EAST PORTER COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Board Approved May 13, 2024

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you, as a student athlete at East Porter County Schools (EPCSC), with a guide to the policies and regulations involving athletics.

Athletics at EPCSC involves many people and requires much time, money, and effort. Therefore, it is important for student athletes that are involved in the program, thoroughly understand the rules, regulations, and procedures so that they may meet their responsibilities in a respectful manner. This handbook will be reviewed annually for possible changes and/or updates.

Philosophy

The single most important aspect of the EPCSC Athletic Program is the student athlete. Therefore, the athletic program must be one that provides the best opportunities for the student athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and moral character. The athletic program must be one which the student athletes, coaches, parents, community and school personnel can be proud of.

The purpose of the EPCSC Athletic Program is to provide each participant with experiences that will be positive, educational, and memorable. The student athletes will have the opportunity to learn how to cope with success and failure, how to strive toward a common goal, and how to discipline themselves. The student athlete will learn how to make sacrifices, how to accept responsibility, and how to be loyal toward any chosen endeavor.

It is the responsibility of the EPCSC Athletic Program to provide the best possible opportunity for student athletes to excel in their development and to become contributing members of our changing society. The leadership should be of the highest quality so as to exemplify to the participants the desired type of individual to be developed within the athletic program. Measurement of the success of the leadership should not be in terms of the tangible evidence of the victory and defeat record, but in the intangible character development factors that are an outgrowth of the major objectives of the athletic program.

General Guidelines

The EPCSC Student athlete is expected to represent our school and community in an exemplary manner. Students and fans look to student athletes for leadership and a model of excellence with professionalism. Therefore, good behavior and appearance is a necessity for the athlete.

- Neat in appearance and well-groomed is expected. Proper attire of the student-athlete for games and when representing the school and corporation is the responsibility of the coach and should be representative of the school and corporation guidelines.
- The student athlete must be proper in his/her manner and speech. (The use of profanity and derogatory or discriminatory comments is prohibited)
- The student athlete is expected to be cooperative, courteous, orderly, and display good citizenship on the playing field, at school, and in the community.
- All student athletes are encouraged to support each athlete, coach, and team in their school.

- Each student athlete is required to follow IHSAA regulations, EPCSC regulations, Porter County Conference regulations, and any individual regulations of the respective sport.

IHSAA Physical and Other Forms

All student athletes are required by the IHSAA rules to have a physical exam completed and on file in the Athletic Office before participating in any sport. Physical exams are the responsibility of the athlete and his/her family. A valid physical must be obtained after April 1 st to be counted for the next school year. The physical must be signed by a licensed Indiana physician. Student athletes will not be allowed to participate in open gyms, conditioning/weight room programs, practices, or games if current physicals are not on file in the athletic office. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure the student athletes have physicals on file. **ALL forms that must be signed and kept on file include:**

- IHSAA Physical form including IHSAA rule consent and Release Certificate (included with the physical form)
- EPCSC rules agreement
- Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Acknowledgment and Signature form

Two Sport Policy

It is the policy of EPCSC that a student athlete may participate in two sports simultaneously in the same season. For the purpose of the rule, Cheerleading and Poms will also be included. These seasons *may* include:

	Boys	**Girls**
Fall	Cross Country Soccer	Cross Country Volleyball Soccer Golf
Winter	Basketball	Basketball Cheerleading Poms
Spring	Track Baseball Golf Volleyball	Track Softball

If a student chooses to participate in two sports during one season, both coaches should both support and work together so that the student has positive experiences in both sports.

Scheduling Overlap When Competing on Two Teams

There will be times when contests, meets, or tourneys have schedule conflicts. Unless otherwise stated, conflict resolution will be determined by the following priorities:

- Varsity over Junior Varsity and
- Conference over non-Conference.

In the event the conflict cannot be resolved, the coaches will meet with the athletic director to determine the best scenario.

