

# 2015- 2016

## SISD Athletic Handbook



Nunn, James A - Principal Middle School,  
Jane Hambric School Pk8  
Socorro Independent School District  
2015-2016

## Student Activities Complex

1300 Joe Battle  
El Paso, Texas 79936  
Phone: (915) 937-0504 or (915) 937-0505  
Fax: (915) 937-0503

**Athletic Director:** Ron Durkes  
(915) 937-0506  
[rdurke@sisd.net](mailto:rdurke@sisd.net)

**Assistant Athletic Director:** Dan Ferguson  
(915) 937-0508  
[jfergu@sisd.net](mailto:jfergu@sisd.net)

**Assistant Athletic Director:** James Nunn  
(915) 937-0507  
[inunn02@sisd.net](mailto:inunn02@sisd.net)

**Administrative Assistant I:** Johanna Redlinger  
(915) 937-0505  
[jredli@sisd.net](mailto:jredli@sisd.net)

**Secretary III:** Vivian Hernandez  
(915) 937-0504  
[Vherna05@sisd.net](mailto:Vherna05@sisd.net)

**Head Custodian:** Armando Contreras  
(915) 937-0566  
[acontr33@sisd.net](mailto:acontr33@sisd.net)

**Custodian:** Carmen Pedroza

## Aquatics Center

1257 Southview  
El Paso, Texas 79936  
Phone: (915) 937-0551  
Fax: (915) 858-4325

### **Aquatics Technicians:**

Jaime Escalera  
(915) 937-0546  
[iescalera@sisd.net](mailto:iescalera@sisd.net)

Cesar (Andy) Nunez  
(915) 937-0549  
[Cnunez12@sisd.net](mailto:Cnunez12@sisd.net)

### **Aquatic Secretary:**

Josie Trillo  
(915) 937-0547  
[jtrillo@sisd.net](mailto:jtrillo@sisd.net)

## SISD Athletics Strategic Plan

The SISD Athletic Department has designed its program around the Socorro Independent School District's Strategic Action Plan. This plan consists of the following directions:

1. Safe and Supportive Learning Environment
2. College and Career Readiness
3. Highly Qualified & Effective Faculty & Staff
4. Home, School, Community Partnerships
5. Accountability for All

### Direction I Safe and Supportive Learning Environment

Safety is our top priority at SISD! No stone is left unturned in our efforts to support our schools' safety, security, climate, student/staff attendance, and performance.

#### **Strategies to Insure Student Safety**

1. SISD requires a physical examination given by a U.S. doctor or nurse practitioner for each athlete each year of competition. The physical examination is good for 1 school year and may be taken anytime on or after May 1st for the following year. An athlete must have a complete and current physical examination on file prior to participating in an athletic period class, practice, tryout, or competition. Only approved vendors may be used by SISD schools to provide physicals for SISD athletes.
2. The SISD Athletics Department, and its football programs, will insure student safety in by providing and maintaining high quality helmets and protective equipment. This will be done by:
  - a. Purchasing: High school programs shall purchase at least 15 new helmets each year. The Riddell Revolution helmet with the air management jaw pads should be purchased for varsity players and sub-varsity players with a history of concussions.
  - b. Recertification & Repair: All recertification and repair money is in the Athletic Department budget. The bid and pickup process is coordinated by the Athletic Department. All helmets that were not repaired and recertified the previous year

will be checked by the recondition company and a member of the Athletic Department. Helmets that were recertified the previous year or were new for the season, but be in need of repair, will also be checked based on the coach's recommendation. The middle school helmets will be evaluated and those needing recertification, repair, and /or repainting will be sent to the reconditioning plant after the season and returned in February. The high school helmets will be evaluated and those needing recertification, repair, and/or repainting will be sent to the reconditioning plant after the spring football in May and will be returned in July.

- i. A helmet older than 10 years may not be used by any SISD athlete in any SISD football program. All helmets used by SISD athletes must be purchased by SISD equipment accounts, unless a doctor excuse has been received, and on file, and the district has approved the use of another helmet.
  - ii. Shoulder pads, blocking pads, sled pads, and standup dummies will be repaired as needed if funds are available. If funds are available, the school may be allowed to have 30 shoulder pads cleaned and sanitized, and have straps/clips replaced, or they may have up to 80 cloth items re-sewn with the same material thread.
- c. Maintenance: Coaching staffs will monitor each helmet used throughout the season and keep a written record of inspection. A district form or customized version may be used for this process. Coaching staff members will repair and replace parts as necessary during or between seasons.

