

Aggieland Homeschool Athletics Panther's Cross-Country/Track & Field Program Handbook

Website: www.aggielandhomeschool.org



Statement of Faith for Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field

We believe in:

The only true eternal God, the almighty Creator of all things, existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – full of love and glory.

The unique divine inspiration, entire trustworthiness and authority of the Bible.

The value and dignity of all people; created in God's image to live in love and holiness, but alienated from God and each other because of our sin and guilt, and justly subject to God's wrath.

Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, born of a virgin, who lived as a perfect example, who assumed the judgement due sinners by dying in our place, and who was bodily raised from the dead and ascended as Savior and Lord.

Our salvation is in Jesus Christ alone.

The victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ, who will judge all people with justice and mercy, giving over the unrepentant to eternal condemnation but receiving the redeemed into eternal life.

Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field Program Philosophy

Overview

The philosophy of the Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field program can best be summarized in three main ideas:

1. Competitive. We seek to challenge our youth in stimulating competition that drives them to work hard and give their best.
2. Developmental. We seek to develop athletic skills and physical fitness and conditioning that will serve them their entire life.
3. Spiritual Growth and Character Development. We seek to teach the values of teamwork, honesty, integrity, humility, and a love and respect for God.

Why competitive and not recreational? A few reasons...

Competitive sports teach teamwork, discipline, goal-setting, leading through example, sportsmanship, and overcoming adversity.

1. There are other options for recreational sports for homeschooled youth (little league, soccer, etc.), but few opportunities for competitive sports.
2. The other teams we are facing are developing athletes and playing to win. To not do the same can be discouraging to all involved.
3. Recreational sports work best when you can form a league of like-minded teams.
4. Competitive sports provide opportunity for those gifted athletically.

What this means for Athletes and Parents:

1. Placement of athletes in events is the discretion of the coach for each division. He or she will factor in skill level, attitude, coachable-ness, and work ethic.
2. Athletes are expected to be coachable and adjust as they are coached.
3. Athletes should be practicing at home on their own. This should include conditioning and practices distributed out by coaches at the beginning of the season, as well as studying the events the athlete will be participating within.
4. Athletes are expected to work hard in practice and respect their coaches.

5. Athletes will be expected to receive instruction about character and behavior issues.

For Coaches this means

1. Coaches must give each athlete the opportunity to improve and gain positioning on each event.
2. Coaches must teach fundamental skills at all levels.
3. Coaches will communicate important parent and athlete issues that may arise to the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee.
4. Coaches must educate themselves and improve as coaches.
5. Coaches should focus on all athletes.
6. Coaches should be flexible with rosters for different age / divisional events.
7. An individual team is part of the entire Cross-Country/Track & Field program; therefore, a coach does not have sole autonomy over their team, but will adhere to the overall athlete and coaches' conduct and philosophy of the program.
8. They will coach athletes for their overall wellbeing and development, and will set a good example of Christian character in leading the team.
9. Coaches will be held to a higher standard to be morally and ethically accountable by the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee.

Membership, Voting Meetings, Officers, Elections, Roles and Responsibilities, and Coach Selection

The Cross-Country/Track & Field Program is a member led organization with a set of officers that are annually elected by the membership.

Membership

A voting-member is defined by the bylaws of Aggieland Homeschool Athletics.

Membership Voting Rights

During all official meetings of the Cross-Country/Track & Field program when a motion is presented for a vote each voting-member presented at the meeting has an equal vote. Unless otherwise stated in this handbook, motions must pass by a 51% majority in order to be approved. It is the goal of the chair of the meeting to seek consensus when making decisions; however, if a vote is taken (at the determination of the chair) then all Cross-Country/Track & Field program voting-members present at the meeting shall have an opportunity to vote on the motion. The manner in which the Cross-Country/Track & Field program conducts its business such as electing officers, selecting coaches, and appointing non-elected officers are ultimately at the discretion of the members of the Cross-Country/Track & Field Program and not a function of Aggieland Homeschool Athletics. When approved by the voting-membership, in special situations, voting on official business may be conducted by email, unless otherwise specified in affirmative motion at an official Cross-Country/Track & Field meeting. It will be the responsibility of the secretary to count these votes and the responsibility of the chair to report the results of the voting to the membership.

