



Student — Parent Athletic Participation Information East Hamilton Middle School

Mission and Philosophy

Athletics play an integral part in the life of student athletes at East Hamilton Middle School by assisting in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals and commitment. The staff of EHMS recognizes that the athletic fields and gymnasiums are an extension of the classroom where teaching is foremost in the development of character. Interscholastic athletics is highly competitive, but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication and fair play.

Student Eligibility Requirements

1. All participants are required to have a valid annual medical physical on a TSSAA medical form and have it on file with the athletic trainer or the athletic director.
2. Student athletes are also required to have on file a parental consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student athlete has the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate in practice or athletic contests.
3. In addition to other infractions, a student may be suspended or removed from a team for unexcused absences or chronic tardiness to classes or team practices.
4. A student may not participate when he/she is serving an out-of-school suspension. The student becomes eligible to participate on the next school day following the suspension.
5. A student must meet the TSSAA academic requirements. A student must also meet the coach's requirement for academic standards. An athlete may be put on suspension or even be removed from a team if he/she is not reaching his/her potential.
6. EVERY Athlete is expected to give their best academic efforts. Coaches will monitor our athletes' academic progress throughout the entire year (in season and off season). Athletes will be held to a high standard that could involve tutoring, consequences determined by the coach, and possible missed games/matches if these standards are not met.

Team Selection

Athletes will be evaluated to determine the level of play in which each will participate. Coaches will expect athletes to perform at his/her highest level in the areas of performance, attitude and competitiveness. The official start date for each season as set forth by TSSAA rules will serve as the tryout period. The length of the tryout period will be determined by the head coach of each individual sports team. The coaching staff in each sport has sole discretion of which athletes make the team. There will be no guarantee as to the playing time for any athlete. Off-season legal issues or drug/alcohol use could prohibit an athlete from being able to try out for a team.

Sportsmanship

An important mission of the interscholastic athletics program is to teach and reinforce values relating to sportsmanship, competition and fair play. It is expected that team personnel, parents and spectators respect this mission by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events.

Assumption of Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletic activities often includes intense competition and poses the potential for serious, catastrophic or life-threatening injury. Participants and parents are urged to consider the inherent risks and hazards associated with athletic participation. Risks vary from sport-to-sport and can occur under direct supervision and with the use of proper safety equipment.

Travel

Many teams will travel to away games by bus. Parent/guardian must transport student athletes to sporting events or activities. In such cases, all parties should follow the car-pool policy, if they are transporting any student other than their child. Coaches/school are not liable for injuries that may occur when parents transport students.

Hazing

Hazing is prohibited at all times. Hazing involves any act that subjects teammates to mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule whether it is done in person, social media, or etc. In some instances hazing constitutes a criminal act. At a minimum, hazing may lead to immediate dismissal from a team.

Communication with Coaches

Parents should not attempt to address coaches before, during, or immediately after games and practices. Coaches have many post game/practice responsibilities, including supervision of players. Also, the post game/practice is often emotionally charged and not conducive to productive discussion. If a parent feels a need to communicate a concern, the parent should contact the coach and/or athletic director to arrange a later meeting via e-mail or phone.

Uniforms

All student athletes are expected to adhere to the practice uniform and game uniform requirements set forth by each coach. An athlete is never to start taking off part of the uniform, i.e. socks, shoes, etc., during a game unless instructed to do so by a coach or trainer. It is the responsibility of the athlete to take care of their uniform and return it within a week after the season ends. Uniforms must be in good repair or pay the cost of replacing it.

Chain of Command

The East Hamilton Middle School Athletic department will strictly adhere to the policy that a disgruntled parent, fan or athlete MAY NOT address a coach before, during or after a contest.

Procedures for addressing a concern:

1. If the concern starts with your child, have your child talk with the coach first.
2. Phone or e-mail the coach and request a meeting.
3. If there is no resolution, contact the Athletic Director and request a meeting.
4. If there is no resolution, contact the Principal.

****It is imperative not to confront a coach before, during or immediately after a practice or game.**

These meetings will be made by appointment at a designated date and time. The athlete will be present at all meetings between parents and coaches unless need dictates differently.

Participation Standards

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. Accordingly, students must meet certain standards in order to earn the privilege of participation. At a minimum, the following standards are required of all student athletes:

1. Exhibit public behavior that will reflect positively on the team, school and community.
2. Exhibit responsible, respectful and trustworthy behavior to teammates and the coach.
3. Exhibit responsible and respectful behavior on social media such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.
4. Exert efforts to maintain a high level of academic achievement as well as maximum effort in practice and competition.
5. Comply with all team, school, TSSAA, school system rules, regulations and policies.
6. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all team and school-related activities.
7. Attend all team functions including games, practices, study hall, service projects, team dinners, etc., unless ill or given prior permission to be absent by the coach.
8. Respect calls and decisions made by game officials.
9. Display good sportsmanship at all times.
10. Report to the coach any issues or developments that may affect eligibility status, including change of residence.

Illegal Substances/Alcohol/Tobacco/Steroids/Controlled Substances

All students at East Hamilton Middle School are expected to refrain from the use of all tobacco products, drugs and alcohol, both at school and during non-school times. Parents are responsible to oversee and monitor their student's behavior while off school grounds and are expected to take appropriate, decisive action to identify and prevent non-prescribed use of these substances by their student. EHMS staff, including coaches and administrators, is charged with the task of alerting students to the harmful effects of tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol and to take corrective action upon verification of student use of these items. The commitment to tobacco-free, drug-free, and alcohol-free behavior is especially important for those students who represent East Hamilton Middle School in any school sponsored activity. The reputation of our school and the ultimate safety and welfare of students are jeopardized if the commitment is broken.

