

# ***Spartan Football***

## ***Code of Conduct***

**TEAM** goals are more important than individual accomplishments.

Any action, anywhere, anytime, that is not proper for a young man to engage in embarrasses the **TEAM**.

Violation of school policy is a violation of **TEAM** rules.

Introduce yourself ad **WELCOME** parents, teachers, and college coaches to **Spartan Football**.

Be **RESPECTFUL** to principals and teachers.

**HONOR** your Mother and Father, Grandmother and Grandfather.

Practice the **GOLDEN RULE**.

Be a friend to **YOUNGER PLAYERS**.

Be your own best friend by taking care of yourself.

# ***Spartan Football Player Goals***

1. To be the best student-athlete that I can be.
2. To maintain my grades and always be eligible to participate.
3. To continue a team/family concept that our team/family will always come first.
4. To compete to win in everything that I do.
5. To be the best leader that I can be.
6. To be the best listener that I can be.
7. To continue to build on the foundation for a great ***SPARTAN FOOTBALL TRADITION.***
8. To set myself as a good example to all others.
9. To be loyal to our ***PORTER ATHLETIC FAMILY*** in our actions and always working toward ***“Earning the Right to Win”.***
10. To get to the AAAAA STATE PLAYOFFS and WIN the 2016 ***STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP!***

# ***Spartan Pride!***

# **INTRODUCTION TO PLAYER'S HANDBOOK**

The primary purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the rules and policies of the Porter High School football team. You are responsible to read, know, and understand the complete contents of this handbook. In the event that there is something in this handbook you do not understand, please bring it to my attention as soon as possible.

I firmly believe that you have a great desire to win the championship and are willing to work in order to accomplish this goal. If I did not believe this thoroughly, either you would not be here or I would not be here. Our policies have been put in this booklet so you could refer to them from time to time during the course of the season. When the season is over, you will be expected to return this booklet. It is to be treated in the same manner as your playbook.

This handbook was not made to disrupt the lines of communication between you and your coaches, but to encourage it. This is not my football team, but it is yours. You have told me that you wish to be a part of a great football team and program. This can only be accomplished when you know what is expected of you. This booklet is merely a guideline for your benefit. In the event you disagree with any policies in this handbook, see me at your earliest convenience. I want the same thing as you do, and that is a championship.

## **WHAT WE EXPECT OF YOU**

We expect the following things:

1. Get an education.
2. Pass every class. (Excel, be the best student that you can be.)
3. Hustle 100% of the time.
4. Give unselfish love towards your teammates and to respect them. Before you can love and respect somebody else, you must love and respect yourself
5. Practice to the best of your ability.
6. Be totally honest in all of your dealings.
7. Be extremely loyal to your school, administration, teammates, coaches, families, and friends.
8. Play to the maximum of your potential at all times, practices and games. Yes, this includes sprints.
9. Be prompt to all meetings and practices.
10. Never take an opportunity to criticize and never pass up one to praise.
11. Be a part of something great.
12. Be a winner!

## **WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR COACHES**

1. To be loyal to you at all times.
2. To be totally honest.
3. To provide the leadership and training necessary to achieve your goals.
4. To work you harder than you have ever worked before.
5. To assist you in any way possible now and after you graduate.
6. To treat you as a man and to love and respect you.
7. To make all decisions based on what is best for the team and then what is best for the individual.
8. To do everything within our power to improve our facilities and make this the best place in Texas to go to school and play football.
9. To help you mature and grow as a man.
10. To help you reach your goals.

# THE PORTER SPARTAN'S APPROACH TO FOOTBALL

Every one of you wants to start on our football team. Unfortunately, not all of you will. The coaching staff must determine who will start. Consequently, I feel it is important for you to understand how we will decide on depth charts as practice progresses. The following five points will be the criteria used in selecting starters and developing depth charts.