- If a practice in one sport conflicts with a practice in the other sport, a practice schedule will be collaborated between head coaches.
- If a practice in one sport conflicts with a contest, meet, or tourney in another sport, the student athlete shall compete in the contest, meet, or tourney and shall not be penalized or punished for missing practice.

Student Athletes Who Quit A Team

Any student athlete who quits a sport once the competitive season has begun shall not participate in another sport during the current season or in the next season's sport until the current season is completed. The completion of a season is defined as after the last regular season contest. Open gym and conditioning/weight room programs are prohibited until the season's completion unless the student athlete is released by that sport season's coach.

Student Athletes Who Are Suspended or Removed From A Team

A student athlete who is suspended or removed by the head coach, Athletic Director, or school administrator shall not participate in the next season sport until the season in which he/she is suspended or removed from is completed. This includes open gym and conditioning or weight room programs.

A student suspended from school (in-school or out-of-school) will also be suspended from athletic participation on those days of suspension. Students charged by civil authorities may face similar disciplinary action as explained in the substance abuse policy. Additional disciplinary action and/or sanctions may occur depending upon the nature of the student athlete's actions or conduct.

An athlete who starts a sport with a specific team has an obligation to the coach and team members of that sport. We need to maintain the integrity of each sport so that the athlete can develop a sense of responsibility for his/her actions.

School Equipment

Each student athlete is required to take care of athletic equipment. Student athletes must treat all equipment in a respectable manner. The equipment may be used only during a practice or a scheduled contest. It should not be loaned to other students or athletes or worn during school hours. A student athlete is financially responsible for any equipment checked out to him/her. Loss of uniforms is the student athletes' responsibility. Any breaking or defacing of school or athletic equipment done purposely will be paid for by the student athlete. These acts are subject to the rules of the conduct policy.

IHSAA Eligibility Rules

You **MUST** be eligible by IHSAA, corporation and school rules before participation. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, contact your athletic director or principal **BEFORE** you endanger your athletic eligibility. Participation is a privilege earned by meeting the standards set by the IHSAA, your school and conference. ALL transfer students must be cleared through IHSAA. Contact your AD immediately if you are a transfer student.

YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE INELIGIBLE IF:

- **Age**
  A student who is, or shall be 20 years old prior to, or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA State Finals in their sport shall be ineligible for any competition during the regular season prior to that tourney.
- **Amateurism**
  They play under an assumed name, they sign a professional contract, they accept money or merchandise for athletic participation.
- **Awards**
  They accept gifts or honors from colleges or their alumni, they receive in recognition of their athletic ability any award NOT approved by their high school principal or the IHSAA, they use or accept merchandise as an award, prize, gift, or loan or purchase such for a token sum.
- **Enrollment**
  - You must be enrolled in school during the first 15 days of a semester.
  - You have been enrolled in no more than 8 consecutive semesters beginning grade 9.
  - You have represented a high school in a sport for no more than 8 semesters.
- **Illness/Injury**
  You are absent five or more consecutive school days due to an illness or injury and do not present your principal written verification from a licensed physician stating that you may resume participation.
- **Participation During A Contest Season**
  - If you participate as a member of any other similar team, in the same authorized contest season, not under the direct supervision and management of your school.
  - If you participate in a try-out or demonstration as a prospective college athlete. Consult your Athletic Director or Principal.

- If you participate as a grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 student in a contest with or against a student enrolled below grade 9.
- If you are on a junior high school (grade 9) team and participate with or against a student enrolled in grade 11 or 12.
- If you participate in a demonstration, coaches school, coaches clinic, or officials clinic outside the State of Indiana. Those held in the State of Indiana must have prior approval of IHSAA.
- If you participate in specialized camps, clinics, or schools for more than 14 non-school, out of season calendar days per sport per year