Non-voting-members of the Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field program are encouraged to attend all official meetings, provide suggestions, and volunteer to assist in the work of the program.

Meetings

A minimum of 3 official meetings must be held between May 1st and the following May 1st of the next calendar year. The chair may call meetings as often as is needed to conduct the business of the Cross-Country/Track & Field program. In order for official business to be conducted, a meeting notice must be distributed to the membership at least seven days before the meeting. It is the responsibility of the officers to prepare an agenda for each meeting, incorporating input from the Cross-Country/Track & Field Program members and other volunteers (ex. coaches). The agenda must be distributed to the Cross-Country/Track & Field Program members at least three days before the meeting. Cross-Country/Track & Field Program voting-members in attendance at the official meeting may present a motion to make additions to the agenda. This motion is debatable and requires a simple majority to

pass.

Changes to the Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field Policy/Operations Handbook

Changes to the handbook and subsequently changes to operational policies may be proposed only at the annual May official meeting. These potential changes must be presented to the chair in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting and include a written rationale and must be co-signed by a minimum of 5 voting-members. Proposed changes must be presented in writing to the membership of the Cross-Country/Track & Field program at least one week prior to the May meeting. Changes to policies may be proposed either by officers or voting-members.

Quorum

In order for official business to be conducted at the Cross-Country/Track & Field Program meeting a minimum of 3 of the elected officers must be present. All members of the Cross-Country/Track & Field Program are invited and encouraged to attend all program meetings.

Elected Officers

The voting-membership will elect officers who will be responsible for leading the management of the Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field Program.

- The methods of selecting elected officers, coaches, and non-elected officers are solely at the discretion of the members of the Cross-Country/Track & Field Program.
- Only one elected officer position is allowed per member family.
- The elected officer positions include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Athletic Director.
- There are no restrictions as to how many times a person may run for a position.
- The roles and responsibilities of these elected officers are determined by the voting-membership.
- At the official May Cross-Country/Track & Field Program meeting the voting-membership may vote to change, add to or remove responsibilities from any of these elected offices.
- The following is a list of the offices and the role and responsibility of each:
 - Chair - Oversees meetings, regularly communicates with volunteers and subcommittees to ensure that the business of the program is progressing. Works with the other officers and volunteers to develop meeting agendas and pre-meeting preparations.
 - Vice Chair, assists the chair and serves in the chair role when the chair is absent.
 - Treasurer – Works with the assistance of the AHA treasurer and volunteers (example concessions/gate) to establish and execute protocols for the handling of money, paying expenses, and obtaining fees; Oversees paying the

expense of the program; manages the checking account; and reports to the membership the financial status of the program at official meetings.

- Secretary - Maintains the written and electronic records of the Cross-Country/Track & Field Program, coordinates the purchase of insurance and future interactions with the insurance company, signing of waivers, obtaining medical information as needed, maintains an accurate list of contact information for families, athletes and coaches.
- Athletic Director - with the assistance of other volunteers:
 - Oversees the day-to-day operations; coordinating practice times for each team, practice fields, coaches' time, and event registrations with the exception of State (which registration must be handled by each athlete's parent).
 - Work with coaches with regard to the assignment of athletes to particular teams.
 - Identify and help train team parents with regard to their responsibilities.
 - Communicate with Team parents and coaches as needed (often weekly) to go over the week's activities.
 - Lead the Coaches Selection Committee.
- Other officer positions may be added by a majority vote of the Cross-Country/Track & Field Program members at the official May meeting. An election will be held for that position and the successful candidate will serve in that position for one year starting in May.

