



Dear Coaches, Directors, Organizational Leaders, Players, and Families:

Following the tradition established by the organizers of past State Tournaments in maintaining high standards of behavior, we would like to remind you of the Texas State Tournament guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with these procedures, and ensure that your team complies.

➤ **Mission Statement**

The focus and overriding purpose of the THSSBC is to provide a positive Christian environment for spiritual growth through athletic competition to Home School students in Texas. It is the desire of the THSSBC that Jesus Christ be expressed and glorified in the lives of coaches, parents, and students not only in actions, but also in words and thoughts.

➤ **Discipline**

By virtue of participation in the THSSBC, athletes and their families voluntarily accept the behavioral standards as stated by the THSSBC Committee. All participants are expected and encouraged to exercise personal self-discipline, restraint, and genuine kindness toward others. In dealing with any offense that may arise, it is the desire of this ministry that the Biblical approach to discipline be applied as found in Matthew.

➤ **Incident Report**

Whenever an individual violates policy or rules, a parent, coach, or anyone involved in oversight may submit an incident report to the THSSBC Director. The individual will receive a copy of this report and details of the violation. The incident report is used as documentation for disciplinary measures that may need to be carried out by the THSSBC Committee and is confidential.

Forms of discipline may include fines, work assignments, probation, suspension, or dismissal from participation in the THSSBC.

- **Fines will not exceed the cost to repair or replace property damaged by the individual.**
- **Work assignments are to be completed exactly as requested within a specified time limit.**

- **Probation** may involve loss of playing time or exclusions from the current or next game.
- **Suspension** is a removal from the team roster with no option to continue play in the THSSBC.
- **Dismissal** is the last resort and means of permanent removal from the THSSBC. A dismissed individual may not be present in any facilities or at any functions related to the THSSBC without the written permission of the THSSBC Host Committee.

Fines, work assignments, probation, and suspension may be levied by the THSSBC Host Committee. Dismissal may only be levied by the THSSBC Committee.

An individual may appeal a disciplinary action to the THSSBC Committee. An appeal must be made in writing. The THSSBC Committee reserves the right to make final decisions.

➤ **Specific Offenses Which May Lead to Disciplinary Measures:**

This listing is not intended to be all inclusive, as the THSSBC Committee reserves the right to make final determination of what conduct is considered unsatisfactory.

- **Theft, dishonesty**
- **Profanity, vulgarity, obscenity**
- **The possession of literature, pictures, posters, or recordings presenting an indecent or immoral activity or ungodly belief or philosophy**
- **Immoral conduct, immodesty and conduct implying immorality**
- **Disorderly behavior such as fighting, arguing, hand gestures, etc.**
- **Destructive actions that damage property or equipment**
- **Gambling**
- **The on-site use of tobacco, alcohol, or narcotic drugs, or the implied use of these**
- **Defiance of authority**
- **Any practices that are forbidden in Scripture**

➤ **Behavior at the THSSBC**

For the sake of our young people, it is important that we all rise above the typical competitive sports atmosphere that tends to stir up and encourage negative responses toward opponents. Let us all put aside these negative responses and encourage one another in love; may our desire be to build up EVERY person. This applies to the players and coaching staff as well as spectators.

The following apply to all athletic events:

- **No music is allowed before, during, or after practice or game times.**
- **Ridicule, manipulative intimidation (e.g. making noises during an opponent's free throws), boastful chanting, jeering, booing, and belittling, angry or hurtful gestures are not God-honoring and are therefore prohibited.**

- **Banners, posters, signs, etc. containing positive, encouraging, and supportive messages are allowed. Posting such messages, however, requires permission from the THSSBC Director. Negative or insulting messages in any form are not allowed.**

➤ **Dress Code**

As in any large group of people, we have a great diversity of convictions and lifestyles. In an effort to minimize offenses to one another, it seems wisest to let the Lord's love restrain us in our selection of clothing and conduct.

