have positive energy, do what you love and love what you do.
- Play with toughness – Physical and mental toughness is the foundation to success in any sport.
- Play to win – Follow the game plan; trust your coaches and teammates. Leave it all on the field; BE A CHAMPION.
- Root for your teammates – One of the biggest identifiers of teams' unity can be displayed in the way that they cheer for one another.
- Stay in control of your emotions – Never allow your competitor, fans or officials to see your frustrations. Excitement is one thing; that is spontaneous positive emotion. Frustration is a negative; avoid it.
- Be respectful of opposing coaches – Respect the position and title of "coach". This includes the coaches of the opposing teams.
- Be respectful towards officials – Whether you agree or disagree, your focus should be on the game, not the officials.

On any TISD campus:

- The student-athlete will maintain proper dress and appearance, good grooming and personal cleanliness. Student-athletes are leaders who have only one chance to make a good first impression.
- Male student-athletes will refrain from wearing earrings or any piercing to school, at school functions or while representing the school in an academic or athletic contest.
- Female student-athletes will refrain from wearing any piercing which is not acceptable for school to any school functions.
- Covering a piercing with a Band-aid is not acceptable for practices, contests or any athletic workout.
- Student-athlete's hair shall be neat and clean. Male student-athlete's hair shall not touch the collar and will not extend below the eyebrow. School Rules concerning facial hair will apply in all contests including those when school is not in session. (Christmas, Spring Break, etc.)
- Visible tattoos will not be acceptable for any student-athlete during any practice, contest or any school function. This includes when school is not in Session.

During athletic periods and practices:

- Student-athletes should be in school for the 1/2 day to participate in a practice or event after or before school hours. Student-athletes who will not be in attendance must have a doctor's note or must have contacted the head coach, coordinator or principal and received prior permission for extenuating circumstances.
- Student-athletes must communicate with coaches concerning missed practices or workouts.
- Shower time will be provided: Towels will be provided for athletes or you can bring one from home.
- Always dress appropriately when leaving the dressing room and field house.
- Student-athletes must be in Strength & Conditioning program as stipulated by the coaches to participate in the upcoming season.
- Personal phones are not to be use during athletic periods. Ask for permission to use the phone in the coaches office should you have a need to contact someone.
- Student-athletes are required to attend practices that are scheduled during "non-school" calendar periods.
- Taking personal items from other players, students, TISD school property or visiting school property will not be tolerated. Punishment will be handled on an individual basis and may result in expulsion from the athletic program for up to one year from the calendar date of the incident.
- Student-athletes are expected to treat the student-training staff with the upmost respect and courtesy.

