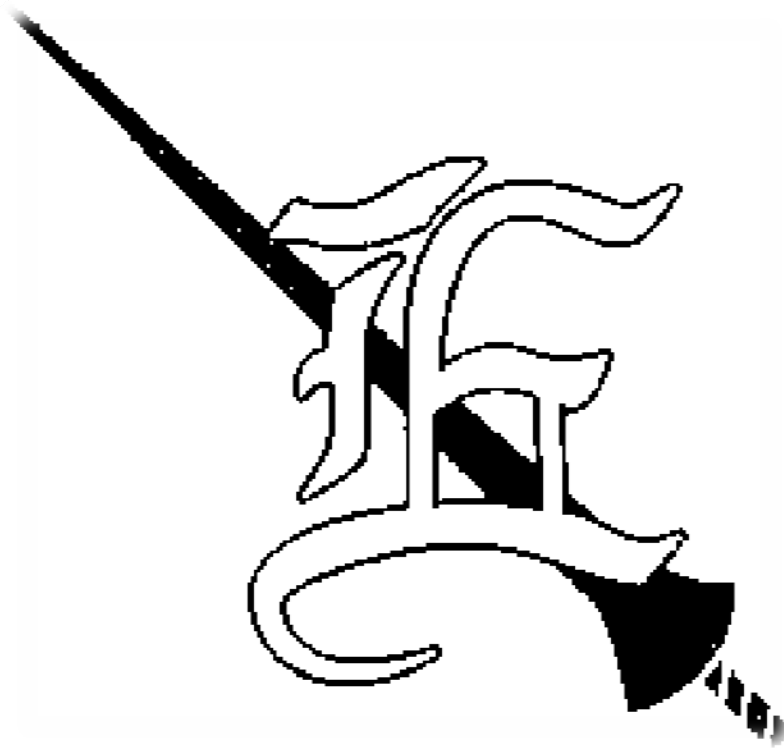


Shawnee Mission East

Lancers Baseball Handbook



PLAYERS AND PARENTS

Welcome to the SME Baseball Program. In this handbook, you will find details about the direction of this program, as well as expectations of the coaching staff. Please take time to read through the handbook and ask any questions you might have. The coaching staff is very excited about the upcoming year and the opportunity to not only develop baseball players, but also quality young men. Our hope is that in collaboration we can make the SME Baseball Program a top notch program. Again, welcome and keep in mind **we are in this together.**

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

In order for us to take this program to the next level, it will take a great deal of energy and commitment on the part of the players, parents, and coaches. The administration at East has been very cooperative in working with the coaching staff to achieve great things in our program. Throughout the season you will hear about our commitment to excellence on and off the field. The coaching staff is committed to having each player succeed on the baseball field, as well as, in the classroom and everyday life. The policies and practices implemented by the coaching staff are designed to help each player in this program become the best they can be, athletically and scholastically. Everyone's assistance and focus in this process is crucial for us to achieve excellence.

ACADEMICS

Players in the SME Baseball Program are "Student/Athletes" and must realize they are students first and athletes second. We are governed by school board policies, school policies, the KSHSAA's policies, and finally by this program's policies. We expect our student athletes to maintain their academic studies and cooperate in the classroom. You are required by the KSHSAA to pass at least 5 classes each semester to remain eligible for participation. All student athletes must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 classes to be eligible. Our coaching staff will be willing to assist an athlete with any problems they may experience with their academics.

