

# SHAWNEE MISSION NORTHWEST BASEBALL



## 2019 Player Handbook

**Head Coach:** Domenic A. Mussat  
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### **RESPECT THE GAME**

Baseball is called **the great game or the great American pastime** for many reasons. Baseball embodies the spirit of America, the greatest nation in history. The game of baseball is a wonderful game. It has been around a long time and will teach players life lessons about teamwork, success, failure, and the value of always giving their best effort. **Respect the game, for it is much bigger than the individual player. You always play for the name on the front, not the one on the back.**

## **General Statement:**

Welcome to the SMNW Baseball Program. In this handbook, you will find details about the program, as well as overall expectations for both coaches and players. Please review this handbook and direct your questions to any member of the coaching staff. We are extremely excited to have the opportunity to develop well-rounded baseball players as well as quality young men.

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**Athletics is a vital component in supplementing the overall education of students. It is believed that athletics are an extension of the classroom, and that coaches truly are educators. As a result, the following are important within the development of a program:**

- Develop a cooperative attitude in working with others.
  - Develop a feeling of pride in achievement and progress within
    - The program
    - As individuals
  - Develop characteristics such as loyalty, unselfishness, responsibility and teamwork to take precedence over a “win at all costs” attitude.
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**The Athletes playing within the program will be taught:**

- The understanding of developing a positive work ethic
  - Being accountable for their actions
  - Being responsible and productive members of our family, our team, our school, and our community
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## **All of the components for the program will be completed by:**

- Coaches and players agreeing with, and respecting, the philosophy of the program.
- Coaches and players being role models (which carry an enormous amount of responsibility).
- Coaches and players establish a standard of conduct and sportsmanship that assist in adhering to these guidelines.

## **Philosophy Statement:**

All members of the SMNW Baseball Program will be fundamentally sound in the basic skills and techniques of the game, understand and execute the team offensive and defensive strategies, understand the rules of the game, and be well-disciplined in conduct, both on and off the field. It is also imperative that all players understand their role in the program and on the team. Team will always come before the individual. Working for and accomplishing common goals will be the ultimate gratification that anyone can get from participating in a team activity. All the players and coaches within the SMNW Baseball Program understand that they are part of something special. All players and coaches will be held to high standards and expectations that will make each player a proud representative of their family, school, and community.

## **Code of Ethics:**

The code of ethics for our program is one that is not enormous, but these are core values that adhere to the above philosophy of important values to carry within being productive members, not only in the team concept, but for life skills as well:

- **Honesty and Integrity:** Each coach and player will exhibit honesty and high ideals to all they come in contact with. Certain rules are put into effect to protect the student/athlete and athletic situations. Any attempt to not follow these rules has no place within our athletic program.

- **Profanity:** A coach or player should not use it at any time. Use of inappropriate languages does not exhibit self-control, does not impress people, does not display manliness nor is it pleasing to parents or the community. It is a poor reflection on the individual and all who are associated with them.
- **Game Conduct:** Coaches and players should display the examples of good sportsmanship, as they are role models in the community. Both coaches and players are expected to demonstrate self-control and fair play at all times.
- **Demonstrate Sportsmanship:** Some define good sportsmanship as the “golden rule” of sports-in other words, treat people you play with and against as you would like to be treated yourself. You demonstrate good sportsmanship when you show respect for yourself, your teammates and your opponents, for the coaches on both sides, for the umpires and for the equipment you use.
- **Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs:** There is the SMSD code of conduct that addresses this issue. It is against the law, will not be tolerated within the program. The SMNW Baseball Program’s TDA policy is in accordance with the SMSD Tobacco, Drug, and Alcohol Agreement. The agreement is in detail later in this handbook.

### **We will strive for three things:**

1. Strive for excellence
2. Strive to succeed
3. Strive to win

### **We will do this by:**

1. Playing hard
2. Playing smart
3. Having fun

# **Expectations:**

## **Players/Coaches:**

- **Respect the Game:**
  - Show good sportsmanship at all times
  - Be competitive until the final out
  - Look like a champion
    - Hats are worn forward
    - Shirts are to be tucked in
    - Dress like a TEAM
  - Baseball Pants and SMNW Team Gear
- **Practice Hard:**
  - Practice the way you would approach the game. Practice is the place to get better. You never know who is watching.
- **Play Hard:**
  - Play as though it could be your last game. You are a representation of your family, your school, your community, and this program. Mistakes are a part of the game.
- **Be Early:**
  - IF you are on time, you are late.
- **Be a role model**
  - Show good sportsmanship at all times
  - Be competitive until the final out

## **Parents:**

- Support your student-athlete
  - You are their biggest fan
- Don't put undue pressure on your student-athlete
  - Baseball is a game of ups and downs
- Allow the Coaches Coach
  - We all have a common goal. Success of our young men.
- Enjoy the experience
  - Letting them know you enjoy watching them play is powerful

- Just remember, anything you do is for the program
  - The success of the program depends on multiple aspects and you are one of them.