Selecting Coaches

A coaches committee will be assembled in May of each year for the purpose of identifying, vetting, conducting background checks and presenting coach candidates for the Cross-Country/Track & Field teams. Because identifying coaches often occurs over an extended period of time, when the Coaches Committee has a group of coaching candidates to present for consideration then the following process will be conducted by the Athletic Director.

The coaches' selection committee will consist of 5 voting-members: Athletic Director, two voting-members with participating girl athletes and two voting-members with participating boy athletes.

Potential coach candidates will be requested from both parent and nonparent sources. The coaches' selection committee will review the information that is obtained, interview potential candidates as necessary and make a recommendation for team-by-team coaching assignments to the membership.

Parents would be allowed 7 days to comment to the Coaches Committee coach's slate that was presented. These comments will be distributed to all members of the Coaches Committee. All comments must be presented in writing and a member's name attached to the comment or presented orally to the entire committee in person. Oral comments to

individual committee members will not be considered.

The Coaches Committee will review those comments and make adjustments as appropriate and if the Coaches Committee deems it necessary they will offer an amended slate for additional comments from members. At the official August Cross-Country/Track & Field Program meeting the Cross Country coaches will be voted on and must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of all members voting. At the official January Cross-Country/Track & Field Program meeting the Track and Field coaches will be voted on and must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of all members voting.

Each slate as a whole will be presented for a yes or no vote.

Because it is a two-thirds majority a written ballot or roll call vote must be taken. Because it is a membership vote if a written ballot election is held, the voter must sign the ballot.

It will be the responsibility of the secretary to certify the ballots are from members and the responsibility of the chair to certify and announce the result of the vote.

If the vote of affirmation does not pass with at least a two-thirds majority the dissenting members will be asked to provide a reason, then as appropriate adjustments made to the slate, and the process repeated.

Election Process for Elected-Officers

- **Election of Officers**
 - The election process shall begin in April and conclude before the May Cross-Country/Track & Field program meeting.
 - At an official Cross-Country/Track & Field program meeting two members will be selected by the membership to serve as an election committee. This committee will conduct the election. The members of the election committee may not run for an officer position.
 - When voting for officers, the successful candidate must receive 51% of the vote or greater. Therefore, a second election may need to occur with the top two candidates for an office having a run-off.
 - When only one candidate is on the ballot for a position then a vote of affirmation is taken of the membership for that candidate.
 - All positions will be elected annually.
 - There are no restrictions as to how many times a person can run for this position.
 - Call for nominations (one week time period).
 - Allow voting by email (one week time period).
 - One vote per Cross-Country/Track & Field program voting-member.

- **Removal of an executive committee member**
 - First the Aggijeland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field Complaint Policy must have been followed as presented in the handbook.

- If those efforts result in the need to remove an officer of the Cross-Country/Track & Field program then either the Chair or if the removal deals with the Chair then Vice-Chair must call a special membership meeting. The only item of business that will be conducted at this meeting will be with regard to the removal of an officer. As with all official meetings, a minimum of seven days' notice must be given to the membership before the meeting held.
 - At this meeting, a motion will be entertained to remove the officer. This motion must be seconded, is debatable, and a vote taken. A simple majority determines the disposition of the motion. This motion may be tabled to a specified day and time if needed. All Cross-Country/Track & Field program voting-members attending the meeting may vote.
- **Vacant Positions**
 - If a position becomes vacant before January 1st or the current season, then the officers will call a special election for that position and follow the election process state previously. If necessary the chair may select an interim officer for the vacant position until the election can be completed.
 - If a position comes vacant after January 1st of the current season then the officers can fill the vacant position at their discretion, either by an appointment or by an election.
 - The elected or appointed person as appropriate will serve in that capacities until the next election cycle begins.

Aggieland Homeschool Athlete Eligibility Guidelines

Overview

The Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field program uses the guidelines set forth by the Texas State Homeschool Track & Field Championships for eligibility considerations. The Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field will update this document as appropriate to reflect the guidelines of the National Christian Homeschool Track & Field Championships.

