



**The HEAT is not just about athletics. No, the HEAT is about how we carry ourselves, how our character develops, and about how we grow as leaders and citizens through serving others to make our community...our world better.**

**- SF HEAT Student-Athlete**

June 28, 2011

Dear Families:

The South Florida HEAT (Home Education Athletic Teams) is an FHSAA accredited, 501(3c) organization that was formed in 2004 to provide home-schooled athletes with an opportunity to compete in interscholastic sports. What began with 20 athletes competing in track and field has swelled to include more than 150 athletes competing on over a dozen teams in 9 different sports, band, and cheerleading.

While recognizing the unique gifts that kids gain from competitive team activities, we did not fully anticipate the social and spiritual growth of our athletes, their families, and our surrounding community. As HEAT families and alumni will attest, a few of the benefits of competitive team athletic s includes:

- Self-esteem
- Problem Solving
- Communication Skills
- Honor
- Conditioning
- Goals
- Dreams-to-action
- Ethics & Morals
- Collaboration
- Stewardship
- Personal Growth
- Teamwork
- Respect for Authority
- Sportsmanship
- Competitive Maturity
- Perseverance
- Reliability
- Accountability
- Trust
- Humility
- Discipline

Additionally, there are several important items for you to be aware of, including:

- Each student-athlete and their parent(s) are expected to review and sign acknowledgments pertaining to guidelines for both parent and student behavior regarding participation in HEAT activities.
- E-mail is a vital communication link and should be monitored frequently during the course of the day when your student-athlete is currently participating in a HEAT activity. We also respectfully request your prompt response to inquiries as many people, both within and outside of the HEAT, are typically relying on our timeliness.

- Our website is located at [www.sfheat.net](http://www.sfheat.net). You will find information about your sport season, latest HEAT News, Weekly Schedule, Monthly Calendar, Community Ministry & Development News, etc. The website will also have the updated Sport Direction Guide and Sport Schedules in case you need another copy of one of these. We do not put the Sport Family Rosters online. Most families find it convenient and necessary to keep a copy of this at home and in their car in case you need to make contact while in route.
- The Sport Family Roster is Confidential and is to be used only for contact purposes of individuals on the team. All emails that you would like to be sent to the team or HEAT family must be sent to either the Athletic Director or the Email Coordinator.
- We have also created a secure photo sharing site for an unlimited number of HEAT pictures. In addition to sharing, photos may be downloaded or printed off the site. The site may be accessed through [www.sfheat.net](http://www.sfheat.net).
- The HEAT student-athletes have also embarked on numerous community ministry activities as they apply leadership and citizenship lessons learned from competitive athletics toward improving our communities. Some of these activities, as well as contact information, are noted on our website.
- Lastly, we encourage you to search out volunteer opportunities within the HEAT so we can share this amazing ministry with many more as we watch our kids learn and grow. Please check our website or give me a call to discuss your interests and HEAT ministry needs.

We want to welcome you to the HEAT family with open arms. Whether parent or child, coach or competitor, we all grow as a result of being faithful stewards of this ministry.

Continued Blessings,

Bob Bemis, Executive/Athletic Director



### Mission

The mission of the SF HEAT is to provide a competitive team-based ministry to benefit our South Florida community at large.

Our goals include the development of competitive athletic and academic teams that will edify leadership and citizenship:

- Personal and team development with high ethics and sportsmanship;
- Victory and Defeat with honor, integrity, reliability, loyalty, respect for others, self-control, and encouragement for others; and
- A service ministry for community members through effective team work and leadership of our student-athletes.

The South Florida HEAT  
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 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
 Phone 954-801-7507  
[www.sfheat.net](http://www.sfheat.net)



June 28, 2011

Re: Student-Athlete Participation Guidelines

Dear Student-Athlete:

We are happy you have expressed a desire to participate in the athletic program of the South Florida HEAT. As a member of one of our athletic teams, you will have a unique opportunity to make lasting friendships, develop athletic skills, demonstrate sportsmanship (e.g., respectful of competitors & authorities, including coaches and officials, etc), and learning the value of team philosophy (e.g., selflessness) while competing against student-athletes from other FHSAA accredited schools.

The South Florida HEAT coaches and Athletic Director are proud of our athletic program and the many contributions our student-athletes have made in building a strong sense of community. We expect each student-athlete will embrace the HEAT's tradition of outstanding sportsmanship, citizenship, and fair play by maintaining the highest standards of personal behavior. Further, athletes must remain in good standing academically in order to continue participation with the HEAT. With this in mind, student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit and intent of the following guidelines:

#### Student-Athlete Participation Guidelines

South Florida HEAT is a Christian Athletic Association and our behavior and dress will be a positive representation to each other, our competitors, and our community. Any questions should be directed to your coach or Athletic Director.

In particular, team members will:

- Demonstrate outstanding competitive maturity including positive and uplifting communication both on and off the field/court. Bad language including profanity, taunting, sexual innuendos, and tearing down of teammates, opponents, or authority figures is unacceptable. Failure to meet this standard of behavior will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the team and possible all HEAT activities;
- Student-athletes will demonstrate an understanding that individual recognition and accomplishments are the result of teamwork;

- Maintain uncompromising respect for coaches, referees, and other authority figures. If you have problems or concerns, we encourage you to discuss them privately with your coach or athletic director;
- Respect and care for property and equipment, whether personal, teammates, team, or opponents and please note that student-athletes will be billed for all equipment or uniforms that are lost, damaged, or stolen;
- Attend all practices, contests, and team meetings, on a timely basis;
- Remain at practice until dismissed by the coach;
- With the exception of an emergency, student-athletes will request to be excused from practice or a contest at least 24-hours prior to that contest or practice that will be missed;
- Failure to attend a scheduled practice or contest without notifying your coach may result in student-athletes non-participation up to and including removal from the team;
- Verbal or physical displays of affection that are of a romantic or of a sexual nature are strictly forbidden;
- Unless otherwise instructed by your coach, student-athletes must wear HEAT practice shirts or t-shirts without any questionable slogans or graphics for practices and game uniforms for contests;
- Student-athlete use or possession of a controlled substance (alcoholic beverages, inhalants, illegal drugs, or steroids) may result in dismissal from the team and all HEAT activities;
- Abide by all FHSAA rules & requirements.

The SF HEAT is both excited and honored to have you joining our program. We welcome your inquiries as well as suggestions for how we can better serve home school athletes and their families.

Continued Blessings,

Bob Bemis  
Coach/Athletic Director



June 28, 2011

Re: Parent Conduct Guiding Principals

Dear HEAT Parents:

The role of the parent in the education, including education through athletics, of a student-athlete is vital and the HEAT coaches and organization are honored that you have chosen to allow us to be a part of your child's growth. The value system and support that is within the home enables the student-athlete to accept and flourish within the wonderful learning opportunities that are uniquely available through competitive team activities. As our programs and ministry through athletics continues to gain momentum, we want to take the opportunity to share with you some important parental responsibilities in assisting with the growth of our athletes.

Skill development, sportsmanship (e.g., respectful of competitors & authorities, including coaches and officials, etc), and team philosophy (e.g., selflessness) are the three critical goals of student-athlete growth at this level of competition. As important to these goals themselves, is the manner in which we as coaches and our parents teach and encourage these valuable lessons. With this in mind, below are some guiding principles in how parents are expected to conduct themselves:

#### Parent Guiding Principals

- Realize that athletics are an important arena for learning and applying valuable life lessons – lessons that go well beyond the final score of a game;
- Encourage our student-athletes to perform their best within the context of sportsmanship and team;
- Allow your student-athlete's Coach to be "The Coach". You should not be coaching or directing any student-athletes including your own during competitive action. Direct any questions or concerns that you may have to your Athletic Director;
- Participate in positive cheers that encourage our student-athletes and discourage any cheers redirecting their focus;
- Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game along with the officials who administer them. How we interact with officials: a) is life-lesson for the student-athlete, b) reflects on us as parents, c) reflects on the coaches, and d) reflects on the broader HEAT organization;
- While we hope that parents will enthusiastically cheer the kids, we expect our parents to conduct themselves honorably;
- Respect the task our coaches face as teachers and support them as they strive to educate our youth;
- Respect our opponents as student-athletes, acknowledge them for striving to do their best and treat them with courtesy; and
- Employ a sense of dignity under all circumstances.

The leadership role you take will positively influence your child, the HEAT, and our community for years to come.

Continued Blessings,

Bob Bemis  
Coach/Athletic Director



By signing this SF HEAT Agreement Form we are acknowledging that our family has received, reviewed, and agree that we will abide by the principles stated in the Parent, Student-Athlete, and Family letters during our participation in the South Florida HEAT program.

Parent(s) Acknowledgement

As the parent(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, I agree to follow the parent guiding principles  
as described above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Date

Student-Athlete Acknowledgement

I agree to follow the Student-athlete Participation Guidelines that I have received and read.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (signature) Date

(If needed, additional Student-Athlete Signatures may be added to the back of this form.)

**This form needs to be signed and sent in with your HEAT Registration Form or given to your coach or designated person during the first practice week of your first HEAT sport or activity of the school year.**