- **Practice**
  You have not completed eight separate days of organized practice in a sport under the direct supervision of the high school coaching staff preceding participation in a contest unless:
  - You are coming directly from another sport from the preceding season
  - You are coming from basic training from a military branch
- **Transfer**
  Transfer from one school to another primarily for athletic reasons, or if you were not enrolled in your present high school your last semester or at a junior high school from which your high school receives its students unless:
  - You are entering 9th grade for the first time.
  - You are transferring from a high school district or territory with a bona fide move by your parents.
  - You are a ward of the court.
  - You are an orphan.
  - You reside with a parent with legal custody.
  - Your former school is closed
  - Your former school is not accredited.
  - You enrolled and/or attended, in error, the wrong school.
  - You transferred from a correctional school
  - You are emancipated.
  - Your transfer was pursuant to School Board mandate.
  - You are a foreign exchange student attending an approved NASSP program.
  - You voluntarily did not participate in any contests as a representative of another school during the preceding year.
  - You return to an IHSAA member school from a non-member school and reside with the same parents or guardians.
  - Undue Influence i.e. you have been influenced by any person to retain or secure you as a student or one or both parents or guardians as residents.

EAST PORTER COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT, RULES, AND PROCEDURES

The following rules will apply to all athletes in the East Porter County School Corporation who participate in interscholastic athletics. These rules have been announced by the principal, adopted by the school board, and are to be enforced by the coach of each team. The coach with the approval of the athletic director may establish additional rules for each specific sport. Good academic performance is required.

Academics

To be eligible to participate in athletics, East Porter County high school students must:

- Be passing all classes the previous grading period or the previous semester. Semester grades, when available, take precedence, and;
- Maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) each semester.

NOTE: In sports where the season occurs in both semesters, a student may become ineligible mid-season due to the GPA and grades during the initial grading period and semester of the season.

NOTE: Student athletes who have an F in a class at the end of the first or third nine weeks or a semester grade of F in any class or who have a GPA less than 2.0 in the previous semester will be permitted a review of their circumstances before being declared ineligible. The review will be conducted by the principal and the athletic director.

Review Academic Scenarios and Outcomes:

Scenario #1 – The student athlete had a GPA of at least 2.0 and failed one class

Scenario #2 – The student athlete had a GPA of less than 2.0 but greater than 1.66 and did not fail any classes

In each scenario, the student athlete will have limited eligibility until the mid-point of the next grading period when interim grade reports are produced. Student athletes will participate in all practices and attend all games, but will not be permitted to play in the games.

A student athlete on limited eligibility will obtain weekly progress monitoring information from each of his or her teachers. The student athlete must provide a completed monitoring sheet to the athletic director on the first day of each week. If it is found that a student athlete is not maintaining acceptable performance in his or her classes during the period of limited eligibility or in tutoring, the student athlete may be declared ineligible for the remainder of the grading period.

During the period of limited eligibility, consideration will be given to the following factors:

- Completion of assignments
- Class participation
- Effort in classes
- Participation in tutoring sessions

If at the midterm of the grading period the student meets all eligibility requirements, the student may return to full eligibility at the discretion of the athletic director.

Scenario #3 – The student athlete had a GPA of less than 2.0 and failed a class

If a student athlete had a GPA of less than 2.0 **and** failed one class, he or she will be ineligible to participate in athletics for the next grading period. During this period of ineligibility, the student athlete will participate in 120 minutes of tutoring per week in the subject area in which an F was received. The student athlete will be responsible for recording the time devoted to tutoring and obtaining verification from the teacher providing the tutoring.

Scenario #4 – The student athlete had a GPA of at least 2.0, failed one class, but the class does not continue for the next semester.

Since the student athlete is no longer enrolled in the class in which he or she received an F, the student athlete will have limited eligibility until at least the mid-point of the next grading period when interim grade reports are produced. If the student athlete meets eligibility requirements (GPA of at least 2.0 and no grades of F in any classes) at the midterm of the grading period, the student athlete will be permitted to return to full eligibility at that time.

In no case will a review of circumstances be conducted for a student athlete who has a GPA below 1.67 or who has more than one F for a class at the end of a grading period or semester. Student athletes with these performance levels will be ineligible for the next grading period and required to participate in mandatory study sessions for the duration of the grading period.

No further review or appeal of ineligibility beyond what is described here is available to student athletes.

Middle school athletes must be passing all subjects, have good citizenship, and have a Consent and Release Certificate and physical on file in the office prior to participating in practice. For grades 6-8, an “F” in any course will disqualify the student from participating in contests for a minimum period of two (2) weeks. After two weeks, grades can be re-calculated to determine eligibility. Two “F’s” in any two courses will render the student ineligible until the next grading period.

Conduct and Character

The student athlete’s conduct, in and out of school, must not reflect discredit upon the East Porter County or the IHSAA; or create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral, or educational environment in the school.

Acting in a manner that brings embarrassment or shame to yourself and/or your school, or that negatively impacts the reputation of yourself or your school will be cause for suspension or dismissal from athletics. Examples of such conduct include any illegal activity; any non-illegal activity that is lewd, vulgar, obscene, indecent, or that portrays sexual conduct done in a manner whereby the community learns of such activity (including on-line postings and social networking); or any activity that degrades, demeans, or disparages any coach, activity sponsor, school official, or student.

The East Porter student athlete should at all times represent the highest standard possible of sportsmanship, personal values, and interest in modeling positive values 365 days per year. Principals, by the administrative authority vested in them by their school corporation, may exclude such athletes from representing the school.

Proper Appearance

Proper appearance means that the student athlete is neat in appearance and well-groomed. Proper attire of the student-athlete for games and when representing the school and corporation is the responsibility of the coach of each sport and should be representative of the school and corporation guidelines.

Violations and Disciplinary Action

Violations are subject to the following disciplinary consequences and other consequences listed in the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure section as applicable:

- **First Offense**
  The athlete shall be declared ineligible for the next 50% of the season's total contracted contests for those teams on which he or she is currently a member or for the next team on which he or she would normally participate. Percentage of participation may be reduced based on honesty and diversion programs or community service. During the period of ineligibility, the player must continue to practice and attend games/matches, but may not dress out.

- **Second Offense**
  Full season contest suspension of the sport the student athlete has participated previously or would participate. If a student athlete is suspended during a current athletic season, the athlete will serve the suspension of the remainder of that sport season and during the next sports season based on a % scale for each sport.

- **Third Offense**
  The athlete will be declared ineligible for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the offense.

- **Fourth Offense**
  The student athlete will be declared ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of his or her high school career.

Substance Abuse Policy

All athletes are subject to the rules and regulations of the IHSAA, the Porter County Conference, and the East Porter County School Corporation.

Illegal Activity

An East Porter athlete must not be present at any party or event where underage drinking, use of illicit drugs or other illegal activity is taking place. Student athletes becoming aware of underage drinking, use of illicit drugs or any other illegal activity must immediately leave the party or event. If the student athlete knows ahead of time there is a likelihood of **underage drinking, use of illicit drugs or other illegal activity**, the student athlete must not attend the party or event.

Student athletes who violate this prohibition will be subject to the following disciplinary consequences:

- **First offense:**
  A student athlete who is present at an event or party where illegal activity is occurring and who is not participating in the illegal activity will be suspended from participation in one (1) athletic contest.

- **Second offense:**
  A student athlete who violates this prohibition for a second time during the same school year will be suspended from 25% of the season's total contracted contests for those teams on which the student athlete is currently a member or for the next team on which the student athlete normally participated and successfully and satisfactorily completes the season.

Substance Abuse Activity

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco (regardless of age of student athlete), and drugs and narcotics that have not been prescribed by the athlete's physician will not be used in any form or be in the possession of the student-athlete **at any time whether or not school is in session.** Substantiated violation of this rule as outlined above staff shall result in the following consequences.