1. **Knowledge of Assignment.** We cannot and will not play people who do not know their assignments. Your position coach will spend extra time with you if you desire. Everyone can and should know their assignments.
2. **Hustle and Effort.** Everyone will be expected to give 100% at all times. Your teammates will be giving 100% and they will expect you to do so as well. **Extra effort wins games.** Every player can give 100%.
3. **Hitting and Mental Toughness.** We will discover during fall practice who has a strong desire to intimidate our opponents. Football is a contact sport and it must be played with mental toughness. Everyone can hit.
4. **Contribution to the overall team.** Football is the ultimate team sport. The individual who motivates his teammates to do better, is always enthusiastic and ready, will make a greater contribution than one who does not possess that quality. One man who hates to lose is an invaluable player. Everyone can be a team player. Everyone wants to win, but what we are looking for are people who can't live with losing.
5. **Talent.** If the above four characteristics are equal (and they should be), then the young man with the most talent, who makes the most big plays, will start. However, talent will not enter into our evaluation until we look closely at the first four qualities. Obviously if you are injured it will be difficult for us to evaluate you.

We will give our every player an opportunity to earn a position on our team. It's our desire to play as many people as possible, but obviously we cannot play everyone. The above was written out so that you will know exactly how we will evaluate you. Our best athletes will lead us to a championship.

My main concern is to be as fair as possible with you and to be truly honest. If you do not feel that you are being treated fairly, see your position coach. In the event you are still not satisfied, then come see me. I am here for the same reasons you are:

1. See you get an education and a diploma. There is a difference between them.
2. See that you mature and grow as a man.
3. See that we have the best football team possible.

Consequently, the best football players, according to the criteria previously mentioned, will start. In closing, let me reiterate that our starters will be determined on the field by your performance and not by me. I have great respect for you and believe that you will know your assignments, give 100%, will hit, and will be a team player. I will continue to believe this unless you prove me wrong.

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

1. **DRUGS** - Will not be tolerated. First offense will result in suspension and may result in dismissal from the team.
2. **ALCOHOL** - Will not be allowed. First offense will result in suspension and may result in dismissal from team.
3. **PROFANITY** - We do not allow it. First offense will result in disciplinary action.
4. **STEALING** - Taking things that do not belong to you, especially taking from your teammates will not be tolerated. A player caught and proven to be guilty will be suspended or dismissed from the team.
5. **CONDUCT** - The Spartans that have preceded you have given a great deal of class and pride to our program. Don't do anything to take away from this. We are noted for our clean, tough, competitive play. We don't shoot off our mouths on or off the field. Praise the opponents and play beyond your ability. We expect you to conduct yourselves as gentlemen at all times. This means that you are to follow school rules and procedures while attending class at Porter High School. You are expected to act properly in class, giving your teachers and administrators courtesy and respect. We know that each of you does not have the same abilities, but we expect each of you to perform to the best of your ability. Failure to adhere to the above conduct will result in a conference and possible disciplinary action.
6. **ATTENDANCE** - Do not cut class. Don't be tardy. If you must miss an athletic period, be sure that it can't be helped. Don't make appointments on our time. If you must be absent, call and talk to one of the coaches before your athletic period. If you fail to call, you will be assigned to AC and required to make up work missed while you were absent.
7. **INJURY or ILLNESS** - We have two full time trainers who know their business. If you have an injury, see the trainer. He will either treat the injury or refer you to a physician. If you must leave school because of illness, come by the field house and check with a trainer first. If you are ill or injured, we don't expect you to workout, but if you are at the field house, we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group from station to station unless given special permission from the head coach.
8. **RESPECT FOR COACHES** - Coaches should receive "Yes sir" or "No sir" responses from players. In return, players will be treated with respect by their coaches. Whenever a coach is speaking with you, either individually or as a group, you will give him your undivided attention and always establish eye contact with him.
9. **PROMPTNESS** - Always be on time. On trips, the bus will not wait for you. After the 1<sup>st</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> period bell rings, you do not have time to waste; get directly to the field house. The sooner you are ready to begin, the earlier you may leave. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

10. **DRESS** - Should be very professional in uniform and out. Everyone will wear their uniform in the same manner. We are not individuals. We will furnish your equipment, so do not bring your own equipment. Take care of your equipment. Your equipment is the best that money can buy. Do not wear jewelry in practice or during a game. Your appearance away from the field house, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program.
11. **APPEARANCE** - For safety reasons, and to attain a good team appearance, look sharp and be sharp. Give an image of class.
12. **CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES** - You are to hang your equipment in your locker as you are shown. You are to clean your equipment at least once a week. Do not track mud and dirt into our dressing rooms. Take off cleats before entering the field house area. When you change into work-out gear, your clothes are to be hung up in your locker. Latrines and toilets are to be flushed, showers and faucets turned off so that they don't drip, and all soda cans and tabs in the trash can. Clean up in and around your locker each day. Failure to adhere to this will result in AC.
13. If at any time an athlete quits or is expelled from a team in or out of season, they give up all rights to any honors which they have earned but have not yet received.
  - He must bring a note from his parents stating that they are aware of his intention to quit and its implications.
  - He forfeits his right to participate in that sport or any other sport until that current season is over.

## **RULES**

We will have as few rules as possible. We ask three questions:

1. Will it make you a better man?
2. Will it make you a better student?
3. Will it make you a better athlete?

If the answer is no, then it will be a rule, and there will be no exceptions. If the answer is yes, then there is no need for a rule.

1. No drinking or smoking or drugs of any kind.
2. No profanity.
3. The hair should be kept neat at all times.
4. No facial hair or earrings.
5. If you have to miss practice, you must call and tell one of the coaches. The field house number is
6. Be prompt and on time for all meetings and practices.
7. Keep your locker room neat and clean.
8. Treat others as you would have them treat you.
9. At all times, you will be held responsible for your actions.
10. Do right and do your best!

## INJURIES

We must distinguish between pain and injury. A young man who is injured and cannot practice will be under the direction of Kristi Hayes, our trainer. In the RARE EVENT you are injured, remember the following:

1. Report all injuries to the trainer and follow her instructions to the letter.
2. All treatment is to take place at the time the trainer designates.
3. One should get treatment every day.
4. No one is expected to miss practice without the head trainer's permission.
5. All meetings must be attended.
6. If you cannot practice on Monday or Tuesday, you CANNOT START!
7. If you cannot practice on a Wednesday, you CANNOT DRESS!
8. No matter how small your injury is, get it treated.
9. Do not come into the training room to cut off tape after a practice. Cut tape off in the dressing room, where tape cutters will be provided.
10. Great champions can distinguish between pain and injury.
11. Wear all pads, especially hip pads.
12. Wear only issued equipment.
13. During the early, hot practices, anyone who becomes sick, nauseated, dizzy, and very hot should notify a coach or trainer immediately. A player knows better than anyone else if he is overheated.
14. If you are bleeding during a game, have the wound bandaged and the blood cleaned off at the first opportunity, but do not leave the game unless directed by a coach, trainer, or official, or unless the injury is severe.

## **TRAINING ROOM RULES**

1. If you're not injured, STAY OUT!!
2. Shower after practice before seeing the trainer and wear your shorts.
3. Cleats will not be allowed in the training room. Take off your shoes before going in.
4. All football equipment must stay outside of the training room unless it is already worn prior to being taped.
5. After you get taped, leave the training room. Finish suiting up outside or in the dressing room. This includes tying your shoes!
6. Ice is for injuries, not for eating! Ice for drinks will be provided on availability and at a designated area in the dressing room.
7. Horseplay, visitation, or loitering will not be allowed.
8. For injury evaluation, wait by the door until called in by the trainer.
9. Don't waste time in the field house after getting taped. Be at practice on time!
10. Don't enter the training room to cut tape off after practice. Do that in the dressing room.

## **LOCKER ROOM AND EQUIPMENT**

Since you will be spending a great deal of time in the locker room during the next three months, we expect you to keep this facility as neat and sanitary as possible. We want you to take pride in this facility. We expect each member of the team to adhere to the following guidelines.

### **LOCKER ROOM GUIDELINES**

1. Hang all equipment in your locker in the proper place. Lock up your jersey after practice.
2. Keep all your valuables locked up. Your locker has a lock for your convenience in storing valuables.
3. Do not throw tape on the floors. There are garbage cans in each locker room for this purpose.
4. Do not spit on the floors. Keep the floors neat and clean.
5. Do not leave cups or bottles in the lockers or on the floors.
6. Do not leave towels on the floor.
7. Absolutely NO horseplay is allowed in the locker room.
8. Do not bring visitors into the locker room without first clearing it with a coach.
9. Remove workout shoes before entering the locker room.
10. We feel that we provide you with the best equipment that money can buy. We want you to always look sharp and it is up to you to take care of all your equipment. It is extremely important that all equipment fit properly. This is important for safety reasons. If a piece of equipment does not fit, make sure that you see a manager for a change.
11. We expect each member of our team to adhere to the following guidelines.

### **EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES**

1. Wear all equipment issued unless the practice schedule calls for less.
2. Wear only equipment issued unless approved by Coach Holley.
3. Do not put tape on the outside of your game uniform.
4. Do not cut jerseys unless given permission by Coach Holley.
5. Do not take any equipment from the locker room, especially shoes. They are to be worn only during practice and games.
6. You are responsible for all equipment checked out in your name.
7. Hang on to all of your equipment. Many pads are very expensive to replace, and if you lose something, you will be held responsible for paying for the missing item. Be careful; a decent pair of shoulder pads can cost as much as three hundred dollars!

## GAME CONDUCT

All the work and effort is put forth for one primary objective: to win the football game. We expect you to win, but more importantly, we expect to play to our maximum abilities regardless of the score, time remaining in the game, or the opposition.

We have the best pre-game warm-up in Texas and this is important, because it illustrates our class from the moment we step onto the field until we walk off when the game is over.

### REMEMBER:

1. You are a Porter Spartan and you are a winner. You are the best prepared football team in the state and you will prove it in the next three hours.
2. Our pre-game warm-up is important. Take great pride in it. The warm-up is used to get ready to play a game both mentally and physically.
3. Captains, always check the bench on penalties.
4. Never lose your poise.
5. Be kind to the officials -- address them as Sir or Mister.
6. Do not talk to your opponents in a derogatory manner. You are bigger and better than that.
7. Encourage your teammates and help them up.
8. Remember that the momentum is always coming our way. Don't get discouraged if the breaks go against us; they'll even up.
9. Do not sit down during time-outs.
10. Never come off the field unless someone comes in for you and tells you that you are out.
11. Never go on the field unless sent there by the coach.
12. Always play with enthusiasm.
13. Play with intelligent recklessness.
14. Always have your head gear with you while you are on the sidelines.
15. Don't let adversity destroy your desire to win.
16. If you are injured, make every attempt to get up and shake it off. If you cannot get up and continue to play or make it to the sidelines, we will call a time-out and carry you off the field.
17. Always sprint on and off the field.

## TEAM TRAVEL

On all our team travel, we will attempt to make it a memorable and an educational experience. However, we must constantly keep in mind that our primary purpose is to win the football game. We will attempt to have a good a time as possible, but we must get ourselves ready mentally to play as well as we possibly can. There will be no tourists on our trips. (Players with sunglasses and a camera who know they aren't going to play.)

Remember the following while traveling:

1. Check and pack all your gear. We won't have enough spares for everybody.
2. Be prompt. If you are late, you will be left. Attendance is not taken before we leave.
3. Do not miss a meeting or a team meal.
4. No funny hats, etc.
5. You will receive a game shirt and these will be the only shirts you wear on the trip.
6. No loud or boisterous conduct on the trip. Remember why we are here.
7. Singing AFTER a win is permitted. The night before a game, until kickoff, I like quiet players who are thinking about winning the game.
8. Do not eat a lot of junk food. I like a very quiet pre-game meal as well as bus trip to the game.
9. Everyone will return with the rest of the team, with very few exceptions.

## **WEIGHT ROOM RULES**

1. Shirt, shoes, and shorts are required in the weight room when using the equipment.
2. Have a spotter present when doing heavy free bar exercises.
3. Do not move weight equipment from its designated area.
4. All weights have a rack they are to be kept on; put them back on this rack (in the proper order.)
5. Do not bring basketballs, footballs, etc. or any other foreign objects into the weight room area.
6. You are in the weight room to lift, not to play tag or other games. You will only distract someone else from his workout by doing so.
7. Do not bring soda bottles or cans into the weight room area.
8. No horseplay of any kind will be allowed.
9. Weight belts will be the responsibility of the coach or player who unlocks them.
10. Weight room equipment must stay in the weight room at all times.
11. No spitting on the floor.
12. Keep feet off the walls at all times.

**DO YOUR BEST**

**WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS TO BE?**

**HOW GOOD DO YOU WANT TO BE?**

**AVERAGE - You can be...**

**PRETTY GOOD - You can be!**

**GREAT - YOU CAN BE!**

**YOUR CHOICE - WE HAVE THE COACHES TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE  
YOUR GOALS**

The key factor in an effective football team is everybody doing the best they can on every single play. A total all-out effort every time the ball moves. Football is the toughest game there is... physically it is the most demanding. You have to be a MAN to play. Anybody can play when they feel good or fresh. It is something else to go all out 5, 6, or even 8 straight plays - but yet keep going one more - two more, etc. The break-off point is what I call a "quitting down". At what point do you not give your best? Do you just go three or five plays before you come to your "quitting down"? No one can tell, but you will know, the first time and every time you don't make the big effort.

Everyone goes like heck the first play and maybe the next, but somewhere along the line we have a problem. Three guys are tired, so they don't go all-out. On the next play they are rested, so they go all-out this time, but two others who weren't tired before coast a little. Now we get a mixture... we have to prevent this from happening.

We must have consistency of performance. Football is not a game played against an opponent, football is instead a game played against yourself. The purpose of the game is to find out what kind of man you are; to find out about yourself. It doesn't matter if you are a super athlete or a mediocre athlete, if you do your best that you can at all times, without "quitting downs", when you have conquered yourself, then you have WON! When you believe this, you will be consistent and obviously our team will be very effective. Avoid having ups and downs, and you can be champions... if that is your choice.

**DEFINITION OF A WINNER:** The athlete who can push himself the furthest once the effort becomes painful. When you have suffered for something, you won't surrender before completing the work.

## DO RIGHT

In our everyday life, this is how we should distinguish RIGHT from WRONG in our words and actions.

1. Words and actions should help to unite, not to divide the members of our team.
2. They should be beneficial and not harmful to our goals.
3. They should help to consolidate and not undermine the rules and regulations necessary for successful team effort.
4. They should help strengthen and not weaken the leadership of our team.
5. Our words and actions at all times should be beneficial and not harmful when interrelated to our friends and fans who support the team.

**SUMMARY:** Gripping and complaining by a few can keep everybody unhappy. Unfortunately, even a very few, one or two, can create confusion, distract from our goals and weaken our effort. These undermine and weaken our attitudes and can and must be resolved among yourselves by persuasion and education. Suppression will not succeed. Any mistakes by a few must be criticized and eliminated by the majority whenever they crop up.

You must truly take a stand for the best interests of the team. If you and the team don't handle them properly and if you and the team relax your guard, the unhappy complaints will grow and eventually destroy any chance of team success.

Sincere feeling by a team member pertaining to what he might consider as unjust should be brought to the attention of the team leaders or the coaching staff.

If we follow through with this, team effort will be of such magnitude that success will be inevitable.

## **PORTER SPARTAN'S IMMEDIATE GOALS**

### 1. STRONG FEELING AMONG ALL OF US

OFFENSE FOR DEFENSE  
DEFENSE FOR OFFENSE  
UPPERCLASSMEN FOR UNDERCLASSMEN  
UNDERCLASSMEN FOR UPPERCLASSMEN  
COACHES FOR PLAYERS  
PLAYERS FOR COACHES

### 2. PRACTICE TO BE THE BEST TEAM IN THE STATE

### 3. PRACTICE SO AS TO OUT-CONDITION EVERY OPPONENT AND TO HAVE THE BEST FUNDAMENTALS OF EVERY OPPONENT

### 4. STRIVE TO GIVE MAXIMUM EFFORT AT ALL TIMES

### 5. PLEDGE TO EARN RESPECT OF YOUR TEAMMATES

### 6. PROMISE COMPLETE HONESTY AT ALL TIMES

### 7. HUSTLE AT ALL TIMES!!!!

# **PORTER SPARTAN'S FOOTBALL LEADERSHIP GUIDE**

## **PART I. INTRODUCTION:**

Leadership is measured by this yardstick: Do your men perform well and willingly for you, the leader?

The greatest need of the Spartan football team in this or any other year is an abundance of good leaders in all three classes. They are needed during the off-season, spring practice, pre-season training, as well as during the season. They are needed during the building and developing of individual skills during the phase of putting these skills together into a team, and they are needed during each game we play. However, the most important class is our seniors. In order for us to be successful, our seniors must play the best football of their career.

During the period, our leaders will develop confidence, pride, esprit de corps, and morale. In a game our team will know what to do, how to do it, and have confidence that they can do it.

One of the greatest contributions a player can make to the Spartan football team today is to become a good leader. Assuming a role as a leader is a most satisfying experience. An opportunity to be a leader is a privilege and a challenge. It should be approached with confidence, because nearly all players of good character, reasonable intelligence, reasonable physical skills, and ambition can learn to be good leaders. The need on this team for good leaders is great and the opportunities are unlimited.

Being a good leader involves no mysterious methods, nor profound philosophical approaches. It is all quite simple and reasonable. The young player expects and wants to do the right thing. Improper behavior generally springs from ignorance. If a player does something wrong, a good leader simply tells him or shows him how to do it right. This applies on and off the field, and in and out of the classroom, and on and off our campus. We as coaches and you as leaders of this squad must believe that all players mean to do the right thing until it is proven otherwise.

Each man on this football team wants the confidence and approval of his teammates. He wants to learn and he wants to succeed.

Most men are subject to the same basic drives: (1) Self-respect, (2) Pride, (3) Acceptance by peers, (4) Ambition, (5) Morale, (6) Reward or success, (7) Failure or punishment.

Our players expect to be led by the coaches and our squad leaders. Our young players will look up to you. They respect your playing abilities and knowledge of the game of football. You have a certain amount of authority going for you at this point. The initial advantage is yours, if you use it properly.

# LEADERSHIP GUIDE

## PART II: What is a leader?

A leader is one fitted by force of ideas, character, or by strength of will or administrative ability to arouse, incite, and direct men in conduct and achievement.

## PART III: What is leadership?

Leadership is the part of imposing one's will upon others in such a manner as to command their respect, their confidence, and their whole-hearted cooperation. It is the art by which others are caused to carry out the will or decision of the leader. **THERE MUST BE DISCIPLINE.** Leadership is the art of getting things accomplished. Leadership requires a man of principles. We need to know what our rules of conduct are, make sure they are right, and then stick to them. No matter how technically proficient a team may be, or how strong or fast, unless the leaders and every member of this squad have first the knowledge and second the determination to comply with rules, accomplishment of victory and goals will be the most difficult to reach. This applies to rules off the field, campus, classroom, cafeteria, community, as well as the on-the-field disciplines of each individual's assignment in a particular offensive play or defensive call. Good leadership will help our players to comply with rules willingly and whole-heartedly. It must be remembered that success does not come easily. There must be iron determination within our leaders.

# LEADERSHIP GUIDE

## PART IV: Primary factors of a good leader.

There are five primary factors which a man must possess if he is to develop as a leader. If he is lacking noticeable in even one, he will fail as a leader.

1. **CHARACTER.** First and most important. A man of character is able always to determine right from wrong, and has the courage to adhere to the right. He is a man of honor. A man to be trusted. A man of his word. It has been stated this way: "No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character."
2. **THE POWER OF DECISION.** A leader must possess the power of decision which includes several capacities.
  - A. He must possess judgment so that after considering all the factors affecting the problem, and the ways to solve it, he will determine the best or certainly a workable solution.
  - B. Reasoning must be sound if good judgment is to be attained.
  - C. He must be foresighted so that the actions or reactions concerning his decision may be foreseen.
  - D. Capacity of determining the important things and of doing the first things first.
  - E. Last, and perhaps most important, is having the strength of character to make decisions at the proper time: The time which will attain the necessary results.

**The power of decision is the vision to see that which needs to be done, and how and when to do it.**

3. **THE WISDOM TO PLAN AND ORDER:** Once a decision is reached, the next step is the development of a plan to implement it. This plan should cover:
  - A. What is to be done?
  - B. Who will do it?
  - C. Where will it be done?
  - D. When will it be done?
  - E. How will it be done?
4. **THE COURAGE TO ACT:** The leader who has the power of making sound decisions, and plans based upon his decision, may still be far from achieving his goals unless he possesses the decisive attributes. **HE MUST POSSESS THE COURAGE TO ACT!** To make the start, follow the planned course, see it through to completion. The leader must know the right things to do, and possess the strength of character to do it, despite all the costs, the hardships, and the hazards. The courage to act when action is required is of utmost importance.
5. **THE CAPACITY TO MANAGE:** Simply means making the best of what you have in order to get what is needed. Create the feeling of working "with", rather than working "for".