Ultimately, "Homeschooling" is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed. Each year parents must indicate that their child's education is parent-directed. It is up to the parent to assess whether their child meets the guidelines listed in this document. The membership may call into question the eligibility of an athlete, but this must be done at the official meeting and follow the same protocol as other business.

Exceptions to the guidelines listed below will be considered case-by-case basis by the membership. These exceptions will be considered on an annual basis. These exceptions must be presented at an official meeting and require a majority vote of those voting-members present for the exception to be adopted. Exceptions will expire at the close of the Texas State Homeschool Track & Field Championships and must be reconsidered by the voting-membership for the next season. When making decisions the following must be considered:

1. How will this decision impact the child and their family?
2. How will this decision impact the team and the rest of the team members?
3. How will this decision impact other programs or schools?
4. How will this decision impact our participation in the State and National Championships?

Homeschool Guidelines for the National Track & Field Championship (this will be updated as soon as their website is available)

Definition of a Homeschool Student-Athlete

"Homeschooling" is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed.

As such, the parents shall be involved in their child's education by assuming the role of principal or headmaster, thereby (1) setting the date and requirements for high school graduation; (2) selecting and approving course materials and study schedules; and (3) selecting tutors, correspondence courses, videos, computer courses, and similar resources for their child's education. HomeSchooling would also include the person of legal responsibility* of the student filling the role of a parent (see below)

The Role of Outside Institutions

Private and Public Schools

Full-time enrollment in a traditional public or private school is not homeschooling because the child's education in such schools is not parent-directed. A player that attends a private, public, charter, or university-model school full-time is not eligible in Homeschool divisions. For part-time students at these types of schools, the student must maintain at least 51% of his/her education from classes that meet the homeschooling definition.

Coop and Umbrella Schools

The participation in a cooperative school, and/or an umbrella school can create some questions. In some states, "Homeschool students" are required by law to attend a private school and, in such cases, cooperative or umbrella schools are formed for this purpose. These schools, whether called cooperative, umbrella, or "private," are characterized by significant and direct parental involvement, often simply representing different forms of homeschooling within a group of like-minded families. In such cases where the student-athlete meets the definition of Homeschooling and is involved in a coop and umbrellas school, he/she is deemed eligible by the NCHC.

Vocational Classes

In some states, "Homeschool students" are permitted to take classes at vocational schools. A student may take classes at such schools as long as he/she maintains at least 51% of his education from classes that meet the homeschooling definition.

51% Rule

For clarification purposes, a normal course load for a full-time student is six (6) core courses; therefore, if a student-athlete is taking more than three (3) courses at a public, private, or vocational, he/she is not considered 51% homeschooled. If there are special circumstances, a student may apply for a hardship exemption.

New-- Dual Credit/Enrollment Clause

Freshman, Sophomore, & Junior Homeschool Student-Athletes that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of three (3) High School Courses per semester. **Senior** Homeschool Student-Athletes that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of two (2) High School Courses per semester. High School Courses can be electives (like Physical Education, etc.) High School Courses can be taken through Co-Ops or any other eligible parent directed definition.

NCHC Eligibility Rules

Academics

Each member team and/or program shall have standards in place to make sure that all participating players maintain at least a 2.0 GPA (on a 4-point scale) during the active season.

Age Restrictions

A player's age group is determined by his/her age on September 1, of the current school year. For example, a player who is 16 on September 1, but turns 17 on October 5th is considered eligible to play in the 16-and-under age group at NCHC events. Players may play in a higher age group, if desired.

Transfer Students

Any student who transfers from a public school, Christian/private School, or another Homeschool team and is under disciplinary action(s) must wait one (1) year before he/she is eligible to participate in any NCHC activity or play against other Homeschool teams.

Additional Educational Requirements

- A player that has participated in a graduation ceremony is not eligible to participate at NCHC events without being approved for a [Hardship Exemption](#).

Additional Non-Educational Requirements

- A player must live at home with his/her parent, legal guardian or legally responsible person (in the case of foster children or other family hardships)* in order to be considered Homeschooled.
- A player cannot be married.
- A player must live within a 100-mile radius of the team's practice facility.