Consequences for Violation of the Substance Abuse Activity

- **First Offense**
  The athlete shall be declared ineligible for the next 25% of the season's total contracted contests for those teams on which they are currently members or for the next team on which they normally participate and successfully and satisfactorily complete the season. During the period of ineligibility, the player must continue to practice and attend games/matches, but may not dress out. If the violation is of the substance abuse type,

the athlete must also meet with the Athletic Director, who after discussing the case with other appropriate personnel may make a recommendation regarding assessment. Assessment will be at the expense of the athlete or his/her parents. Failure to meet with the Athletic Director regarding assessment will result in a one-year (365 days) period of ineligibility. If the athlete meets with the Athletic Director, but fails to comply with the assessment recommendations, he/she shall still be declared ineligible for 50% of the contracted contests for those teams on which they are currently members or normally participate. The athlete may be subject to random drug testing at the request of the Athletic Director at the expense of the athlete or his/her parents.

- **Second Offense**
  The athlete will be declared ineligible for one calendar year (365 days).

- **Third Offense**
  The athlete will be declared ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of his or her high school career.

Students who are known and proven users of alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescription drugs or narcotics and have not previously been involved in the athletic program are eligible to try out for any athletic team. However, they will fall under the first offense section of these rules.

Hazing Policy

Hazing is a planned and organized intent that causes potential physical or psychological harm to an individual. Hazing incidents typically involve perpetrators (the planners and organizers), bystanders (those who participate but were not hazed or involved in the planning or organizing), and victims (those who were hazed). All involved are responsible for their behavior, but consequences will typically differ based on the seriousness of the incident and one's level of responsibility, planning, or participation.

Long Standing team or organizational traditions that are carried over from year-to-year sometimes constitute hazing. Discontinuing inappropriate traditions can be especially difficult because of pressure from within the group or from alumni. Such pressure, however, is not an excuse for unacceptable behavior; the school expects students to adhere to school policy and state law.

No policy can address, in specific fashion, all possible activities or situations that may constitute hazing. The determination of whether a particular activity constitutes hazing will depend on the circumstances and context in which that activity is occurring and that determination will be made by the athletic director, principal and other school officials. Violation of the hazing policy may subject an individual and/or recognized organization or team to disciplinary action by the school with penalties up to and including suspension or dismissal for individuals.

Philosophy

All clubs and organizations at East Porter County School Corporation have a set of values and qualities meant to support individual growth and development. At East Porter County, we value traditions, rituals, and rites of passage because they remind community members of their connections to one another and to the past and future of the school; they can build important bonds between groups and individuals. Athletic team or student organization initiations or traditions that attempt to build these bonds between members must do so in an affirming way without coercion or intimidation of any kind. In a learning community such as ours, we value lasting relationships grounded in mutual respect, not artificial connections created through shared humiliation.

Hazing is a form of victimization. Hazing consists of a broad range of activities that demonstrate disregard for another person's dignity or well-being or behaviors that may place another person in danger of physical or psychological discomfort or harm. A level of coercion is often involved, that is those being hazed felt pressure to participate in order to belong to the group or show commitment to group members.

Hazing has dangerous potential to harm individuals, to damage organizations and teams, and to undermine the educational mission of the school and the fundamental values of our learning community.

East Porter County Policy

East Porter County maintains a zero-tolerance policy regarding hazing, which is strictly prohibited. As such, no student, student organization, athletic team, other school-recognized group or association shall conduct, condone, aid, or participate as a witness in hazing activities, consensual or not. In addition to disciplinary action imposed by the school, students who engage in hazing could find themselves subject to criminal prosecution by legal authorities.

Identifying Hazing

All members of the East Porter County community must take responsibility for considering what does and does not constitute hazing. Student leaders bear particular responsibility for conducting their team, club, or organization in such a manner that welcomes new members without resorting to hazing to build group camaraderie.

Taking Action/Reporting Hazing

At East Porter County, where community members look out and care for one another, students and employees are expected to intervene personally or by calling their respective school if they encounter activities that put others in physical or psychological harm or discomfort. By stepping up and taking action, bystanders are frequently able to put an end to inappropriate behavior before a bonding activity escalates into a hazing activity. East Porter County students and employees should notify appropriate administrators, security, coaches, or other officials who have responsibilities for student organizations of any perceived instance of hazing, so the activity can be stopped or the allegations can be investigated.