PLAYING TIME

Playing time is solely at the discretion of the coaching staff. No player is guaranteed any amount of playing time in this program. For incoming freshman, this can become an issue. Especially if they have come from the middle school philosophy that encourages equal playing time. It is up to each player to compete for playing time and to understand his role on the team. The coaching staff has devised a plan that limits the number of players we will keep for each of our three levels of play-Varsity, Junior Varsity, and C-team. Each player must strive to earn his time, and their work ethic should reflect this. Players and parents must realize the needs of the team are the top priority and playing time does reflect this. Missing practice for anything can and does play a factor in playing time.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

First and foremost please know that coaches try the best they can to communicate and let players know where they stand. However, if a player has a question or concern the player needs to first and foremost see his Coach. If there is still an issue then this is how situation will be handled:

- 1) Player needs to discuss situation THOROUGHLY with parents.
- 2) Player schedules meeting to talk with his Coach, Parents can be there. Player will do the talking as this is part of becoming a man.
- 3) Player and Parents schedule meeting with Player's Coach and Head Coach.
- 4) Player, Parents, and Coaches schedule a meeting with our high school administration.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all team functions is mandatory and records will be kept. Players who miss a team function (practice, game, or other activity) are required to notify their respective coach with as much advance notice as possible. That coach will determine whether the absence is excused. If an athlete is absent from school and is excused through the attendance office, he will also be excused for the baseball program. Absences that are unexcused can be made excused if the player was unable to notify anyone due to an emergency. In all cases, notification of an absence should be made as soon as possible.

Consequence: Any player that is unexcused for a team function will run 20 foul poles as a consequence. A second unexcused absence will result in 40 foul poles, suspension from one playing date and a meeting with Coach Ryherd. A third unexcused absence will result in removal from the team.

TARDIES

BE ON TIME FOR ALL TEAM FUNCTIONS! Make it to practice 5 minutes early, not 1 minute late. The following are consequences for being tardy to a team function:

1-5 minutes late=5 foul poles of extra conditioning

6-10 minutes late=10 foul poles of extra conditioning

11+ minutes late=20 foul poles of extra conditioning

*Notify a coach if you're going to be late for any reason.

*We understand special circumstances sometimes arise that a player has no control over; they force him to be late and don't allow time to notify anyone. These circumstances will be taken into consideration

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISSR)

The Lancer coaching staff wants our athletes to set the example, not be the example. It is important for our players to uphold the rules set forth by the administrators, instructors, and coaches. We expect every player to do what they are told, when they are told to do it. There should be no questions asked. Respect yourself, your team mates, and your instructors. If you are placed in **ISSR**, you will face strict consequences: We realize that people make mistakes, and are willing to give second chances:

1st In-School Suspension: no practice with the team the day ISSR is served, you will be suspended the following playing date after you serve it and you will have an extra 100 foul poles of conditioning.

2nd In-School Suspension: no practice with the team the day ISSR is serve, you will be suspended the following 2 playing dates after you serve it and you will have an extra 100 foul poles of conditioning.

3rd In-School Suspension: removal from team.

ON FIELD BEHAVIOR

All Lancer baseball players are held highly accountable for their actions on the field. We believe mannerisms displayed on the field are a direct reflection on our community, our school, and our program. At all times, players will conduct themselves in a manner that shows a commitment to excellence. Whenever you wear a Lancer baseball uniform you will wear it the way it is intended to be worn-like a Baseball Player. This means hats are worn forwards, shirts are tucked in and pants are pulled up. **Everything we do is for the program no one person is more important than the program. We worry about the things we can control and do not worry about the things we can not control.**

Umpiring is something we can not control and umpires do not play the game. Players play, Coaches coach and Umpires umpire-none of the 3 mentioned get to do both. So I fully expect my players to keep their mouth shut and play ball.

MISC. PROBLEMS

Every season situations come up that are not addressed by our team rules or this handbook. In the event that a situation like this occurs, the coaching staff will investigate the problem in a timely manner and determine the consequence as quickly as possible. School policy, team policy, and KSHSAA policy will be considered in the coaching staff's decision. Keep in mind the coaching staff has the final say and judgment will be fair and just.