## **Coaching Staff:**

- **Head Coach – Domenic Mussat**
  - [domenicmussat@smsd.org](mailto:domenicmussat@smsd.org)
  - 913-993-7395
  
- **Assistant Varsity Coach – Tanner Ybarra**
  - [tannerybarra@smsd.org](mailto:tannerybarra@smsd.org)
  - 913-993-7303
  
- **Junior Varsity Coach – Patrick Whitney**
  - [patrickwhitney@smsd.org](mailto:patrickwhitney@smsd.org)
  - 913-993-3566
  
- **C-Team Coach – Matt Milner**
  - [mxm39660@ucmo.edu](mailto:mxm39660@ucmo.edu)
  - 913-993-7395
  
- **Program Pitching Coach – Adam Giacalone**
  - [adgicacalone@gmail.com](mailto:adgicacalone@gmail.com)
  - 913-993-7395

## **Mission Statement:**

The SMNW Baseball Program is committed to **Winning with Class**. Our focus is to produce student-athletes who are responsible, respectful, competitive, and positive role models. We work to effectively assist player development by enhancing the skills and techniques of each player as it relates to the sport of baseball while promoting a team concept based on competing successfully at the high school level and beyond.

## **Philosophy:**

All members of the SMNW Baseball Program will be fundamentally sound in the basic skills and techniques of the game, understand and execute the team offensive and defensive strategies, understand the rules of the game, and be well-disciplined in conduct, both on and off the field. It is also imperative that all players understand their role in the program and on the team. Team will always come before the individual. Working for and accomplishing common goals will be the ultimate gratification that anyone can get from participating in a team activity. All the players and coaches within the SMNW Baseball Program understand that they are part of something special. All players and coaches will be held to high standards and expectations that will make each player a proud representative of their family, school, and community.

## **Communication:**

Communication is the most important skill an athlete must develop, whether on or off the field. The coaches try the best they can to communicate and let players know where they stand. I encourage all forms of communication. Yet, it should follow a process if questions/concerns arise:

1. The player first communicates with his team level coach
2. The player communicates with his parent.
3. The player and parent schedules meeting with team coach and Head Coach.
4. The player, parents and coaches schedule a meeting with Athletic Director.

## **Program Beliefs:**

- **In Discipline:**
  - It all starts with self-discipline. This means knowing the difference between right and wrong and having the discipline to do what is right.
  
- **In Positive work ethic:**
  - Always remember that each day is it your choice to get better or get worse. Athletes never stay the same. The areas you definitely control is your attitude and effort.
  
- **In Accountability:**
  - Always remember that you are being watched and responsible for everything you do. There are no short cuts to success, and you are responsible for your success, and ultimately your team's success.
  
- **In Goals:**
  - You must know what you want as an individual and as a team before you can ever attain it.
  
- **In Being a positive role model:**
  - The eyes of your family, your team, your school, and your community are looking upon you, even when you least expect it.
  
- **In Communication:**
  - Teamwork is working together, and starts with talking with each other; as players and coaches.
  
- **That baseball is fun:**
  - ENJOY THE GAME! If you play hard, play smart and HAVE FUN then the winning will take care of itself.



# **Tobacco/Drug/Alcohol Agreement:**

**Shawnee Mission School District**

## **Tobacco/Drug/Alcohol Agreement**

The Shawnee Mission Public Schools and Shawnee Mission Northwest High School are committed to providing a wide variety of wholesome, well-supervised extra-curricular activities. We encourage each and every student to become involved and participate as positive representatives of his/her school.

The following agreement will apply to each student who represents his or her school in extra-curricular activities that are covered by the KSHSAA. Extra-curricular activities are a privilege—and students are allowed to participate in such activities as long as they comply with KSHSAA policies, District Policies, school rules, and rules determined by coaches or sponsors. Students participating in a Shawnee Mission School District extra-curricular activity must have a signed Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Abuse Agreement on file that will be signed at the start of each school year. Violations of this agreement are cumulative and do not start over each year.

Board of Education policies JDDA and JCDA expressively prohibit the use, possession, transfer, or sale of any alcoholic or cereal malt beverage, restricted substances, and tobacco (including e-cigarettes) on school property or at school activities. This Agreement is an extension of the District's substance abuse policies and KSHSAA's policies concerning substance abuse.

Students participating in Shawnee Mission High School extra-curricular activities are expressly prohibited from the use, possession, transfer, or sale of any alcoholic or cereal malt beverage, restricted substances, or tobacco (including e-cigarettes) at all times. Violations may be appealed through school disciplinary processes. Violation of this agreement by any Shawnee Mission student, in addition to consequences set forth by board of education policies, will result in the following consequences listed below.

### **A. FIRST OFFENSE:**

Upon completion of investigation and determination that a violation was committed, the student athlete, with their parent or guardian will be notified of the offense, and allowed the opportunity to meet with the Coach, the Athletic Director, and the Principal to discuss the course of action.

The student athlete may be allowed to remain on the team, attend practices and participate in competitions provided the Coach, Athletic Director and Principal agree that such action is appropriate and provided the student athlete:

- Enrolls in and completes a substance abuse counseling program (Verification of attendance by program is required.)
- Follows all team rules as outlined by the head coach and Athletic Director.

### **B. SECOND OFFENSE:**

Upon completion of investigation and determination that a second violation was committed, the student athlete, with their parent or guardian will be notified, and allowed the opportunity to meet with the Coach, the Athletic Director, and the Principal to discuss the course of action. The student athlete shall be deemed to lose the privilege of participating in competitions for 50% of the current or nearest upcoming season in which they participate. The student athlete shall enroll in and satisfactorily complete a substance abuse counseling program before being allowed to return to the team. Additional and appropriate consequences shall be determined by the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

### **C. SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES:**

Upon completion of investigation and determination, the student athlete with their parent or guardian will be notified of the offense. A conference including the student athlete, their parent/guardian, the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal shall be conducted. If verification is found to be sufficient by school administration, the student shall lose his or her privileges to participate in extra-curricular activities for one calendar year after the completion of the due process hearing. The coach, Athletic Director, and Principal will confer with the district Director of Student Activities and Athletics on all agreed upon consequences or actions prior to enforcement.

## **Alcohol and Drug Policy:**

*Athletes* – Commit to a drug, tobacco, and alcohol free lifestyle both during the baseball season and the off-season. Not only will these substances inhibit your playing performance, but may lead to consequences that may ruin your athletic career. Also, avoid social interactions and events with those people who choose to use drugs, tobacco, and/or alcohol. You may wind up in the wrong place at the wrong time. All athletes will sign the school’s alcohol, drug, and tobacco agreement. If you are found to be in violation of the agreement, players will be given the following consequences:

### ***Addendum to the First Offense of the District Agreement:***

In implementing the district agreement for consequences of an athlete’s first offense, additional consequences may be imposed pending on the severity of the offense. Given the nature of the offense, and enrollment in a drug and/or alcohol program, the impact of a student’s good standing may result in the suspension from a selected number of athletic competitions.

If a player fails to attend their prescribed counseling program, the player will not be considered in “good standing,” and therefore will not be eligible to participate in games or contests until they demonstrate successful attendance to the counseling program they are enrolled in.

*Parents* – Please support the drug, tobacco, and alcohol agreement signed by you and your student-athlete in the orange packet. We encourage you to talk with your student-athlete about the negative consequences of using drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.

## **Code of Conduct:**

As a student-athlete your obligation is to represent your family, the school, the Shawnee Mission Northwest baseball program and the community responsibly and with integrity. This conduct is to be followed on and off the baseball field.

All student-athletes will exhibit good sportsmanship to teachers, teammates, and coaches; as well as umpires, opposing teams and spectators. Your obligations also extend outside the playing field and the classroom. You are a member of the community. As such it is expected that you will represent yourself and the team in a positive manner, respect authority, and encourage your teammates to do the same. The bottom line is you are not to do anything that would cause embarrassment to you or embarrassment to the program.