VII. ATHLETIC RULES

1. Dress & Athletic Attire
 - a. Athletes of team sports will be provided necessary workout apparel.
 - b. Player packages will be offered to supply "Official" Tarkington Athletic Department supplemental apparel, shoes and accessories.
 - c. Players should provide a pair of flat-soled shoes for indoor workouts or weight training.
 - d. All athletes must be dressed in designated athletic attire for workouts.
 - e. This includes athletes that are injured or suffering from illness.
 - f. Coaches will designate attire for workouts, travel, pre-game and contests.
 - g. Jewelry of any type is not allowed during workouts or contests.
 - h. Any accessory items worn during a contest must be pre-approved by Head Coach of a sport.
 - i) An accessory item is defined as a non-school issued uniform or equipment.
2. Locker Rooms & TISD Issued Equipment
 - a. At NO TIME will cameras be used in any locker room.
 - b. Cell phones are not allowed for use during any portion of the school day, during a practice or contests.
 - c. All lockers are to remain neat, clean and free of trash and clutter.
 - d. Restrooms are expected to remain clean and all commodes and urinals flushed at all times.
 - e. Equipment must be stored exactly as directed by coach.
 - f. Student-athletes are required to clean and maintain any equipment issued. This includes safety equipment such as helmets, shoulder pads and other protective equipment.
 - g. Cleats must be removed before entering locker rooms.
 - h. Do not bring items of high value or excessive amounts of money into locker rooms.
 - i. Athletes are responsible for all issued clothing and equipment. Should items be misplaced, lost or abused they will be replaced at the athlete's expense.
 - j. Any team shirts that are issued will be expected to be returned if requested by coaches.
3. Game Day Attire & Uniforms
 - a. Athletes are expected to be dressed in required game day attire
 - b. Options are:
 - i) Male athletes will dress in shirt & tie, khaki pants or dress slacks.
 - ii) Female athletes will dress in professional attire as designated by female coaches.
 - iii) Team t-shirts or matching warm-up attire can be worn as well.
 - c. Infraction of Game Day Attire policy will result in a possible loss of playing time or up to a loss of playing a contest all together.
 - d. Student-athletes will wear designated game day attire as issued by coach. No "extra" or non-approved apparel items may be worn.
 - e. Football will recognize Breast Cancer Awareness month in October by selecting one game to wear pink colored accessories. Coaching staff must approve accessories before they may be worn in contests.
4. Punctuality / Absences
 - a. All athletes must be dressed and in line for attendance or to begin workouts at time designated by the coach.
 - b. Absences fall into two categories, excused and unexcused.
 - i) Excused has been cleared by the Head Coach or fall into an emergency situation with unavoidable circumstances.
 - ii) Unexcused are classified as misses that have not been communicated to the Head Coach or are for superfluous reasons.
 - c. Excused absences will require the athlete to make up a portion of the practice that is important to the preparation of playing the next opponent.
 - d. Unexcused absences will result in a consequence and will increase in punitive quality based on frequency of occurrence.
5. Injuries
 - a. A severity of injury and length of time out or limited will be based:
 - i) The student should let the attending coach know of an injury as soon as prudently possible. The coach will then evaluate, and if needed, refer the student to the trainer-Coach Baker.
 - ii) Coach Baker's evaluation
 - iii) Timeline provided by attending physician
 - iv) Nature of physical illness
 - b. Student-athletes are required to comply with all training room rules and protocols as established by Coach Baker.

6. Travel to and from Contests
 - a. All athletes are expected to travel to and from contests with the team.
 - b. Medical or emergency circumstances would be an exception to this rule.
 - c. Athletes may be released to travel home with family provided 'TISD Consent to Private Travel' form has been completed and turned in to the Head Coach before game day. Athletes must be signed out to be released.
 - d. Requesting to sign out the day of the game without proper procedure is not permitted.
 - e. Sub-varsity athletes are required to stay for a minimum of the completion of games played by his or her same grade level, or the game that immediately follows the one that was just participated.
 - f. It is important in the support of our programs and the camaraderie expected of our student-athletes that they be supportive of one another.
 - g. Non-school personnel may not travel with teams or join in any pre-contest team activities.

7. Weight Rooms
 - a. Student-athletes are expected to participate in all Strength & Conditioning training as directed.
 - b. Workouts are designed with in-season and out-of-season specificity.
 - c. Skipping reps or sets will result in a consequence as specified by the coach.
 - d. Altered workouts or excusal from workouts is dependent on injury status, no to the discretion of the student-athlete.
 - e. When considering injury, the Athletic Trainer determines if the student-athlete is withheld from training, not the student-athlete or parent note.
 - f. All safety protocols will be in place when working in the weight rooms. Under no circumstances should athletes train alone or without coach supervision.
 - g. Weights, benches and all other training implements are to be kept clean, stored in the proper location and trash disposed of when workouts are complete.
 - h. All body contact surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected after workouts are complete.
 - i. Only flat-soled shoes are allowed in weight rooms.

VIII. CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE PROGRAM

The following rules apply to all Tarkington ISD student-athletes during school and non-school activities during the calendar year. This includes in and out of season. Items that would fall under Conduct Detrimental to the Program:

1. Possession or any use of tobacco products.
2. Possession or use of alcoholic beverages.
3. Possession or use of illegal drugs, designer drugs or substances abused as such.
4. Possession or use of steroids.
5. Felony crime.
6. Placement in In-School Suspension (ISS).
7. Placement in Alternative Education Program (AEP).
8. Behaviors not fitting of a Tarkington Athlete, including but not limited to:
 - a. The posting of negative information or pictures about your school, team, teammates and coaches on any websites, blogs or social media outlets could be detrimental to the team. Should this information because problems within the school or team the student(s) may be held accountable and result in disciplinary action.
 - b. Fighting.
 - c. Theft.
 - d. Disrespect of school district employees or other spectators at an event.
 - e. False information or representation to a school district employee during an investigation.