*Legal Responsibility Hardships must be preapproved by NCHC

Homeschool Guidelines for the Texas State Homeschool Track & Field Championships (most recent guidelines)

Texas homeschooled student-athletes who are 18 or younger on September 1 of the current school year are eligible for the Texas State Homeschool Track & Field Championships. This championship competition is designed to provide a top-quality track meet for homeschooled student-athletes.

Definition of a "Homeschooled Student-Athlete"

"Homeschooling" is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed. As such, the parents or shall be involved in their child's education by (1) setting the requirements for high school graduation, (2) approving coursework and study schedules, and (3) being actively involved in their child's educational process. "Parent" includes the child's legal guardian. Students attending university-model schools with a significant parental co-teacher role are also eligible, provided that the university-model school is not a member of an athletic league such as TCAL or TAPPS that has its own state-level track competition. If you have questions about this definition, you may direct them to the Meet Director at txhstrack@ yahoo.com.

Age Guidelines

Boys and girls 10-and-under (10U), 12-and-under (12U), 14-and-under (14U), 16-and-under (16U), and 18-and-under (18U) are the five different age divisions offered. An athlete's age division is determined by age on September 1 of the current school year. For example, an athlete who is 16 on September 1, but turns 17 on October 5th is considered eligible to compete in the 16U age division. Athletes may participate in a higher age division, if desired. Relay teams will be entered in the age division to which the oldest team member belongs.

Special Note about younger children: The 10U division is our youngest division and is designed for children who were 9 or 10 on September 1 of the current school year. However, we do not have a minimum age for the 10U division, as long as you understand that all the 10U entrants will run together in one division, with one set of awards 1st-6th given for the entire division in each event (boys and girls separate).

We also have a **PeeWee 50m Dash** in the afternoon that is open to **any** child who is not registered for the track meet as a regular participant. There is no minimum age for this race, and we will have the tiniest toddlers up through about 12 years old participating, separated into groups by age. **Everyone** in the PeeWee Dash gets a ribbon!

Transfer Students

Any student who transfers from public or private school to homeschooling by the meet registration deadline and remains eligible as a homeschooled student under the above definition through the date of the meet is eligible to participate.

Residency Requirement

This meet is only open to homeschooled student-athletes who reside in the state of Texas or who have a parent or guardian who is a member of the armed forces who is stationed in the state of Texas, regardless of deployment status, or who was stationed in the state of Texas the last time they were stationed in the United States.

Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field Complaint Policy

Throughout the course of the season, we recognize that it is possible that a variety of concerns may arise or offenses occur between athletes, parents, or coaches. We resolve to handle these issues in the spirit of Scripture and according to **Matthew 18: 15-17**.

Conflicts with Coaches/Instructors

Complaints against a coach, his or her coaching style, individual participation times, team conduct, etc., should be handled using the following steps:

1. First, ask the coach for a time where he/she can meet with you to discuss a question or concern you have. Do not do this before or after a meet or at practices unless you have a prearranged agreement with the coach.
2. Pray before the meeting and go with an attitude of wanting to gain understanding.
3. At any time during the conversation, the coach has the right to ask you to put the concern in writing and submit the complaint to him/her and the Athletic Director.
4. The Athletic Director will notify the officers of the written complaint.
5. Any complaint against a coach must be submitted in writing if resolution is not obtained in the face-to-face meeting or if the coach requests it.
6. Written complaints are to be submitted both to the coach, Athletic Director and then to the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee. A discussion between the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee and the coach will follow, the issue shall be documented, and a course of action shall be established. A written response will then be sent to the individual(s) making the complaint.
7. If the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee determines that a meeting between the coach/instructor and the complainant would be beneficial, a member of the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee, preferably the Chair, will be present to facilitate the meeting and to document the progress.
8. The decision of the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee is final and not appealable to any other body.