Dismissal From or Quitting a Team

Once an athlete begins practice in a sport and his/her squad membership is terminated for a reason other than being cut due to lack of ability; he/she is ineligible to participate in any other sport during that season unless he/she is given prior approval by the athletic director and/or the school administration after a thorough investigation of the case with all involved parties. Once an athlete is on a team and voluntarily quits that team; he/she is ineligible to participate in any other sport during that season unless he/she is given prior approval by the athletic director and/or the administration.

Social Media

The use of social media, network sites, personal web pages, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, blogs, etc., are considered an extension of how one represents oneself. Pictures and/or information included on such sites will be considered accurate. Any student who posts information that is derogatory, threatening, disrespectful, or bullying towards peers, coaches, opponents, teachers, administrators, or other community members that is demonstrating/insinuating acts of drug/alcohol use, sexually inappropriateness or any other inappropriate actions will be held to the same standards as if acting in person. The consequences could include suspension or dismissal from a team and suspension from school.

Activity Probation

At the direction of the principal, an athlete may be placed on athletic probation in lieu of or in addition to other penalties when an athlete is involved in a significant breach of the general policies of the Athletic Handbook. If a second breach of general policy occurs within one calendar year of being placed on athletic probation, the athlete will be suspended from participation in the East Hamilton Middle School athletic program for a length of time to be determined by the principal.

General Discipline Policies and Procedures

The rules, policies and procedures addressed in the Athletic Handbook do not cover every possible infraction. Any infractions not listed will be covered by TSSAA, Hamilton County Schools and/or East Hamilton Middle School discipline policy and procedures. Consequences for athletes not adhering to any rule, policy or procedure will be at the discretion of the principal.

Parents, Fans, and Spectators

Any parent, fan or spectator who acts in a disruptive manner will cause the game to be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator is removed by a game official, Athletic Director, or the game administrator. As a result of such a removal, that spectator will not be allowed to return to any EHMS athletic events until they have met with the Athletic Director to discuss the length of the suspension that will ensue. Any parent, fan or spectator who berates the officials, players or coaches may be asked by the Athletic Director or game administrator to leave before play is stopped by the game official. In such a case, that spectator will not be allowed to return to any EHMS athletic events until they have met with the Athletic Director to discuss the length of the suspension that will ensue.

Any unsportsmanlike violation by a student-athlete, parent, fan, or spectator will be reported to the Principal by the game administrator within 24 hours of the incident to discuss the length of the suspension.

TSSAA fines the school \$250 for any ejection of a fan! The school may be placed on probation if a fan is ejected.

East Hamilton Middle School recognizes that the athletic fields and gymnasiums are an extension of the classrooms in which teaching is foremost in the development of character, integrity, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Parent and Student-Athlete

The student-athlete and his or her parent/guardian have received and read the "Student-Parent Athletic Participation Information". Based on this information, the student and parent/guardian understand and stipulate the following:

1. I/We understand the eligibility regulations required for participation.
2. I/We affirm that the student has satisfied all of the eligibility requirements, including age, residence and academics.
3. I/We affirm that the student will exert effort to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. I/We understand that there is potential for serious, catastrophic or life-threatening injury associated with participation in a sport.
5. I/We affirm that the student will not participate in hazing at any time or any nature.
6. I/We as a participant or spectator, will exhibit a high level of sportsmanship at contests.
7. I/We will follow appropriate procedures in communicating concerns to coaches.

8. I/We affirm the student will abide by all team and participation standards.
9. I/We affirm that the student will not use steroids, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco unless medically prescribed for a specific condition or illness.
10. I/we affirm that I/my child will use social media responsibility and refrain from posting information or pictures that promote drugs, alcohol, sex or anything else that will promote my teammates, coaches, peers or school and that I will not use social media to bully, haze or harass anyone.

East Hamilton Middle School Athletics Parent Contract

Parents are a vital part of our Athletic Department and we want to incorporate the following values of academics, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Please review this contract carefully, complete information as requested, sign and return the completed contract to the school.

Code of Conduct

- I will pledge to actively monitor my child's academic progress and reinforce the importance of academic achievement.
- I will remember that my child plays sports for his/her enjoyment, not for mine.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will inform the coach of any injury or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, sex or ability.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing and taunting or using profane language or gestures.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, or other sporting event.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will stress the importance of academics first and foremost, understanding that sports participation is a privilege available to support, not excuse classroom obligations.
- I will attend organizational meetings at the outset of sports seasons to meet coaches and learn the expectations for participation in athletics.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field and will take the time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place (parents should not approach a coach in person before, during, or after games or practices. Communication about any concerns should be a call, email, text in order to set up an in-person meeting if necessary).
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

- I will give consistent encouragement and support to my student-athlete and fellow teammates, regardless of degree of success, the level of skill or time on the field.
- I will leave coaching to the coaches, enduring not to publicly criticize coaches, strategies, or the team; nor pressure my student-athlete or coaches about playing time and performance.
- I will educate my child about responsible use of social media and will monitor my child's social media practices.
- I will respect and show appreciation for other parents who share these beliefs.
- I will be there when my child looks to the sidelines for a positive role model.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, school administrator or security officer.
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file at the school.
- Parental season suspension from events.

Parent/Guardian Contract

I/we have read the EHMS Athletic Handbook and I understand that failure to abide by the policies in the EHMS Athletic Handbook, the EHMS Student Handbook or society's laws could lead to disciplinary action by the school that could lead to being removed from an athletic team.

Signature of parent or guardian:

(Printed) Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Circle) Father/ Mother/ Grandparent/ Other

(Printed) Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Circle) Father/ Mother/ Grandparent/ Other

(Athlete) Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____