IX. STEROIDS & PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS

The UIL has been directed to test a significant number of student-athletes in grades 9-12 at approximately 30% of the UIL member schools. The selection process of schools and student-athletes will be random, and approximately 40,000 to 50,000 student-athletes will be tested for anabolic steroids. The following link will direct you to the website with more detailed information from the UIL>

http://www.uil.texas.edu/athletics/health/steroid_information.html.

X. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR INFRACTIONS OF POLICY

Any violations to the aforementioned policies will result in conference with the student-athlete, individual coach and the Athletic Director wherein discipline will be decided in a fair and consistent manner.

Information provided by a law enforcement officer, administrator or district employees will be investigated. Should there be evidence of misconduct or violation of the above rules, the student-athlete will be disciplined. The respective coach, in cooperation with the Athletic Director will handle the violations of the above rules. The student-athlete who violates the above rules will be subject to the following:

A. Alcohol and Tobacco Offense

- 1st Offense – 100 halos in 5 days and suspension from competition until completed.
- 2nd Offense – 200 halos in 15 days and 15 school calendar days of suspension from athletics.
- 3rd Offense – Removal from the athletic program for one calendar year.

B. Drug Offense – District Drug Testing Policy results are not used in determining Drug Offense protocol within the Tarkington Athletic Department.

- 1st Offense – 30 Halos per day for 15 days and 15 school calendar days of suspension from competition.
- 2nd Offense – Removal from the athletic program for one calendar year.

C. Steroid or Performance Enhancing Drug Offense

- 1st Offense – Suspended 30 school days from all UIL activities and must retake the test and receive a negative result before being reinstated.
- 2nd Offense – Suspended from all UIL activities for one calendar year and must retake the test and receive a negative result before being reinstated.
- 3rd Offense – Suspended from all UIL activities for the remainder of his/her high school career.

***If the student tests positive and they are not currently in a sport that is “in-season” they will begin their penalty when they start their next sport.**

Suspension, Removal from Contest or Placement on Behavioral Contract

The Athletic Director will have the authority to suspend, place on probation or place on behavioral contract any student-athlete for major or minor infractions of the rules.

Any student suspended from athletics will be given:

1. The reason(s) for the suspension.
 2. The time frame and provisions of the suspension.
 3. The procedures necessary for re-entering the program.
 4. Information on class schedule change or options.
 5. The opportunity for appeal.
- If suspended from school, the student-athlete will not be permitted to work out with, travel with or participate with the team. Eligibility for subsequent contests will be left to the discretion of the coach and administration.
 - Student-athletes who are placed in ISS for one day, yet all work is completed and the student is released will be allowed to participate in practice or participation in contest after that afternoon/evening.
 - Student-athletes who are placed in ISS for multiple days are not eligible to participate in practice or compete in activities until the release from ISS on the final day of completion.
 - All ISS assignments will result in missed practice time, whether in or out of class time, and will result in consequences and make-ups for the time missed.
 - Student-athletes who are assigned more than a total of five days ISS for the school year will meet with the coaches and placed on a disciplinary contract for the remainder of the year.

- AEP assignments made to student-athletes will result in a conference with the coaches and student-athlete's parents and may result in disciplinary action and possible removal from the program.
- Any student-athlete who is removed from a contest by an official due to unsportsmanlike conduct will result in suspension. The time frame for the suspension will be from the time the student-athlete was removed to the exact time in the next contest. In addition, consequences will be issued to correct the mistake so that it will not happen again.
- School officials reserve the right to remove any spectator(s) from an event due to misconduct.

Appeal: The student and/or parent shall have the right to appeal any decision to suspend a student, expel a student or place a student on probation from the athletic program.

Appeal process:

1. Personal conference with the Coach.
2. Personal conference with the Athletic Director.
3. Personal conference with the Principal.
4. Personal conference with the Superintendent.