## Direction II College and Career Ready

All SISD students deserve a quality education with rigorous instructional standards that adequately prepare them for the college and career of their choice. Our 100%...No Excuses Vision of Excellence promotes high expectations for our students, staff, parents, and community as a whole. No child will be left behind at SISD without continuous academic growth.

### **Strategies to Insure Students are College and Career Ready**

1. SISD coaches, teachers, and administration will work alongside parents and students to insure that students remain academically eligible (according to UIL and SISD policies and guidelines).
2. The SISD Athletic Department will recognize and honor the top academic junior and senior athletes, student athletic trainers, team managers, and cheerleaders. The head coaches or sponsors will nominate student athletes who meet the following criteria:
  - a. Is a junior or senior in their program.
  - b. Lettered during the current season.
  - c. Has an 85.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) or higher.
  - d. Is a team member, team manager, or student athletic trainer in good standing.

### **Direction III Highly Qualified, Effective Faculty and Staff**

Principal and teacher effectiveness greatly impact student achievement. Thus, it is extremely important to have the best educators and campus leaders at SISD. Support staff members at the campus and district level also play a major role in educating our students. Highly qualified, effective faculty and staff are able to improve student academic performance and ensure all of our students graduate college and career ready.

### **Strategies to Insure Highly Qualified, Effective Faculty and Staff**

1. SISD will recruit and retain effective coaches.
2. Insure all campus athletic coordinators and coaches are aware of and meet the requirements of their duties and responsibilities as outlined below.
  - a. **High School Athletic Coordinator:** Under the direct supervision of the Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Directors, and the campus administration, the Athletic Coordinator will advise, coordinate, supervise, and support a staff of high school head, assistant, and middle school coaches. The Athletic Coordinator will work to provide each student the opportunity to participate and excel in extracurricular athletic activities and ensure compliance with state University Interscholastic League (UIL) and local (SISD) requirements.
    - i. Performance Responsibilities

1. Serves as a role model to athletes, coaching staff, faculty, and the community by displaying leadership, strong moral character, commitment, sportsmanship, and dedication.
2. Has knowledge of Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League, National Federation Association, and Socorro Independent School District regulations and policies and with the assistance of the Athletic Director and campus Principal implements them consistently and interprets them as needed.
3. Serves as a resource to principals, coaches, and their programs concerning UIL and athletic issues.
4. Ensures that each coach on their campus is aware of all UIL rules, regulations, changes, implications, and interpretations.
5. Collects and submits to the Athletic Department a UIL Professional Acknowledgement Form for all campus coaches.
6. Completes and turns in to UIL and the SISD Athletic Office a UIL Athletic Sports Participation Figures Form for compliance with the Office of Civil Rights.
7. Collects and files all UIL Previous Athletic Participation Forms (PAPF) and is responsible for sending them to the DEC Chairperson.
8. Disseminates Athletic Department information to all appropriate coaching staff members and makes sure that it is turned in as needed.
9. Maintains an open line of communication with the SISD administration, Athletic Office, coaching staff, community, and athletes in reference to expectations of appropriate conduct and performance in both their high school and middle school programs.
10. Understands and maintains the proper chain-of-command line of communication and refers all requests or grievances through the proper channels: coach-athlete, head coach, coordinator, principal, assistant athletic director, athletic director, assistant superintendent of administrative services.
11. Ensures that their coaching staff maintains the perspective that a quality education is of the highest priority when working with our

student athletes and models the attitude that athletics supports academics.

12. Collaborates with parents, school administration, and athletes to promote student success and eliminate the student failure rate and discipline problems.
13. Designs staff meetings as needed to assure staff awareness of the total athletic program and knowledge of required rules and procedures.
14. Ensures and documents the establishment of athletic and team philosophies to be consistent throughout the athletic program.
15. Supervises, as needed, to ensure that appropriate skill and proper techniques are taught in all sports offered at their school.
16. Demands that all precautions are taken to provide a safe and injury-free environment for all athletes.
17. Works in conjunction with SISD Operations Department to coordinate athletic field maintenance and supervision.
18. Understands and maintains equal sensitivity to individual sports, individual coaches, cultural groups, and genders to maintain high moral and professional cooperation among staff.
19. Promotes professional growth of staff by encouraging attendance at clinics, camps, seminars, and other professional development opportunities.
20. Assists and supervises all coaches and athletic trainers as directed by the campus Principal and Athletic Director in order to maintain successful and safe athletic programs on their campus.
21. Provides input and serves as a resource in the employment of coaches for their high school coaching staff and feeder school coaching staffs.
22. Assists in evaluating all head coaches of each sport and athletic trainers on carrying out their assigned duties.
23. Ensures that all personnel on their staff are certified in UIL Rules Compliance Program, CPR & First Aid, and AED training and keeps certification records on file.

24. Ensures that all athletic pre-participation documentation to fulfill state and UIL requirements, for all sports, are on file before the athlete works out or competes.
25. Ensures that all paperwork is completed and all scores are submitted to the Athletic Office within prescribed timelines.
26. Assists and monitors coaches as needed in completing bus requisitions for their athletic program.
27. Reviews student eligibility in all sports throughout the school year to insure academic success.
28. Is responsible for the overall athletic program in their cluster pattern to include all middle schools, coaches, and athletic trainers.
29. Develops a collaborative and vertically aligned program for campuses within their middle school feeder pattern.
30. Develops and implements a schedule for visiting middle school coaches and their programs leading to effective vertical communication.
31. Makes the campus Principal aware of all school's athletic programs and activities throughout the school year.
32. Assists in any requirements or obtains personnel as needed for contests, tournaments, meets, and special events.
33. Facilitates the fair usage of campus facilities and equipment by all staff, athletic programs, and community.
34. Assists in the preparation and administration of their annual athletic budget.
35. Monitors the head coaches of each sport in the accountability of equipment and arranges for issuing, storing, and reconditioning of equipment within the policies and procedures of the district.
36. Assists in effective communication for the study and implementation of upgrading athletic facilities on the campus as directed by the Athletic Office or Principal.
37. Develops positive public relations with the school, parents, athletes, and community in an effort to promote the benefits of participating in school athletics and keeps the community

informed as to the success and accomplishments of all athletic teams.

38. Promotes all sports in the athletic program, fosters school spirit and pride, participates in athletic related school functions, and assists in the supervision of all athletic activities.
39. Supports Coaches in the organization of pre-season meetings for all sports.
40. Assures that the campus Game Manager is prepared for all competitions and duties on campus.
41. Serves as a liaison between the school and their athletic booster club.
42. Attends all public, staff, district, and department meetings that require their attendance.
43. Performs additional duties as needed and as assigned by the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

**b. Middle School Athletic Coordinator's Duties:**

- i. Assemblies: Works with administrators and coaches in organizing and conducting assemblies and pep rallies.
- ii. Banquets: Works with administrators, coaches, and boosters in organizing and conducting banquets and other celebratory events.
- iii. Booster Activities: Works with administration as a liaison with athletic booster groups.
- iv. Bus Scheduling: Collects requests from coaches and oversees process for obtaining buses for athletic events.
- v. Coaches Requirements: Insures that all coaches are certified and trained in all areas as required and keeps proof of certifications on file at the campus and SISD Athletic Office.
- vi. Eligibility: Oversees the campus process for eligibility reports and compliance with UIL, state, and local district regulations.
- vii. Evaluation of Coaches: Assists administrators in the evaluation of coaches as needed.
- viii. Facilities: Works with administrators in monitoring and insuring that facilities are maintained.
- ix. First Aid Kits and Supplies: Purchases, fills, and maintains first aid kits and provides them to in-season coaches.

- x. Forms: Assures that proper forms are on file for athletes and teams.
- xi. Hiring Coaches: Assists in the hiring process of coaches for all sports on their campus.
- xii. Insurance: Acts as campus resource for athletic insurance and claim forms.
- xiii. Inventories: Ensures that all coaches maintain a file for inventory of all athletic equipment for all athletic programs and makes sure that a copy is on file at the Athletic Department and with the Fixed Assets Department.
- xiv. Medical Coverage: Works with administration in hiring medical personnel to cover campus athletic events and ensures that medical personnel payment occurs promptly.
- xv. Meets and Tournaments: Works with coaches to organize cross country meets, track meets, and other sport tournaments.
- xvi. Meetings: Attends coordinator and sport specific meetings as required.
- xvii. Ordering Equipment and Uniforms: Works with coaches and campus secretary on requisitions for athletic equipment, supplies, and uniforms.
- xviii. Practice Schedules: Works with coaches to coordinate team practice schedules, including setting gym time for basketball and volleyball teams.
- xix. Physical Exams: Arranges for physical examinations to be given at the campus at least once during the year.
- xx. Reporting Scores: Monitors campus coaches reporting scores to the Athletic Office.
- xxi. Additional Duties: Performs additional duties as needed and as assigned by Athletic Director and campus administration.

**c. Coaching Responsibilities and Requirements:**

- i. In accordance with the UIL: ALL coaches shall ANNUALLY complete the UIL Rule Compliance Program training prior to their first day of practice. Coaches must also attend a UIL orientation session held before the beginning of the school year.
- ii. Any coach who is ejected, or any football coach who is given two or more 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a contest, is required to appear before the UIL State Executive Committee (at their own expense).
- iii. Coaches must receive training and be CPR, First Aid, and AED certified prior to their season.

- iv. All coaches must have a notarized Professional Acknowledgement Form (PAF) on file in the Athletic Office.
- v. All coaches are required to schedule a parent meeting prior to their season. This meeting is a requirement before an athlete may compete.
- vi. All coaches must also conduct a safety training session for their athletes as required by UIL.
- vii. All coaches must know that recruiting of athletes is a violation of UIL rules and will not be tolerated. Coaches found guilty of recruiting will face consequences imposed by the DEC and/or school district.
- viii. All coaches will follow SISD Regulation FJ <http://www.sisd.net/cms/lib/TX01001452/Centricity/Domain/93/FJadreg.pdf> when conducting fundraisers.
- ix. All head coaches of each sport must conduct a sport specific coaching clinic for their middle school feeder program coaches. Documentation must be submitted to campus Athletic Coordinator and SISD Athletic Director.
- x. General Responsibilities
  1. Athletics is a regular class period, to be treated as any other class. Attendance must be taken, and absences reported, daily. Student-athletes must receive grades for this class. (High School Only)
  2. Never leave your athletes unsupervised in the dressing room, gymnasium, playing fields, or courts. Do not leave school premises until all of your athletes have been picked up after games or practices.
  3. Athletes should be encouraged to participate in as many activities as he/she may desire. Coaches should not in any way discourage an athlete from participating in other sports or activities. It is a UIL violation for any coach to prevent an athlete from participating in a sport they wish to participate in.
  4. Head coaches are responsible for their total athletic program. Equipment will be issued to athletes and they are responsible for the care and return of equipment.
  5. The coach of each particular sport is responsible for making sure that their athletes have a physical and all required paperwork on file (input on RankOne) before they can practice or compete.

6. If an athlete quits an in-season sport, he/she cannot join another sport until the first sport has ended its season unless there is a mutual agreement between both coaches.
7. Coaches are responsible for knowing and applying UIL rules and policies.
8. The Coach of Each Sport Must:
  - a. Announce when workouts for the sport will begin.
  - b. Communicate with trainer(s) regarding injuries of athletes.
  - c. Check eligibility, transcripts, and grades.
  - d. Ensure that the dressing room is kept clean and safe.
  - e. Ensure that all equipment is maintained and cared for as needed.
  - f. Refrain from criticizing officials' calls made during contests (regardless whether they agree with the call or not).
  - g. Never criticize players but always offer them support.
  - h. Inventory equipment and turn proper inventory form in to Athletic Office.
  - i. Promptly turn in all paperwork as requested by the Athletic Department and campus administration.
  - j. Train student managers on the duties they will perform.
  - k. Emphasize loyalty to the coaching staff, campus and district administration, and athletic department.
  - l. Explain and enforce UIL rules applicable to the sport they coach.
  - m. As per UIL, ensure that team practices do not exceed the 8 hour rule.
  - n. Make sure student absences from school for athletic participation does not exceed 10 days.
9. Pre-Season & In-Season Coaching Responsibilities
  - a. Before the first athletic event, check eligibility list and be sure that each and every athlete you plan to use during the first game is eligible.
  - b. Check with athletic coordinator and transportation dept. to arrange and verify transportation to and from all sporting events.

- c. Coaches are expected to attend official's draft selection and/or rules clinic as required. (High School Only)
- d. No football, soccer, baseball, softball fields, or gyms are to be used by anyone outside the district during the season without proper authorization.
- e. Cooperate with the principal and athletic coordinator in arranging of programs for assemblies, pep rallies, and honor assemblies.
- f. Be sure that athletes who are no longer on the team are aware of changes to their class schedule.
- g. It is the coach's responsibility to attend all campus meetings as required.

#### 10. End-of-Season Responsibilities

- a. Check that all equipment is returned and hold athletes responsible for equipment that is not returned.
- b. Prepare a "Needs List" for the following year immediately upon the conclusion of the sport you are a head coach for.
- c. Clean, store, and inventory all equipment. A Fixed Assets form is to be filled out and turned in to the campus athletic coordinator and district athletic office within two weeks of the completion of the season.
- d. Submit reports showing information regarding games played, to include complete scores and number of athletes participating in the sport you are coaching.
- e. It is the head coach's responsibility to submit written documentation of future needs of their sport and necessary repairs to facilities.

#### 11. Summary of Coach's Responsibilities

- a. Ensure the health and safety all athletes.
- b. Recognize that coaching is teaching and coaches are teachers first.
- c. Make your work an integral part of the school community.
- d. Insist on the enforcement of all UIL rules of athletic eligibility.

- e. Follow all athletic trainers' procedures and recommendations.
- f. Issue and maintain all equipment
- g. Arrange for the transportation of athletes to and from all events.
- h. Always cooperate with officials.
- i. Encourage positive public relations.
- j. Encourage athletes to participate in sports of their choice
- k. Provide quality pre-season, in-season, and off-season programs.
- l. Have total commitment to all sports they coach.
- m. Follow procedures established in the SISD Athletic Handbook.
- n. Adhere to all state, district, and campus policies and procedures.
- o. Adhere to the TEA Code of Ethics for Professional Educators.
- p. Adhere to Texas High School Coaches Association Code of Ethics.
- q. Serve as a positive role model to students, athletes, and peers.
- r. Emphasize the importance of good sportsmanship.

#### 12. UIL Expectations

- a. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior, and leadership- adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards.
- b. Respect the integrity and personality of the athlete.
- c. Teach the rules of the game- both the letter and the spirit of the rule.
- d. Set a good example for the players and the spectators.
- e. Respect the integrity and the judgment of the game officials.
- f. Teach and reward sportsmanship

#### 13. SISD Principles of Coaching and Expectations

- a. Expectations: Set performance and conduct (on and off the field) expectations of yourself, your colleagues, and your athletes and hold stakeholders accountable for these expectations.
- b. Attention to detail: Pay attention to the details and account for them. Don't allow the "small things" to derail your team's performance or your program's success.
- c. Attitude: Model and expect a positive attitude every day. Your program will feed off your attitude.
- d. Flexibility: Do not sacrifice your integrity, but it is important to consider the feelings, beliefs, and life experiences of others when making decisions.
- e. Legacy: Pass something on to the coaches and players you are charged with leading.

## Direction IV Home, School, Community Partnerships

In order to ensure the success of all our students, we intend to form partnerships with all our stakeholders. Our students, parents, staff, and community as a whole will work together as a team to increase student academic and behavioral achievement.

### **Strategies to Insure Home, School, and Community Partnerships**

1. Use all media available to provide information concerning district programs, student achievement, and events.
2. Encourage open, consistent communication among stakeholders to inspire trust in the district's athletic programs.
3. Coaches will develop a positive working relationship with all media personnel. Varsity coaches will report scores and statistics to the El Paso Times staff at:
  - a. Times Sports Desk: 546-6161
  - b. Times Sports Fax: 546-6343
  - c. sports@elpasotimes.com
4. SISD allows any full-time district exempt employee to serve as a volunteer for an athletic program with the prior approval of the campus principal. A non-exempt employee may not serve as a volunteer. The UIL and SISD do not allow any non-district employee to

volunteer or assist in a high school or middle school athletic program. Such an individual may not assist in any coaching capacity at practice or completion- to include being in the coaches' area (sideline, bench, dugout, mat corner, etc...). Such an individual may keep score or run a scoreboard at the scorer's table or judge an event in an official capacity.

5. SISD coaches will report scores after each game to Vivian Hernandez (937-0504 or vherna05@sisd.net). Scores and outcomes are used for ranking and reporting purposes.

## Direction V Accountability for All

All SISD students deserve a quality education that will adequately prepare them to be successful in life. It takes a team to educate a child. Teachers, principals, assistant principals, support personnel, central office administrators, and the superintendent play an important role in the success of every child.

### **Strategies to Insure Home, School, and Community Partnerships**

1. The Socorro Independent School District Athletic Department has used the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and Socorro Independent School District's policies and regulations to create the job descriptions and professional expectations for all coaches in the district and code of conducts for students and parents.
2. The Socorro Independent School District's Athletic Department will insure that all stakeholders have access to and read the Athletic Handbook and are aware of, and held accountable for, its contents. Acknowledgement forms for coaches, athletes, and parents are included in this handbook and a signed copy should be on file at your school.

## Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

The Student Athlete Code of Conduct comes directly from the UIL website, <http://www.uil texas.org/athletics/>. All students participating in SISD athletic programs are expected to follow it.

### Trustworthiness-

1. Trustworthiness- Be worthy of trust in all I do.
2. Integrity- Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor. Do what is right even when it is unpopular or personally costly.
3. Honesty- Live and compete honorably. Never lie, cheat, steal, or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct,
4. Reliability- Fulfill commitments. Do what I say I will do. Be on time to practices and games.
5. Loyalty- Be loyal to my school and team. Put the team above personal glory.
6. Respect- Treat all people with respect at all times, and require the same of other student-athletes.
7. Class- Live and play with class. Be a good sport. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. Give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance and show sincere respect in pre-and post-game rituals.
8. Disrespectful Conduct- Do not engage in disrespectful conduct if any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
9. Respect Officials- Treat contest officials with respect. Do not complain about or argue with official calls or decisions made during an athletic event.

### Responsibility-

1. Importance of Education- Be a student first, and commit to getting the best education I can. Be honest with myself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that universities will not recruit student-athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically, or the character to represent their institution honorably.
2. Role Modeling- Consistently exhibit good character and conduct myself as a positive role model. Remember, participation is a privilege, not a right and that I am

expected to represent my school, coach, and teammates with honor both on and off the field. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the school administration.

3. Self-Control- Exercise self-control. Do not fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration. Have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
4. Healthy Lifestyle- Safeguard my health. Do not use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose, or maintain weight.
5. Integrity of the Game- Protect the integrity of the game. Play the game according to the rule.

#### **Fairness-**

1. Be Fair- Live up to the highest standards of fair play. Be open-minded and always be willing to listen and learn.

#### **Caring-**

1. Concern for Others- Demonstrate concern for others. Never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to myself or others.
2. Teammates- Help promote the well-being of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

#### **Citizenship-**

1. Play by the Rules- Maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.
2. Spirit of Rules- Honor the spirit and the letter of the rules. Avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

**Hazing-** Hazing should not occur in Texas high schools and the University Interscholastic League (and Socorro Independent School District) takes a very strong stance in the prevention of such practices. Hazing has been defined as “any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate.” It is expected that all stakeholders take the following steps to identify, prevent, and stop hazing:

1. Draw attention to hazing and help others interpret hazing as a problem.
2. Help build awareness about hazing by talking with your friends, family, and others.
3. Become a role model by talking with youth about hazing and its potential problems.
4. Provide assurance for those individuals who do report hazing.
5. Establish consequences for participating in or allowing hazing.
6. Develop incentives for the implementation of non-hazing group initiatives and activities.

**Recruiting-** Recruiting is a direct violation of UIL rules. Any student found to be guilty of being recruited for athletic participation, attending their school for athletic purposes, or recruiting other student-athletes will face consequences as deemed appropriate by the DEC.

## Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct

The Parent/Spectator of Conduct comes directly from the UIL website, <http://www.uil texas.org/athletics/>. All parents and/or spectators of students participating in SISD athletic programs are expected to follow it.