The following dress code applies absolutely to players on all THSSBC teams. Players must abide by the dress code when they are at the THSSBC facilities, during any THSSBC or team activity, and on any other occasion when they are representing the THSSBC. We encourage members of the players' families to abide by the dress code at these times as well.

- **Shorts should be at least mid-thigh length or longer.**
- **Skirts and dresses should be knee-length or longer. Slits in the dresses or skirts should come no higher than the top of the knee.**
- **Tank tops, and tops or dresses with spaghetti straps may be worn if an opaque shirt or jacket is worn over the top at all times.**
- **No undergarments of any kind should be visible at any time.**

The following are inappropriate:

- **Skimpy, sheer, or tight-fitting clothing**
- **Extreme hairstyles--this includes ponytails, mohawks, shaved heads, cornrows, long or dyed hair for boys and men, and unnatural hair colors for girls. The intent of this rule is to encourage an appearance of team unity and to discourage individual attention-getting.**
- **Beards or moustaches on players, and sideburns must not extend below the middle of the ear.**
- **Tattoos or other permanent or temporary body markings**
- **Body-piercing jewelry of any kind for men and boys--girls and women may wear one pair of earrings only (one earring per ear) during non-game times**
- **Clothing or accessories symbolic of gang activity**

This dress code is not exhaustive and due to so much variety in clothing styles, the THSSBC Committee reserves the right to make final determination of what dress is considered unsatisfactory. At all times, our dress should reflect Godly character by being neat and modest.

➤ **Uniforms**

Whenever the uniform is worn, it must be worn in its entirety. No undergarments of any kind may be visible at any time.

➤ Interaction

We believe that it is possible to have healthy social interaction and mature Christian relationships. For the protection of our families, our Christian fellowship, and our testimony within the community, it is vital that we exercise ourselves with godliness at all times and adhere to moral purity. We are not a forum for dating and carousing activities. Therefore, we ask that in all THSSBC activities, the behavior between singles of the opposite sex be above reproach by avoiding the appearance of wrong-doing. Flirtations or suggestive communications are unacceptable behavior. The THSSBC Committee reserves the right to make determination of what interaction is not considered satisfactory.

➤ Sponsorship

In the event that an athlete's parents or guardians are unable to accompany him or her to this tournament, it is required that the parents provide an adult sponsor to take their place.

➤ Facilities

Treatment of the I.A.D. facilities will be in accordance with their existing rules (e.g., where to sit, where food is allowed, where children may play, etc.).

Children may not be left unattended at the I.A.D. facilities. Athletes must be picked up promptly after games. While at the I.A.D. facilities, parents and sponsors must watch over their children at all times.

Be good stewards of the facilities and parking lots by leaving them in better condition than you found them (e.g., put chairs back where they belong, put all trash in garbage cans, etc.) Every person needs to take personal responsibility for keeping the I.A.D. clean and orderly. Please assist in the enforcement of this rule by lovingly reminding those around you. The care of the facility is a reflection on all of us.

Items left at the I.A.D. facilities will be placed at the front counter. All items which are not claimed will be held by the Director until the end of the month. Postage for claimed items will be the responsibility of the owner. Items not claimed will be discarded.

Advertising, surveys, or other printed materials may not be distributed or left at the I.A.D. without written permission from the THSSBC Committee.

➤ Closing Thoughts

May we all encourage one another to not only receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior but also to walk in the Spirit, growing up into Christ who is the Head,

living out Christ in all aspects of leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity, and good citizenship.

May we with our whole heart actively seek to be filled with the Lord, developing and maintaining an appetite for God's word, diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit.

May we be one with the Lord to such an extent that we bring into obedience to Christ our dress, appearance, thought life, conversation, attitudes, habits and relationships, glorying in the Lord and not ourselves

May we walk in humility before God and with one another, submitting to authority and being subject to one another in the Lord, for God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

Sincerely,

THSSBC Committee