The appropriate school personnel shall consider an appeal by the student and/or parent of suspension, expulsion or probation from athletics:

1. Variation from printed policy, administrative procedures, regulations or rules and standards for membership and participation in athletics.
2. Failure to establish reasonable documentation that the student's conduct/behavior has violated the standards for suspension or expulsion from athletics.
3. Failure to give student/parent due process (notice of the facts being alleged) about the conduct behavior and opportunity to refute the charges.

XI. QUITTING A SPORT

There will be some times when a student-athlete finds it necessary to quit playing before, during or after the season. Whatever the reason, a student-athlete must follow the steps below:

1. The athlete should think the whole situation through before reaching a final decision.
2. The athlete should talk to the coach and parents to see if a solution can be reached without having to quit. A conference between the parents, athlete, coach and Athletic Director or any combination thereof, may be required, and is highly recommended before an athlete will be permitted to quit.
3. If an athlete decides to quit, he/she must check out of the sport with the head coach and turn in all issued equipment in proper condition. The athlete must pay for any equipment not returned.
4. An athlete may not quit one sport to participate in another sport. The sport quit must be completed BEFORE participating in a new sport. If both sports are taking place at the same time, the two head coaches AND the Athletic Director must agree to allow the athlete to participate. Extra conditioning/suspension may be required before being able to participate in the other sport. At the beginning of each sport, there will be a "5 day window" without penalty for quitting.
5. If an athlete does quit he/she will:
 - a. Forfeit his/her letter or award for the sport quit.
 - b. May not be allowed to participate in the sport in the future. (discretion of the head coach)
 - c. Will be required to do extra work/conditioning to participate in another sport, if both sports are in season at the same time (50 halos or equivalent conditioning)
 - d. May be suspended/removed from the athletic period.

It is important to note that quitting a team is considered to be a serious matter and the athlete may lose all future athletic privileges.

End of Athletic Participation by Quitting or Dismissal

Any student-athlete that quits is dismissed or fails to meet the terms of a rules violation will not be recognized as a member of the athletic program. This includes nomination for team or post-season awards, or recognition at the athletic banquet. In addition, any athletic passes or privileges will be immediately revoked.

XII. PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents are asked not to confront coaches at practice or games. Please make an appointment with the coach during their conference time if you would like to speak with them concerning your son or daughter. The coaches have many responsibilities while at games and practices and do not have time to discuss each player. If a confrontation occurs during or after a game, specific parent support at games could be affected. Only your son or daughter, no

other players, will be discussed during a conference so please do not ask.

XIII. ATHLETIC BENEFITS, REWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Athletic Passes

Player passes shall be issued to all student-athletes who are enrolled in an athletic class period at THS and TMS. These passes may be used for admission to TISD home athletic events that are not fundraisers or sponsored by booster clubs.

- Student-athletes must have the pass with their name on it to present upon entering the event.
- Student-athletes will be required to sign in at the gate at the request of the gate attendee.
- Any unauthorized use by someone other than the student-athlete will result in revoking of the pass.
- School picture identification may be required along with the pass.
- If a student-athlete drops out of athletics the pass must be returned as part of the equipment that is turned in to the coach.
- In addition, any discourtesy to the gate attendee or unwillingness to adhere to stadium or gym policy can result in a suspension of athletic pass privileges.

Athletic Recognition Ceremony

This is an opportunity to recognize the hard work and efforts of all that contribute to the athletic program. It is strongly expected that all athletes in good standing attend and enjoy the privilege of this wonderful event that has been conceived in their honor. Guidelines for attendance will be released leading up to the event.

Awards and Lettering

The school letter is among the highest awards the school bestows to our students. Student-athletes may receive from the school only one major award (jacket) during their high school career. In order to letter, you must have completed two consecutive seasons in the same sport with the second year being on varsity.

Initial Jacket Requirements

- Student-athletes will receive a jacket in the sport in which they letter first.
- All patches other than the letter are the responsibility of the student-athlete.
- Letter jackets will look the same for all sports.
- No jackets will be ordered before they are earned.