## **Attendance:**

Attendance at all team functions is mandatory. Student-athletes who miss a team function (practice, game, or other activity) are required to notify their respective coach with as much advance notice as possible via written note, email, or voice mail. The 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 activity but please notify your coach before practice that day. 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.

## **Timeliness:**

Punctuality is a life skill. It is always better to be 10-15 minutes early than a minute late. **BE ON TIME FOR ALL TEAM FUNCTIONS!** This means being dressed and on the field when practice starts.

### **Consequences for being late to practice:**

1. **First offense:** Additional conditioning after practice (i.e.: Triangles, Foul Poles)
2. **Second offense:** Student-athlete will be asked to leave practice, and upon return have additional conditioning after practice.
3. **Third offense:** One-week suspension from practice and competition. Additional conditioning upon return. One day conditioning for each day missed of practice.
4. **Fourth offense:** Dismissal from program.

### **Consequences for NO notification for missing a practice or game:**

1. **First offense:** Suspension from next practice or game. Plus additional conditioning upon return. One day conditioning for each day missed of practice.
2. **Second offense:** One-week suspension from practice and competition. Plus additional conditioning upon return. One day conditioning for each day missed of practice.
3. **Third offense:** Dismissal from program.

You yourself need to notify a coach if you're going to be late for any reason. If you are getting instructional help from a teacher after school, ask that teacher to please write a short note that you were getting help and have the teacher date and sign the note. Then give the note to your coach at practice. 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.

## **Practice Expectations:**

- Be Early
- Help to set up before practice and clean up after practice
- Hustle everywhere you go. Walking shows a lack of respect for your teammates, coaches, the program, and the game of baseball.
- Shirts will be tucked in and baseball hats worn straight/forward
- Baseball pants (grey or white) will be worn for practice. Team gear can be worn during indoor practices
- Treat your equipment with respect

## **Practices:**

All practices are open to parents and/or spectators. It is to be noted that parents/spectators are asked to be silent observers. Your support is important, but practices are a time where the student-athlete is to remain focused so they can continue their development. It is the expectation for coaches to coach, players to play and parents/spectators to observe and support. If there are special events, scrimmages etc. every attempt will be made to notify you of the event(s), via calendar, the baseball website, and your student-athlete.

## **Dress Code:**

**Practice:** All student-athletes must wear their practice gear, baseball pants (grey or white) hats to each practice unless the coach informs otherwise. Be prepared for Kansas's weather. Cold weather gear of black sleeves and/or team gear sweatshirts is allowed.

**Uniform:** Uniforms are only to worn to games unless notified by the coach. The only exception would be to spring sports assemblies and/or fundraising events. In the event of cold weather for games players may wear black cold gear sleeves under their game jerseys. Again, anytime a student-athlete is wearing **a hat, it is to be worn forward and straight.** Remember the direction of your hat tells the direction of where your head is going.

## **Playing Time:**

The coaches are diligent in determining which players will represent the program on the field at any given time. As such, playing time is solely at the discretion of the coaches. No player is guaranteed any amount of playing time. Each player must strive to compete and earn his playing time and their work ethic should reflect this. If you have a question and/or concern about the status of your student-athlete, please make an appointment to discuss it with their coach. Please note: The coaches will only discuss your student-athlete's development and status on the team.

## **Varsity Letter Requirements:**

- Be in good standing with the coaching staff and school
- Represent SMNW by being a positive influence on the school and baseball program.
- Student-athletes must abide by all policies/guidelines contained in this handbook
- **Position Players** need **27 plate appearances** during the season
- **Pitchers** need to complete **14 innings** on the mound
- 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.

## **Fundraising:**

In order to provide the Shawnee Mission Northwest baseball student-athletes with the tools and equipment to succeed, the program may choose to participate in various fundraising activities both during the season and offseason. These activities are also designed to promote team building and should be viewed as a positive experience. This experience will benefit the entire program, not just one certain team.

## **Offseason Conditioning:**

Shawnee Mission Northwest baseball is in the largest class, and one of the toughest conferences in the State of Kansas. As a result baseball is a sport where the student-athlete must come prepared both physically and mentally. We encourage our student-athletes to participate in multi sports, to enhance the “competitive edge.” Players who are NOT participating in other interscholastic athletics will be given the opportunity to participate in offseason conditioning, which will consist of work to get players stronger, faster, and more explosive; while preparing them mentally as well as physically. Offseason conditioning calendars will be discussed at meetings at various times throughout the school year.

