

# Steele Lady Knights

## Softball Handbook

**2020**



This handbook is to be your guide and help answer many of your questions. We are looking forward to this new season. We hope to be the best we can be which will require hard work, leadership and, most importantly, working together as a team. All girls interested in playing softball this season will have an equal chance to make a team. Keep in mind that being a member on one of these teams is a privilege and players must recognize the responsibilities, expectations, and behaviors that go along with their membership. We want to thank the administration, teachers, fellow coaches, officials, players, parents, and everyone who will be involved. We hope to make this season one to remember.

## **Philosophy**

**The primary goal of the Steele Lady Knights Softball Program (SLK) is to develop student athletes of character and integrity who will serve as positive members of the school community and the greater society. As a program, our goal is to create an environment where student athletes are able to grow individually in order to have a greater impact and contribution to the team. Our mission is to establish a softball program with a tradition of sustained excellence, both athletically and academically. The SLK coaching staff will be dedicated to maximizing an athlete's performance and to prepare them to play collegiate athletics, if they so choose.**

## **Contact Information:**

**Coach Michelle Uribe (Head Coach)**

**[muribe@scuc.txed.net](mailto:muribe@scuc.txed.net)**

**Office: 210-619-4041**

**Cell: 210.535.0956 (emergency only)**

**Coach Ron Gearhart**

**[rgearhart@scuc.txed.net](mailto:rgearhart@scuc.txed.net)**

**Coach Alexis Walkden**

**[awalkden@scuc.txed.net](mailto:awalkden@scuc.txed.net)**

**Trainers:**

**Coach Schwertner & Coach Culberson**

**[dschwertner@scuc.txed.net](mailto:dschwertner@scuc.txed.net)**

**[kculberson@scuc.txed.net](mailto:kculberson@scuc.txed.net)**

**Office: 210-619-4045**

**Steele Assistant Athletic Coordinator:**

**Coach Chatman**

**[jchatman@scuc.txed.net](mailto:jchatman@scuc.txed.net)**

**Steele Athletic Coordinator:**

**Coach Saenz**

**[dsaenz@scuc.txed.net](mailto:dsaenz@scuc.txed.net)**

**Office: 210-619-4042**

## **Who should I contact??**

- **Question about practice:**  
**Player contacts her coach**
- **Question about game:**  
**Player contacts her coach**
- **Organization about events, directions:**  
**Player or parent contacts her coach, or Steele Softball web page**
- **Player Injury:**  
**Player or parent contacts the trainer and coach**
- **Absence from practice:**  
**Player contacts her coach prior to missing**
- **Lack of Understanding of anything during season or offseason:**  
**Player contacts her coach.**  
**If not resolved, parent contacts her coach.**
- **Chain of command:**  
**1) Player communicates with coach, 2) parent sets up meeting with coaches**  
**If not resolved, issues are referred to 3) Steele Athletic Coordinator or Mrs. Cervantes**

## **Parent Communication**

- 1. Coaches and Parents will maintain a professional relationship.**
- 2. Parents are not to communicate with their daughter during competition.**
- 3. The coaching staff will not accept calls or any type of communication from any parent immediately after competition.**
- 4. Parents are invited and encouraged to schedule a conference, provided that their player has already met with her coach and the issue was not resolved. Playing time and strategy will not be discussed.**
- 5. Players should be in attendance at all conferences.**
- 6. During conferences, no other player or parent will be discussed.**

### **Parent Support: How Can I help??**

**Parents need to be careful in what kind of assistance they provide to players and coaches due to UIL rules. Therefore, parents need to provide support as part of the Steele Knights Booster Club.**

# Practice and Game Attendance

1. **Players are expected to attend every practice, including holidays, as well as be on time.**
2. **If the athlete cannot fulfill the practice and game schedule, she should not participate in the Lady Knight Softball program.**
3. **Any player, who is going to miss a practice for any reason, must call/text her coach BEFORE practice begins. If a player is going to miss a game, she must inform her coach at least two weeks in advance except in cases of an emergency.**
4. **There will be a consequence for being late to practice or missing practice, regardless of reason.**
5. **If an absence is considered unexcused, the player will have a conference with the coach, additional conditioning, and/or make up practice. This will be determined on an individual basis.**
6. **If an absence is known before the season begins, the player must communicate this to the coaches.**
7. **Several days of missed practice, in part or in whole, could result in possible dismissal from the team.**
8. **JV players will stay and watch the varsity games together as a team.**
9. **Varsity players will sit together and watch JV games until it is time to start warming up.**
10. **Players will not use cell phones during games or practice. In case of emergency, player may see the nearest coach.**