Letter Qualifications

Each coach will be responsible to keep records for student participation to letter in a sport. Records will be used as a basis for determining whether a student qualifies for a letter. A head coach with the approval of the coordinator may use other criteria. In addition to the initial jacket requirements listed above, the following criteria must be met to letter in each sport at Tarkington High School:

- Football – must play 12 quarters
- Volleyball – must play 18 games
- Cross Country – must finish in top 10 or team place in top 3 at district meet or participate in 5 varsity meets
- Basketball – must play in 24 quarters
- Power lifting – must qualify for the regional meet or participate in 3 varsity meets
- Baseball – must play in 28 innings
- Softball – must play in 28 innings
- Tennis – must score a point at the district meet or play in 5 varsity tournaments
- Track – must score a point at the district meet or minimum of 10 points for the season
- Golf – must qualify for post district play or participate in 4 varsity tournaments
- Managers/Trainers – must work at least 2 years as a manager and have recommendation of the coach

Exceptions to Qualifications

A participant may letter at the coach's discretion if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to the team. The student-athlete must finish the season in good standing with the team. Exceptions may include playing a sport for four years and never lettering, a letterman who is injured and unable to complete the season or a specialist of some type. Any student who qualifies for a letter but has been dismissed from the team for disciplinary reasons will not receive an award. Players who do not qualify for the criteria due to grade ineligibility will not letter.

XIV. Medical and insurance requirements

Tarkington ISD provides medical athletic insurance to provide secondary or "excess" coverage in the event of an athletic injury. Primary coverage is the responsibility of the student-athlete's family. In the event no primary insurance exists, the insurance provided by TISD becomes primary and claims will be paid as to the schedule of benefits and all expenses may not be covered or paid. This coverage is only available while the student is participating in an athletic practice, event or school travel.

In the event of an athletic injury, the student should immediately report the injury to their coach for proper procedure and documentation. The coach will make notation of time and date of the injury for the insurance claim. If medical attention is necessary, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardian of the student to obtain a claim form from the district. The athletic coordinator will have the form available in their office once the supervising coach has advised them of the injury. At that time, the proper procedure for filing a claim will be reviewed with the parent or guardian.

Please note that the insurance policy explicitly states that medical care must be sought within 60 days of the initial injury for consideration of payment.

All injuries and illnesses during practice require notification to the coach. Illnesses and injuries which require a student-athlete to sit out must be accompanied by a doctor's note. Please have the doctor state the condition and what the student-athlete is able to do as far as participation. When ill or injured, make sure you call your supervising coach if you are unable to attend practice or a game. If you call, there will be makeup work to be done, just as if you missed a day in an academic class. If you do not call, you will be considered skipping practice and disciplinary action along with a makeup will be given.

XV. ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM RULES

Student-athletes, as well as any student-trainers or managers, will adhere to all training facility rules as mentioned in the Tarkington Athletic Handbook and as described in the Athletic Trainers' Manual. Training room facilities are available at the high school gym and the field house. The following rules apply:

- Do not dress, undress or change clothes in the training rooms.
- All student-athletes must be clothed in gym shorts and t-shirts for treatment.
- Nothing is to be taken from the training room without permission.
- Ask before using or obtaining any equipment in the training room.
- Horseplay and foul language will not be tolerated.
- Drinks, food and gum are not permitted.
- Keep the training room clean.
- Return all wraps, braces and pads.
- Girls will use the whirlpool in the gym.
- Boys will use the whirlpool in the field house.
- Do not use the whirlpool without permission and help from your coach.
- Clean the whirlpool after exiting.

****School Extracurricular opposed to Non-School Extracurricular: It should be understood that school extracurricular activities take precedent over non-school extracurricular activities. For example, a student should not miss a school practice or contest to attend a non-school practice or contest unless previous arrangements have been made and discussed with the head coach and the Athletic Director.**

TARKINGTON ISD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETIC POLICY

Student-athletes and Parents: Please read the Athletic Policy Handbook thoroughly and retain the handbook for your reference. Sign, date and return this signature page to the appropriate coach. A copy will be on file with the Athletic Directors. No student-athlete will be allowed to participate without the signature page on file.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ATHLETIC POLICY HANDBOOK

Student Name (Printed)

Grade

Date

Student Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature