

Student — Parent Athletic Participation Information East Hamilton School

Mission and Philosophy

Athletics play an integral part in the life of student athletes at East Hamilton School by assisting in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals and commitment. The staff of EH 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 school's athletic trainer. **DRAGONFLY APP**
2. Students and parents must complete 4 other forms (consent, participation agreement, concussion, and sudden cardiac arrest) that will be kept with the trainer as well. **DRAGON FLY APP: Parents must download app to get to these forms to sign electronically.**
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 or expulsion. 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.
To be eligible to participate in athletic contest during any school year, the student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than 24 credits are required for graduation or **six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation.**

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 and the role(s) the athlete has on 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. There will be occasions when coaches, parents or other school personnel must transport student athletes to sporting events or activities. In such cases, all parties must follow the car pool policy, if they are transporting any student other than their child.

Car Pool Policy

Students must ride in a car with a coach, parent, or other school personnel and they all must leave from point A to the event together. After the game, a parent can leave the game with his/her child to go home as long as they have no other athlete in the car with them. Anyone leaving the facility transporting an athlete, other than their child, must return to point A with the car pool (TSSAA rule).

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 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 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 practice or game.

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 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-Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Facebook, Snapchat, 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 School are expected to refrain from the use of all illegal substances. 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.

EH staff, including coaches and administrators, are 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 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. In addition, the Hamilton County Board of Education has prohibited the use of tobacco and tobacco production, including smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes and/or associated paraphernalia form system owned property.

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, Snapchat, 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 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 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 EH 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 EH 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.

East Hamilton 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.