### **Trustworthiness-**

1. Trustworthiness- Be worthy of trust in all you do.
2. Integrity- Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship; do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.
3. Honesty- Live and act honorable; don't allow your children to lie, cheat, steal, or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
4. Reliability- Fulfill commitments. Do what you say you will do; be on time; when you tell your child you will attend an event, be sure to do so.

### **Respect**

1. Respect- Treat people with respect all the time and require the same of your children.
2. Class- Live and cheer with class; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; compliment extraordinary performance and show respect for all competitors.
3. Disrespectful Conduct- Don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
4. Respect Officials- Treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
5. Respect Coaches- treat coaches with respect at all times; recognize that they have team goals beyond those of your child. Don't shout instructions to players from the stands; let the coaches coach.

### **Responsibility**

1. Importance of Education- Stress that student-athletes are students first. Be honest with your children about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing at a professional level. Place the academic, emotional, physical, and moral well-being of your children above the desires and pressures to win.

2. Role Modeling- Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a role model for your children.
3. Self-Control- Exercise self-control; don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to demean others.
4. Integrity of the Game- Protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble on your children's games.
5. Privilege to Compete- Assure that you and your child understand that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege, not a right, and that they are expected to represent their team, school, and family with honor, on and off the field.

#### **Fairness-**

1. Be Fair- Treat all competitors fairly; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

#### **Caring-**

1. Encouragement- Encourage your children regardless of their play; offer positive reinforcement. Demonstrate sincere interest in your child's play.
2. Concern for Others- Demonstrate concern for others; never encourage the injury of any player, officials, or fellow spectator.
3. Empathy- Consider the needs and desires of your child's teammates in addition to your own; help promote the team concept by encouraging all team members, understanding that the coach is responsible for determining playing time.

**Parent/Coach Relationships-** Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able 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.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

1. Coach's philosophy,
2. Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team.

3. Locations and times of practices and contests.
4. Team requirements such as fees, special equipment needed, school and team rules, off-season expectations, etc...
5. Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.
2. Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
3. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

1. The mental and physical treatment of your child.
2. What your child needs to do to improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues not to discuss with your child's coach:

1. How much playing time each athlete is getting.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

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

1. Call the coach to set up an *appointment*.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the campus administration and ask them to set up a meeting with the coach.
3. Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
4. Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.
5. Do not confront the coach before, during, or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach doesn't provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call the campus administration to set up a meeting with the campus administration, coach, and parent present.
2. At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

**Recruiting-** Recruiting is a direct violation of UIL rules. Any student found to be guilty of being recruited for athletic participation, attending their school for athletic purposes, or recruiting other student-athletes will face consequences as deemed appropriate by the DEC.

#### **Behavior Expectations of Spectators-**

1. Remember 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.
2. Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made.
3. 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.
4. A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
5. Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
6. Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
7. Respect the integrity and judgement 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.
8. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
9. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc...) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event.
10. Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
11. Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can, and should, remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors. 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 athletic events. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct himself, or herself, accordingly. Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school.

## Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Form

This form must be completed and signed yearly by both the student and parent/guardian and kept on file at your school.

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current SISD School:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the Socorro Independent School District's Athletic Handbook. I have reviewed its contents and guidelines with my child. I agree that my son/daughter will abide by all rules and expectations of such guidelines. I understand that there will be consequences for failure to adhere to these guidelines. If I have any questions regarding the Socorro Independent School District's Athletic Handbook, I can contact my child's coach/sponsor/director.

**Signature of Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Coach's Acknowledgement Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and fully understand the Socorro Independent School District's Athletic Handbook. I understand that it will be my responsibility to adhere to all sections of the guidelines. If I do not understand a provision, I shall seek a written clarification. If a student, parent, or any other person requests additional information that I cannot provide, I will refer them to the appropriate administrator. I acknowledge that failure to adhere to any part of the SISD Athletic Handbook shall result in disciplinary action.

**Coach's Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Coaching Assignment(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*This form is to be completed once a year and kept on file at the appropriate school.\*

## Resources

1. UIL Sportsmanship Manual:  
<https://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/manuals/sportsmanship-manual.pdf>
2. SISD Fundraising Regulation FJ:  
<http://www.sisd.net/cms/lib/TX01001452/Centricity/Domain/93/FJadreg.pdf>
3. UIL Constitution and Contest Rules:  
<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution/category/constitution-athletics>