****

**HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER**

**DISCIPLINE + EFFORT + SACRIFICES = SUCCESS & CONSISTENCY**

***“PLAN FOR SUCCESS”***

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the Bear family. We are really excited and have big expectations for the program. As we get started, there are a few things you should know about what is expected as a member of the Bear family.

The top priorities for the program are:

* To **DEVELOP** and have an environment of **PERFORMANCE** and **ENJOYMENT.**
* Getting the team to **UNDERSTAND** how we play.
* Building **TRUST** and **COHESION** as a team.
* **IMPROVING** our overall technical, physical, mental, and tactical understanding of the sport.

These boys are going to learn a lot of tactics and the program will give the players the best conditions to be familiar with themselves and staff members will commit to improve every aspect of the sport for the players. Performance will be the main focus and the players will be encouraged to take the positives out of every situation regardless of the result. Correction and Discipline will be differentiated from Criticism and Punishment becasue Correction and Discipline create positive behaviors more than their counterparts.

Some of the values that will be enforced this year will be **commitment, dedication, discipline, humility, ambition, team play, respect, sacrifice, effort, and hard work**. The staff members believe soccer provides a unique opportunity to build champions from an academic, social, and athletic standpoint. A *champion,* without hesitation will turn from their own intent pleasure and selfish personal desire to sacrifice for whatever is best for the team, organization, or community they serve.

**Academically** - The goal for our student athletes is to learn to compete in the classroom just as they would on the field. If a player becomes academically ineligible they may be removed from the team and may not be recognized at the end of the season. The goal as a team is to maintain a GPA over 3.5 that would qualify each athlete for ***School and District Academic Awards***, and if an athlete is failing a class or has a GPA lower than a 2.0 GPA, they will not be allowed to participate in games for a certain amount of games per AIA bylaws. There are high standards for this program so let us encourage our athletes to accept that and there will be a consistent Grade Check to hold our athletes accountable for how they perform in the classroom.

1. Parents and players will both be contacted when their student athletes are on the list.
2. Students will be encouraged to seek tutoring or take extra time to get their grades fixed.
3. Students will also be advised to go to each individual teacher to input improved grades.
4. Students will get a week from when they are notified of grades, to improve their grades.
5. If grades aren’t fixed by the deadline, not only will they be ineligible during the season, but for year round, there will be a collective team discipline for poor academic performances.

**Socially** -Players will strive to be leaders by being in charge of their attitudes. Our attitude will contagiously affect the community we serve. Athletes will be expected to treat staff members, teammates, school mates, and strangers with the same respect as they would want to be treated.

**Athletically** -For maximum team accomplishment, each individual must prepare themselves to be the best they can and put their talents to work for the team. All athletes through hard work and sacrifice will develop an expectation for success; all doubt and uncertainty of success will be drowned out by the strength of individual character and team chemistry. Work Ethic ELIMINATES Fear!

**Discipline -** We believe that the true backbone of any successful athletic team is discipline! A disciplined athlete always attends practice, does what coaches ask, gives their best everyday, respects teammates, is never late, and never quits. In order to instill the balance that is necessary, if there are violations, staff members will resolve them immediately. Please do understand that any appalling behavior from any parent and athlete can result in the athlete being cut from the sport at any time.

**Transfer Athletes -** If an athlete was at another high school last year, they will need to fill out a 550 form online at the AIA website. If they played soccer at that high school, they will be required, per AIA bylaws, to sit out half of this season but appeals are offered.

**Playing Time / Games & After Games -** Is EARNED! Parents, this is a topic that is off limits for you with staff members. Please have conversations with your son about developing a working relationship with their coaches and have them approach the coaches with questions and concerns. We like to instill confidence, bravery, and courage into our players, so they should find that within themselves as well. Thank you!

\*There will be a 48 hour rule implemented, at which parents are NOT ALLOWED to contact coaches about any concerns with staff members, about the game, playing time and selections. After that period, coaches will be open to concerns from parents. If this rule is not respected, coaches will continue to approach the season how they see fit.\*

**Varsity Letter -** In order to receive a Varsity letter, an athlete must complete the entire Varsity season and participate in at least one varsity game. Coaches reserve the right to letter any athlete they deem qualified.

We encourage all parents and family to attend games and be supportive, but, please No **SIDE COACHING** from parents. I need full and undivided support and cheers for the team, but not coaching. No **COMMENTS** to the officials, but especially no **FOUL** language or **NEGATIVE** comments towards officials, opposition players, parents, spectators, or anyone on our own team.

Please don’t **CRITICIZE** your players on the way home after games, it’s fine to ask them how they think they did and let them express their **OWN** thoughts whether it is positive or negative. Be their ear and staff members will be their support if they are aware of negative thoughts about themselves, and will reinforce support when there are positive thoughts and feelings about how they play.

All questions should be directed to the head coach. This will help avoid miscommunication, misinformation, or any other future problems. Each member of the coaching staff will have specific responsibilities, however, the ultimate responsibility and decision making for the team resides with the head coach. The staff members are here to help your child in any way that we can, so please don’t be afraid to ask questions or discuss a problem. We will be available for a conversation, but will need communication on when it is best to do so. We will not make ourselves available during practice and game days.

**Head Varsity Coach,**

**Manfred D. Kwarteng**