# LEADERSHIP GUIDE

## PART V: THE MARKS OF GOOD LEADERSHIP

The manner of executing good leadership varies as the men on our squad vary. It is simply a matter of results.

**1. THE LEADER MUST KNOW HIS JOB:** A squad leader must know his job. He should be skilled in the techniques of his position to the fullest of his physical and mental abilities. Our leaders must be able to identify that which needs to be done or is required to be done. Knowing your positions allows others to gain confidence in you. Self-confidence makes it easier for others to follow you. Knowledge is a fundamental of leadership.

**2. THE LEADER MUST BE A GOOD TEACHER:** This is the job to be done and this is the way to do it. Therefore, the leader observes, corrects, advises, and stimulates. Teaching, or imparting acquired knowledge to others, may be the highest human art, for without it all knowledge would be lost, and all progress stopped. This is where our upperclassmen help out young players. You know the job to be done and you know how to do it. You must help teach these people what is expected of them on and off the field.

**3. THE LEADER MUST DISPLAY COURAGE:** Courage is merely having the strength of character to choose the proper way to do something. It could be more dangerous or more difficult or more unpleasant--but a leader will do it in preference to the easier paths which entice lesser men to failure. In dealing with your teammates, it takes great courage to say, "That which you are doing is incorrect, and this is the way to do it correctly." This is needed, however, if we are going to attempt to help each other and maintain consistency throughout our organization.

**4. THE LEADER MUST DISPLAY CAPACITY TO GET THINGS DONE:** About the best reputation a player can build is to have it said of him that he GETS THE JOB DONE. They are "can do" people. "You cannot build your reputation on things you are going to do." People will respect you and turn to you for help if they know that you know what needs to be done and they see you doing those things.

**5. THE LEADER MUST SET THE EXAMPLE:** Our leaders must set the standards in all things. They must demonstrate self-confidence in being able to get the job done successfully. Doubt in the mind of the leader will undoubtedly raise up doubts in the minds of those who look up to you. "He practices to win, and he plays to win." Can this be said of you? The principle of setting the standard applies to the little things as well. Courtesy and respect to those we deal with in the training room, equipment room, cafeteria, classroom, etc., set the standard in promptness for class, meetings, practices, etc., set the standard for enthusiasm and eagerness to learn and work on the field. In these areas, our leaders must step to the front.

## THE MARKS OF GOOD LEADERSHIP

6. **THE LEADER MUST KNOW THE MEN TO BE LED:** Personal acquaintances with as many members of our squad as possible. The closer the personal friendships that grow up between members of our squad, the stronger the squad will be. It is difficult to convince squad members that everyone is of importance to the team. This concept can be easier to teach if friendships exist. Remember, "Every man is of importance to himself." Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "If men can naturally and without restraint talk to each other, the products of their resourcefulness become available to all. Moreover, out of the habit grows mutual respect and confidence, a feeling of partnership that is the essence of esprit de corps."

7. **THE LEADER MUST BE DETERMINED:** What is needed on this team are people who feel, "All I know for sure is that the job is going to get done." We need men who can see the right course, then drive on with determination to its final achievement. It is this drive to succeed that will bring the Kingwood to the top of District standings and the state championship.

8. **THE LEADER MUST POSSESS FORESIGHT:** What is meant here is the ability to know what will likely confront the leader this afternoon, tomorrow, next week, or next month. A feel for this will avoid surprises and careless spur-of-the-moment thinking. Spend time thinking and evaluate your actions before acting.

9. **THE LEADER MUST POSSESS INITIATIVE:** "I will find a way or make one." How often has it been said "He's a winner--he finds a way to get the job done." It is the ability to see a necessary objective and to stay with the task until it is accomplished. Initiative should be rewarded by superiors.

10. **THE LEADER MUST BE CONSISTENT:** Needless change in attitudes causes confusion and leads to lack of confidence. Let your teammates know just what they can expect out of you each day.

11. **THE LEADER MUST BE CALM IN A CRISIS:** A player who shows lack of confidence in a critical situation will communicate that feeling to his teammates. Don't depart from the thing that counts -- doing your very best at all times and believing you will get the job done.

12. **THE LEADER MUST EXCEL IN TEAMWORK:** Teamwork is action coordinated with others. Taking your talents and realizing that they must be blended with the talents of your teammates in order for the unit to function effectively.