Conflicts with the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee

Any complaint against any of the Cross-Country/Track & Field Committee member will follow the procedure as described above, except that the committee member against whom the complaint has been lodged will recuse himself or herself from the matter. The remaining committee members will provide oversight and judgment regarding the matter.

Keep several ideas in mind when addressing your concerns:

1. Please do not approach a coach with a complaint during a practice or a meet.
2. We are a Christian organization made up of Christian parents, athletes, and coaches who desire to live by the Word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit.
3. Because we are Christians, we need to seek to treat each other with real love and compassion. This includes not gossiping about or slandering other parents, athletes or coaches; so, if differences arise, please address your concerns directly to the person with whom you have issue.
4. When addressing your concerns, please do so without anger but with real humility and compassion, i.e., do not get “in the other person’s face”, be it a coach, player or another parent.

The policy is designed to make your and your child’s experience as enjoyable as possible, minimizing the effects of dissension. Please consider these relevant Scriptural passages: Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 12:9-18; Ephesians 4:29-32

Cross-Country/Track & Field Athlete Code of Conduct and Dress Code Expectations and Guidelines

As a member of the Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field Program you are more than “just another athlete” on a team; you are part of another “family”, the family of Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field. As such, you represent the values of this Cross-Country/Track & Field program. Your dress and actions reflect the homeschooling community. You are expected to conduct yourself in a manner, both on and off the field, reflects the values the program strives to promote. Those values are:

- To promote Christian moral values throughout our activities and in our relationships with one another. We expect our athletes, coaches and parents to respect the moral values the program strives to promote.
- To respect the unique qualities, gifts and talents that each person possesses. We acknowledge that every person, regardless of race, color or religion is uniquely created in God’s image.

Dress – Please follow the “*Spirit of the law*” here and dress in a manner consistent with the values of the program. When in doubt, choose modesty. If you’re not sure what you’re going to wear is appropriate, it probably isn’t. Athletes should change clothes in a non-public location in the facility. Our coach and Team Parent have the final say in what is acceptable attire and grooming.

Jewelry, Watches, Wristbands, Piercings, Tattoos, Hair Feathers, etc. – All jewelry, watches, necklaces, wristbands, and cartilage-piercing jewelry must be removed during track & field/cross country activities for safety precautions. Our program will abide by the rules and regulations regarding items, which are addressed by TAPPS, UIL, TCAL and meet organizers in their rules and policies. We will abide by these rules as required when competing against these teams.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco – Athletes, coaches, and volunteers are prohibited from using or possessing illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco during any track & field/cross country event.

Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field Coaches' Pledge

I will:

1. Provide an honorable testimony as a member of Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field program, whether on the field or off.
2. Strive to develop each child's God-given gifts in character, academics, and athletic skill.
3. Honor those in authority including meet officials by accepting their decisions without sarcasm, grumbling, or inappropriate gesturing. When I disagree with a call I will exemplify a Christ-like attitude and manner in my questioning and conversations with the meet officials.
4. Not speak negatively or use social media to disparage my athletes, the other team's coach, players or fans. Not use the meet officials' or other team coaches' and athlete's conduct as an excuse for losing the meet.
5. Support the Cross-Country/Track & Field program philosophy, code of conduct and dress code by encouraging my athletes to follow them and by following them myself.
6. Direct parents to the written complaint policy when a parent or athlete has a complaint about either the program as a whole or myself as a coach.
7. Encourage parents and athletes to follow their respective pledges. I will verbally address parents and athletes who fail to adhere to what they agreed to follow.
8. Not verbally demoralize athletes in meets or in practices.
9. Do my best to provide participation in each event of a meet when possible. When this is not possible, I will state my expectations and reasoning to the athlete and parents, preferably prior to the start of the meet. At the beginning of the season and periodically through the season, I will state clearly participation expectation to the athlete and with parents when appropriate.
10. Give equal opportunity to every athlete to learn and develop track & field event skills. It is up to the athlete to take advantage of that opportunity.
11. Understand that the team that I am coaching is part of a larger program and will adhere to the direction of the committee and the Cross-Country/Track & Field philosophies of that program.