**\*\*PLAYERS DECIDE WHO PLAYS BASED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE EACH DAY IN PRACTICE!!! Playing time, as well as starting positions, may vary due to recent practice performance.\*\***

## Policies and Procedures

### Travel:

**Members of the softball program will always travel with the team to and from any game or team activity. The only possible exceptions to this policy are: another extra-curricular activity or a family emergency. The athlete's parent must be present to sign out their daughter. While traveling, the athlete must dress appropriately and act in a respectable manner. We will represent Steele High School with pride and class at all times.**

### Bus Policies:

**No cell phones will be used on the way to games. This time is for preparation and team bonding. Bus is to remain clean. All garbage must be picked-up and disposed of. Always respect the bus rules and bus driver. Thank them after each trip.**

### Grades:

**Grades will be checked on a regular basis. If at any time a player is struggling in any class, your coach will discuss this with you and give you a week to make improvements. If a player does not make the necessary improvements, there will be extra conditioning after practice and/or mandatory study hall. All players are expected to pass all classes all the time.**

### **Injuries:**

**When an athlete is injured and emergency treatment is not required, the athlete will be referred to the athletic trainer for evaluation. Please have a Steele High School athletic trainer evaluate all injuries first. They will then refer you to your family physician if necessary. The trainer will work with the physician to establish a rehabilitation program for the athlete. The athlete will not be allowed to participate until the physician releases her in writing. Injured players will still be required to attend every practice and game as an observer. In the event of an emergency, an ambulance will be called. Communication with Coach Uribe about all injuries will go through the athletic trainers. Players are to report the injury to the athletic trainers, and they will make all decisions regarding activity and then report to Coach Uribe. Coach Uribe will not take any action until the athletic trainers give their direction. If any injury occurs and there is not a Steele High School athletic trainer the on-site trainer will be the evaluator.**

### **Signings:**

**Our athletic department will host 3 college signing dates to celebrate our seniors who are fortunate enough to earn an athletic scholarship. Those signing dates are subject to change dependent upon NCAA scheduling. Typically, we will have one in November, one in February, and one in late Spring. \*Any senior who wishes to be included in those signings must be a part of our program at Steele High School and must have finished the season in good standing with our program.**

## **Player Expectations**

- 1. Follow attendance policy**
- 2. Graduate with the highest grades possible**
- 3. Strive to reach maximum potential as an athlete**
- 4. Believe that the team is more important than the individual**
- 5. Conduct oneself in a way which reflects positively on the Lady Knights Softball Program**
- 6. All equipment and facilities should be left better than found**
- 7. Treat others with respect**
- 8. Be coachable and follow directions**
- 9. No jewelry will be worn during practice or games**
- 10. No cell phones will be allowed during practice or games**

### **Consequences for not meeting expectations:**

**Failure to meet any of these expectations could result in, but not limited to: Extra conditioning for the individual, extra conditioning for the team, conference with Coach Uribe, suspension from competitive and team functions, suspension from team travel, and removal from the team.**

## The Commandments of Softball Parents

1. Be positive. Let your daughter know she is accomplishing something by simply being a part of the team.
2. Be an enthusiastic Fan. Please represent Steele High School in a positive manner. Degrading any team member, opponent, coach, fan, or official, is not representative of the tradition we want to established.
3. Support the Coaches. The coaches represent the authority directing this team. They are professionals and do not make decisions based on personal biases. When the parents support the coaches, the players will follow suit.
4. Emphasize Academics. Insist that your daughter does her best in the classroom.
5. Assure your daughter that her role is important. All players are important. By working her hardest, your daughter will improve the team as a whole regardless on the amount of playing time.
6. Encourage your daughter to follow all team policies. We, as coaches, expect more from our athletes than the average student. The more sacrifice one makes for the team, the more the team will mean to her.
7. Parents must be team players also. Be careful about developing envy toward other players because of their performances. Parent jealousy can and will devastate a team.
8. Expect your daughter to take responsibility for her actions. Give her all the credit for her accomplishments and encourage her to continue to excel. Allow your daughter to prepare herself for some real-life experiences of success as well as some failures. Help her to turn her excuses into positive goals to achieve.
9. Strive to understand the team concept. You as a parent are a vital part of our team. When we are all believing in each other and supporting each other, all things are possible.
10. Offer time and support to the team and the booster club completely with unselfish motives. Parent involvement does not result in decision making powers within the program or playing time for your daughter. Being a part of the booster club is of course voluntary and should never be joined with either of these motives in mind.

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The SLK Handbook contains important information about our program. We have read and understand the SLK handbook. We also agree to comply with the policies contained in this handbook.

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

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Date

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Parent email

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Parent Phone