13. **THE LEADER MUST BE ADEPT IN OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES:** When nothing seems right, remember your sense of humor. Have a good laugh, then get back to the job. Somehow true leaders always seem to rise out of the mud.

## **THE MARKS OF GOOD LEADERSHIP**

14. **THE LEADER MUST REQUIRE DISCIPLINE:** First require it of yourself, and then your teammates. The disciplined group of men will each do their full share, so that the team will achieve its goals and objectives. A player can best require discipline of his teammates by inspiration -- by making clear the reasons our goals are important. It takes a disciplined team to play in a tight game -- perhaps scoreless, perhaps tied, or ahead or behind by a few points -- but who will each continue to do his part, knowing that this is the only way our ultimate goal can be reached -- that being to win a victory. "He that has learned to obey will know how to command."

15. **THE LEADER MUST ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY:** The leader is responsible for all that his team does -- or fails to do. Don't be afraid to say, "It was my fault," and to praise your teammates in times of success.

16. **THE LEADER MUST BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE:** He has the ability to get along with seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen alike. He is accepted in group gatherings off the field as well as on.

### **THE HUMAN SIDE OF LEADERSHIP:**

1. Depend first upon yourself.
2. Keep authority in the background -- be yourself.
3. Work "with" your teammates.
4. Of all influences over the acts on conducts of your teammates, there are none so far-reaching as PRIDE.
5. Pride: Feeling by an individual in himself, his progress, the value of his work, and the excellence of his conduct.
6. After individual pride is developed, group pride -- esprit de corps -- will follow.

## PART VI: CONCLUSION:

### YOU AS A LEADER OF THE SPARTAN FOOTBALL TEAM:

1. **Developing Pride:** Be certain that you, yourself, have pride--

- a. in the fact that you are the leader of this team
- b. proud of your jersey and your headgear
- c. proud of the team that you are a part of
- d. proud of the Porter football history and tradition
- e. proud of the traditions of Porter
- f. proud of being here with purpose: of getting a diploma, playing for the Spartans and leaving here as a man
- g. proud of our great country and the ideas for which it stands
- h. proud of the work that each of you is doing, and realizing that it is extremely valuable to the team and necessary for success of the team.

Players must be proud of the team to a degree where they will fight to protect it and its reputation. Our players must be proud of their individual position, their group, and the entire Spartan football program.

2. **Esprit de Corps:** The common spirit pervading the members of a body or association of people. It implies sympathy, enthusiasm, devotion, and disregard of the individual for the sake of the group.

3. **Morale:** The collective state of mind of our team. What we think, feel, and believe constitutes morale, whether good or bad.

**Morale** then is:

**A. Confidence:** Obtained when players are certain in their own minds that they know their jobs well -- that in a game they WILL win.

**B. Courage:** Is born of confidence. A man is courageous when he knows what to do and what is expected of him.

**C. Enthusiasm:** Comes from appreciation of how worthwhile the cause is -- that reward will follow outstanding achievement, all accompanied by determination to get on with the task and have it ended.

Finally, can you as a leader honestly make these statements?

1. The Spartans are the best football team in the country.
2. The (your group here) is going to be the best part of the Spartan team.
3. The (your position here) are going to be the best part of the (unit).
4. I am going to be the best (your position here) that ever played for the Spartans.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

1. Help your child attend every function on time.
2. Be involved and as active as possible.
3. Be positive about the program and all involved. This should be a great and fun experience.
4. If you have any questions or concerns about the program, please communicate that with the coaches and not the players. Negative opinions and comments never build up a program!
5. Never hesitate to call or e-mail a coach.
6. Never address and issue of yours or your child's unhappiness immediately after a contest win or lose.
7. We will always visit with you about your child and what their strengths are and what they need to do to improve. We will NEVER discuss actual playing time or visit about other teammates.
8. Not every player can be a starter. Only the coaching staff will make decisions on who will start and who will play. Please remember that every player has a role, whether the starter or back up.
8. **SCHOLARSHIPS.** Scholarships are very hard to receive. We take great pride in helping our players in this process. We will always do whatever we can to help you child achieve some type of scholarship if you and he are interested. Please remember why we should be playing the game!

**SPARTAN FOOTBALL**

**I, (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_, HAVE  
READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PORTER SPARTAN  
FOOTBALL HANDBOOK.**

Athletes Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_