PRACTICE CLOTHES/EQUIPMENT

We need to utilize our practice time as best as we can. With Kansas weather, you will need clothes for both indoor and outdoor practices. Bring whatever clothes you think you will need. Cleats, gym shoes, long sleeves, t-shirts, baseball pant, baseball glove, batting gloves, baseball hat, athletic supporter with a protective cup. **Players will wear long sleeves (unless it is above 70 degrees)**, pants, and their Lancer baseball hat to every outdoor practice unless their coach tells them otherwise. The first week of practice players are required to wear a hat, but it doesn't have to be the team hat (this will give them time to purchase a hat). It is important to listen to the daily announcements at school because practice times and locations can change with the weather. Any changes are announced at school. If no announcement is made then the practice will go on as normal.

FUND-RAISING

In an effort to enhance personal responsibility, as well as, build team character, the SME baseball program will engage in several fund-raising activities. Each activity is important in that it provides our program with extra opportunities to purchase equipment and supplies beyond the money budgeted by the district. Never will the opinions or contributions of parents enter into our decisions concerning our teams. All decisions will be based on performance and what we as a coaching staff determine is best for the team and program. **Any and all parental support of our program is greatly appreciated but must be made with the understanding that you are supporting the program as a whole and will have no influence on decisions concerning your son.**

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION PACKET

This is the district policy regarding the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs. You have received, or will receive a copy of it. **Each person that begins practice must sign a copy of it and turn it in to a coach.** If a violation of this policy occurs, the coaching staff will follow the outlined consequences. All participants must have a current ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION PACKET on file with the Athletic Department. Below is the link.

http://smesports.com/2009%20Redone%20Physical%20%20Packet/2009_2010%20District%20Phys%20Packet%20REV07_28_09.pdf

PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

All participants must have a current (PPE) PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION on file with the Athletic Department. Below is the link.

<http://smesports.com/2009%20New%20Physical%20Form%20and%20Packet/2009%20form-ppe.pdf>

***If you have participated in any other sport at SME, your physical will be on file.**

***If you have not turned in a physical, it must be on file in the office prior to the start of tryouts. Even if you don't have a physical, you need to be at tryouts to watch until you get one.**

Expectations for players

- Come in on time with a positive attitude willing to work hard
- Be respectful to teammates and coaches
- Be respectful to your parents
- Be Coachable
- Plan on getting better everyday
- Hang with the right crowd outside of baseball that is going to have a positive influence on you. Be class acts off the field!!!
- Be in weights class and-if not playing a winter sport-participate in after school conditioning.

Expectations of Parents.

-**Support your kid.** Not always going to be easy. Baseball can be tough. Having a .300 average means they are failing 70% of the time.

-**Don't put undue pressure on your kid.** They are kids 15-18 year olds they have a lot going on with the hormones, school, girlfriends. So take that into consideration. This is a game and they are kids.

-**Let Coaches Coach!!!** Dads thank you for putting that ball in your sons hand and getting interested and passionate about the game and ready for high school tryouts. However, I just ask that while they are on the field with us you let us do our job. **Nobody wants to see these kids be successful more then us!!** We put our heart and soul into making these kids better players and people. So please don't be standing at the fence telling your son what to do.

-**Enjoy the experience!!!** It will go fast.

-**Just remember anything you do is for the program.**

Communication

Communication will be done through email, website, and Lancer alert. Everyone needs to make sure they sign up for Lancer Alert. We will do our best to let you know what is going on when and where. However, we are in Kansas and sometimes Mother Nature changes in a hurry in those situation's please be understanding.

Varsity Lettering Policy

Requirements for a Varsity Letter:

- 1) The student athlete must make a significant impact on the team.
- 2) The student athlete must demonstrate a positive influence on his team and teammates.
- 3) The student athlete must finish the season in good standings with his team members, the Coaches and the baseball team.

*If a senior player has contributed to the varsity program, but has not met the requirements, the varsity coach may award a letter to that player for his senior year.

*The varsity coach reserves the right to award a letter to a player who does not meet all the requirements because of injury or other unusual circumstances that take place during the season.

Print this last page off, sign and date before Spring Break.

Also, make sure to have physical on file and APP packet signed and turned in.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand everything in the Baseball Handbook.

Student/Athlete Date

Parent/Guardian Date