## **Student-Athletes (Academic Eligibility):**

As a Shawnee Mission Northwest baseball student-athlete you are held accountable for your academics and you must be an active participant in striving for excellence in your learning. Remember, you are a student first, and athlete second.

Athletic Eligibility is governed by the SMSD district policies, school policies and finally by this program’s policies. Student-athletes **MUST** be passing (5) classes, letter bearing, to be eligible the following week. Student-athletes earning two (2) letter grades of an “F” will be declared ineligible.

Grade reports are released **DAILY**, via the Skyward system through the athletic office; with a copy going to the head coach. The coaches will make the student-athletes aware of potential ineligibility on a daily basis. It is the student-athletes responsibility to keep track of their grades and eligibility. If the student-athlete is ineligible on a day of a competition, the student-athlete will not travel with his team. Any exceptions, and/or due process to contest and eligibility issue **MUST** go through the athletic office (specifically the approval of Mr. Giacalone, Athletic Director).

# **COLLEGE RECRUIT CHECKLIST**

Student-athletes who aspire to play college baseball need to be proactive in their search. We will assist in your search, but ultimately it is your responsibility to make sure necessary paper work is completed to give yourself an opportunity. The following check list is something to consider:

## **JUNIOR YEAR:**

- September 1 of junior year – Written contact by college coaches is allowed.
- Familiarize yourself with the admission/eligibility requirements:
  - This includes beginning eligibility work for NCAA Clearinghouse [http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA\\_EMS/NCAA.jsp](http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp)
  - Or eligibility work for NAIA <http://www.playnaia.org/>
- Email or communicate with potential college coaches. Include
  - Brief statement on you
  - Why interested in their school and program
  - Spring schedule
  - Any appropriate references.
- Plan visits to as many schools as possible during spring or summer.
  - If you have opportunity when at various campuses playing during summer set aside time for campus visits.
  - Some schools have “Junior Days” that do not count as official visits, because they are done on your own.
- Attend showcase camps/combines in the winter and summer. Make contact with them to see if you qualify. Many good camps that fill up quickly, so if interested to don wait. Look for “select” or “advanced” camps.

## **SENIOR YEAR:**

- Summer – send out new letters, some may be follow-ups to junior letters, others may be new. Send them updates on spring and summer statistics, reiterate appropriate references.
- July 1, it is ok for college coaches to contact you.
- Keep looking to attend more “select” or “advanced” camps.

**PLAYER INFORMATION SHEET**



**COUGARS BASEBALL**

Shawnee Mission Northwest  
12701 W. 67<sup>th</sup>  
Shawnee, KS 66216  
(913) 993-7200

**PLAYER INFO:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLAYERS CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ PLAYERS EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
FATHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FATHER'S CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
MOTHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER'S CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
PARENTS EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**BASEBALL INFORMATION**

POSITIONS PLAYED \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED POSITION \_\_\_\_\_  
BATS \_\_\_\_\_ THROWS \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_

**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

CURRENT GPA \_\_\_\_\_ ACT SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ SAT SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

**EQUIPMENT INFORMATION**

I understand that I will be held responsible for any and all equipment checked out to me.  
Failure to TURN IN any equipment will result in payment for the items.

**REPLACEMENT COSTS:**

Orange Jersey \$60	Black Jersey \$60	Stir Ups \$8
White Pants \$40	Gray Pants \$35	J Bands \$25

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature



**STUDENT-ATHLETE and PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

As a student-athlete in the Shawnee Mission Northwest Baseball program, I have read the 2019 Handbook and understand all information communicated, including but not limited to the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Eligibility
- \_\_\_\_\_ Code of Conduct
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tobacco/Drug/Alcohol Agreement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Practice Expectations (includes conditioning expectations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attendance and Timeliness Expectations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student-Athlete Information Card

Player's Name (Print)	Player's Signature	Date
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Parent's Name (Print)	Parent's Signature	Date
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Coach's Name (Print)	Coach's Signature	Date
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Shawnee Mission Northwest  
Baseball

**“Continue to Build the Tradition”**



**Always Remember.....**

**THE COMPETITION IS NOT YOUR OPPONENT**

**IT'S YOU!**

**KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND BE THE BEST AT IT!**