Sexual Harassment

All members of EPCSC athletics are responsible for their conduct both inside and outside of school. And as such, we recognize that a student has the right to learn and thrive in an appropriate environment. Therefore, EPCSC athletes, coaches, and staff are expected to abide by all state laws and corporation policies concerning sexual harassment and misconduct. East Porter has defined sexual harassment as “the continued pattern of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, physical contact of a sexual nature, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by an employee to a student, when made by an employee to another employee, or when made by a student to another student” (*EPCSC Student Handbook*). Similarly, all members of EPCSC athletics are prohibited from any activities that create an intimidating, hostile, discriminatory, or offensive environment on the basis of gender, religion, race, color, ethnicity, age and/or disability. Any student, coach, or staff member who is found complicit in sexual misconduct will subject to discipline in accordance with the law and the *EPCSC Handbook*.

Reporting Sexual Harassment

The first means of defense against sexual harassment is self-reporting. Athletic participants are encouraged to seek help and self-report misconduct of any sort. If a student reports that she/he is being harassed by a member of the staff, or if a student witnesses harassing behavior by a staff member against a student, the matter is to be reported immediately to the athletic director, who shall then contact the principal, who shall then contact the superintendent. A full investigation will take place, and law enforcement will be contacted if necessary. Any staff member who witnesses the act or is the victim of sexual harassment is to report the matter to his/her immediate supervisor per the *East Porter Handbook*. All reports of sexual harassment should be either submitted in writing or transcribed. All written reports should include the names and facts involved. All alleged victims will be respected and their information will remain confidential.

Social Media

EPCSC recognizes and supports the student-athletes’ rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student-athlete must remember that playing and competing for the EPCSC is a privilege. As a student-athlete, you represent the school district and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, your school and the school district in a positive manner at all times. Below are the social networking guidelines which provide the following direction for social networking site usage:

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site.
- Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable or even removed.

What you post may affect your future! Many employers, college admissions officers, and athletic recruiters review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to

misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters).

Similar to comments made in person, EPCSC athletics will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:

- Derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates or coaches; other EPCSC student athletes, teachers or coaches; and student athletes, coaches or representatives of other schools, including comments that may be disrespectful to opposing teams.
- Incriminating photos, video or statements depicting violence, hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behavior (including the use of profanity).
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation – regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The on-line social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you feel.

Disciplinary Procedures

Participation in athletics is a privilege earned by meeting the standards set by the coach, school, conference, and the IHSAA. Normally, discipline will be handled by the coach of the team; however, if the offense is discovered by school administration, the coach may not be involved in responding to the misconduct. If the offense or violation is of a serious enough nature to warrant removal from the team, the student athlete will be provided an opportunity to respond to the charge in a meeting with the principal and/or assistant principal/athletic director.

Due Process

The following procedures will be followed to remove an athlete from a team or declare a student ineligible for 365 calendar days:

- The coach or administrative personnel shall, verbally, in the presence of another member of the school staff, inform the athlete of the infraction of the rules which the coach or administrator believes removal of the athlete from the team is warranted. The coach or administrator shall at the same time inform the athlete that he/she has an opportunity to meet with the Athletic Director if a meeting is requested in writing by the athlete within two (2) school days of being verbally notified of the violation. The athlete is considered suspended indefinitely following this verbal notification from the coach or administrative personnel.
- The coach or administrator shall submit to the Athletic Director within two (2) school days of his/her verbal notification to the athlete, a written citation which includes the details of the violation, the rules allegedly violated, and his/her witnesses to the violation.

- The athlete may waive his/her opportunity to a meeting by so indicating to the coach or Athletic Director or by not requesting one within two (2) school days.
- Upon receiving a request for a meeting and receipt of the written citation from the coach or administrator, the Athletic Director or his/her designee shall notify the athlete, his/her parent, and the coach of the date, time, and location for the meeting requested by the athlete. The meeting should, if possible, be held within three (3) school days after the Athletic Director has received the written request from the athlete. In the event the athlete involved is 18 years of age, he/she may elect not to have his/her parents notified.
- The athlete is entitled to have a parent at the meeting. The athlete and the coach shall both be entitled to present relevant witnesses.

If the charge was brought by the Athletic Director, the Principal will participate in the meeting.

After the meeting, if the charge was not brought by the Athletic Director, he/she will decide whether or not he/she feels that the athlete should be permanently removed from the team or declared ineligible for 365 calendar days. If the Athletic Director made the charge, the Principal will decide whether the athlete should be removed from the team or declared ineligible for 365 calendar days. Within two (2) school days, the Athletic Director or Principal shall inform the coach, athlete, and the athlete's parents of his/her decision.

The athlete's parents (for the athlete who is 18) may appeal the decision to the Superintendent; however, the athlete shall remain on indefinite suspension status pending the appeal meeting. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Injuries and Illness

Student athletes must report all injuries to their coach who will fill out an accident report and turn it into the Athletic Director. Student Athletes who have been absent five or more consecutive days from practice due to an illness or injury must present to the athletic director written verification from a licensed physician stating that the athlete may participate again.

Insurance

EPCSC administrators, coaches, and trainers are safety conscious and are trained to instruct athletes in the safe and proper techniques of the individual sports. Due to the nature of athletic activity, injury may occur. While the school provides the opportunity for such participation, parents retain the right of denial of such participation and must carry the responsibility for providing medical care and insurance coverage for their son or daughter. In recent years, the IHSAA has carried catastrophic insurance to cover major injuries incurred during participation in approved IHSAA sports programs. More information about the IHSAA plan is available upon request in the Athletic Office.

Attendance Rules

Student athletes are expected to attend all practices, meetings, and scheduled contests for their team unless excused in advance by the coach. The head coach of each sport shall establish

rules for attendance.A student athlete has to be in school at the start of school, and remain in school the rest of the day in order to attend practice or a game. If a student athlete is not in school during this time period, the student athlete will not be allowed to participate in that night's practice or game. The student athlete is not to be present, even if he/she is not participating. Exceptions to the rule include: prearranged doctor's appointment, field trip, college visit, unforeseeable circumstances or funeral. All must be prearranged. Exceptions such as unforeseeable circumstances need to be substantiated by the building principal. Student athletes may not practice or play in a contest on any day they are assessed an in or out of school suspension.

Any student athlete who is absent from school for five consecutive days due to illness or injury must present to the Athletic Director and coach a statement from a licensed physician that he/she is again physically fit to participate.

Days Missed: 8-14 number of practices required: 4
Days Missed: 14+ number of practices required: 6
Note: only one practice may be valid for any one day

Outstanding Athletic Fees

Any student who has an outstanding debt to an athletic team cannot participate in the next sport season until the debt has been paid.

College Bound Athletes

PlayNAIA.org is the official clearinghouse for NAIA eligibility. Every student-athlete must register with the NAIA eligibility center to play sports at an NAIA college. The eligibility center is also a powerful tool to help athletes connect with coaches and NAIA schools - and find money for college through thousands of NAIA athletic scholarships

http://www.playnaia.org/

The NCAA Eligibility Center is where NCAA college bound student athletes may learn about NCAA eligibility requirements.

www.NCAAeligibilitycenter.org

EPCSC

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK CONTRACT

A signature below verifies that the student athlete and parent/guardian have read the athletic handbook, and have agreed to obey the expectations and policies contained within. This contract will stay on file in the school athletic office until the student athlete graduates from High School, changes enrollment status, or a change in language occurs within the athletic code, of which, all student athletes and parents will be asked to read and resign this contract. This must be on file before an athlete can participate in an interscholastic athletic contest.

ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE: _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____DATE:_____

NOTE: Parent/Guardian <u>MUST</u> sign no matter the age of athlete.

*****IMPORTANT*****

<u>RETURN THIS PAGE TO SCHOOL</u>

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