I will do my best to adhere to this pledge. I understand that I may fail and will accept correction as appropriate and strive to make adjustments as warranted. I will support this coaches' pledge by reminding others and myself of what I have agreed to do.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field Athlete's Pledge

I will:

1. Provide a Christian honorable testimony as a member of an Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field program team, whether on the field or off.
2. Strive to develop my God-given gifts in character, academics, and athletic skill.
3. Honor those in authority; including coaches and meet officials, by accepting at all times their decisions without argument, grumbling, or gesturing of any kind.
4. Honor my teammates by submitting to the greater good of the team at the expense of my own ambitions.
5. Honor my teammates by giving them encouragement and by trying to develop an attitude that places others' needs before my own.
6. Honor the Christian commitment of the program by my language, not using unwholesome words or participating in talk or joking that is not befitting a Christian testimony.
7. Honor my opponents by playing my best and yet not engaging in taunting, baiting, or ridiculing of any kind.
8. Submit to team rules for travel, dress, and behavior. I will comply with the Code of Conduct, Dress Code Guidelines, and other conduct and dress codes put forth by my coach.
9. Be at all practices and meets unless extenuating circumstances occur, at which time I will notify the coach as soon as possible. I understand that missing an event or practice without notice is a serious offense and will be grounds for discipline.
10. Not gossip, text, Facebook, tweet, or talk maliciously about my teammates or coaches. I will treat others as I would want others to treat me.

As a member of the Aggieland Homeschool Cross-Country/Track & Field program, I will support this athlete's pledge. I understand that the failure to comply with this pledge could result in disciplinary action, reduced participation, and suspension from Cross-Country/Track & Field activities, and even expulsion from the Cross-Country/Track & Field program.

I will do my best to adhere to this pledge. I understand that I may fail and will accept correction as appropriate and strive to make adjustments as warranted. I will support this parents' pledge by reminding others and myself of what I have agreed to do.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Aggieland Home School Cross-Country/Track & Field Parents' Pledge

With a desire to foster a positive, joyful, harmonious environment for my child and others and in an effort to demonstrate Christ-Like character and give glory to God.

I will

1. Follow the complaint policy and use the Matthew 18 principle when dealing with any conflict or concerns.
2. Not criticize or coach my child from the stands during meets and practices. I will only verbalize encouraging comments during the meet and at practices.
3. Honor those in authority including coaches and meet officials by accepting their decisions without argument, grumbling, or inappropriate gesturing. If there are issues or questions I will not address those with the coach before, during, or after a meet or practice, but rather at a time agreed upon with the coach. If I have a complaint I will handle it as stated in the complaint policy. I will never verbally address a meet official in a negative manner.
4. Honor the team that my child plays on by submitting to the greater good of the team at the expense of my own and my child's ambitions. I will place others' needs before my own.
5. Not talk in a negative way about the coach to my child or other athletes and their families. I will not talk about others in a negative or disparaging manner, nor will I give an ear to someone who does.
6. Support and help my child follow the Cross-Country/Track & Field program code of conduct and dress code.
7. Honor our opponents' athletes and fans by not engaging in taunting, baiting, or ridiculing them.
8. Support the team rules for travel, dress, and behavior. I will assist in paying the transportation costs if my child and I are traveling with someone else.
9. Notify the coach before the practice or meet if my child will not be present or will be late.
10. Not gossip or talk maliciously. I will treat others as I would want others to treat me.
11. Properly supervise all of my children. For the safety of these children and to maintain a Christian witness in respecting the facilities and equipment of the gyms where we play, I will keep my child with me at all times, and we will clean up after ourselves.

I will do my best to adhere to this pledge. I understand that I may fail and will accept correction as appropriate and strive to make adjustments as warranted. I will support this parents' pledge by reminding others and myself of what I have agreed to do.

Signature _____ Date: _____
Signature _____ Date: _____