

# **Elgin Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct**



**2018-2019**

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The Elgin Athletic Handbook contains a general statement of the administrative regulations governing the overall athletic program. Provisions of this Athletic Handbook may be expanded, modified, or revoked only by the Athletic Director, recommendation of the Principal, Superintendent, or Board of Trustees. If any of the provisions of this Athletic Handbook conflict with federal or state laws and regulations, or Board policy, those provisions are superseded by applicable law or Board policy. The provisions of this Athletic Handbook are severable, and the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability of any provision will not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the other provisions.

## Wildcat Code

**Discipline • Integrity • Sportsmanship • Citizenship • Consistency**

### **DISCIPLINE**

Discipline is a lifestyle that is perpetuated by taking corrective actions when mistakes are made and using preventative actions to avoid mistakes in the future. Discipline encourages a specific code of conduct in individuals that helps to guide towards success. Discipline encourages doing what is right, rather than what seems easy. It is essential in athletics, because development of the mind and body takes us out of our comfort zone so that we can be more successful in the future. Discipline can be instilled by a coach, but it is only truly life changing when it is translated into self-discipline. If a person consistently remains in a disciplined atmosphere, they will begin to see that what is difficult now reaps rewards in the end. This is how discipline is translated into self-discipline and becomes a life-changing attribute.

### **INTEGRITY**

Integrity is best summed up in the classic definition of “who you are when no one is watching”. Integrity has been lost in today’s society for the replacement philosophy that encourages young people to do whatever they can to get ahead; just don’t get caught doing it. Integrity is a byproduct of self-discipline, which chooses to set aside what is easy, to accomplish what is right. Integrity is essential in athletics to prevent athletes from making poor choices off the field, which impacts the perception of their program, their team’s success, and at times their opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities. Integrity has to be exemplified by a coaching staff to be translated to young athletes. What players consistently see you do, they will accept as the right thing to emulate.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Sportsmanship is demonstrated by showing respect to fellow teammates, opponents, officials, coaches, and fans. Riding on the back of discipline and integrity, sportsmanship can be demonstrated even in high pressure athletic contests. Learning how to show respect to an opponent that you are trying to defeat, not only saves a team from game changing penalties, but also trains athletes to handle difficult circumstances that will occur in the real world. Choosing to exhibit sportsmanship has to be a disciplined pre-meditated practice. The normal competitive individual might buckle under the pressure of competition or an unfavorable call, but an athlete demonstrates great discipline when they can refocus their energy on being successful rather than wasting their energy on something they cannot change.

## **CITIZENSHIP**

Citizenship envelops the idea that a person has a responsibility to contribute back to the institution that offers them success. Athletes represent a group far larger than their individual team. Athletic teams have the ability to bring great pride to their school and community. As a result athletes have an opportunity to make a large impact on their peers and younger students in the district. By exerting discipline in their school and community, athletes will actually help administrative discipline, encourage the educational process, and recruit community support for the school. When young people become great citizens, they share what they have learned with others and often times open doors of opportunity for the people around them.

## **CONSISTENCY**

When a young person exhibits discipline, integrity, sportsmanship, and citizenship with consistency, they have the potential to become a great leader to the people around them. An athletic program full of leaders creates a foundation for success year after year. When students are teaching other students to do the right thing, then coaches can focus more on the details that take a team from good to great. Consistency doesn't end the season every year leaving questions about why a team didn't fulfill their potential. Consistency allows a team to fulfill its potential and regularly find success. Consistent teams have learned through countless hours of preparation how to overcome difficult odds, regardless of the situation.

## EXPLANATION OF ATHLETICS

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult and rewarding endeavors. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are better able to accept the actions of one another and provide greater benefit to our children. As parents, when your children become involved in our athletic program, you have a right to understand the expectations placed upon your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's athletic program, as well as appropriate communication from parents to coaches when concerns arise.

### **Communication you should expect from your child's coach:**

1. Pre-season parent meeting to discuss program specific schedules and expectations
2. Locations and times of practices and contests
3. Team requirements, special equipment needs, out-of-season conditioning, possible out of pocket expenses
4. Academic Plan discussed with athletes/parents and implemented during athletic seasons and off-season
5. Communication Plan to discuss how changes in schedules/games and special information will be communicated to athletes/parents

### **Communication coaches expect from parents:**

1. Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place
2. Specific concerns in regard to the coach's expectations of their son or daughter
3. Notification of scheduling conflicts well in advance

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:**

1. The mental and physical treatment of your child
2. What your child needs to do to improve their performance
3. Concerns about your child's behavior, attitude, or need for academic support

As your children become involved in athletic programs at Elgin High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

As a parent, it is very difficult at times to accept your child's amount of playing time, when they may play in a game, or the position on the team in which they play. It will be the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents. The coaches of EISD care about all of our student/athletes and playing time does not represent the value we place on the contributions of all our student/athletes to our athletic program, school, and community.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach, while other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. When coaches and parents work together through this process of communication, we will truly be able to achieve the best possible results for all of our student/athletes.

If a situation arises that requires a conference between the coach and parent, the procedures below should be followed. It is important that all parties involved develop a clear understanding of the other's position. Involving the student/athlete in the conference is often times helpful to clarify

information that has been communicated from the coach or parent to the athlete that may be otherwise difficult to discuss without the athlete present. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a positive resolution:

1. Student/Athlete discusses with the coach any appropriate concerns.
2. Parent can call or email the coach to set up an appointment.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call or email the Athletic Director. A meeting will be arranged.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote a positive resolution for anyone involved.

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

Since research indicates that a student involved in extracurricular activities has greater success during adulthood, these athletic programs have been established with this philosophy in mind. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

## **WILDCAT ATHLETICS**

According to U.I.L. rules, being in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Only those students who abide by district, campus and athletic policies will be allowed to represent Elgin HS.

When young men and women sign up for athletics and become a member of a team, they make a commitment. They are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the program. Students are not forced to participate. It is voluntary; therefore, they are expected to follow rules of order and behavior.

Parents should strive to help their son or daughter achieve success in athletics. Success is defined as participating at 100% of the individual's ability. We can never expect athletes to do more than they are capable; however, we do want them to obtain their fullest potential. Supportive parents can instill this desire in student athletes long after their playing days are over by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and regulations.

## REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT before participating in any practice or game in any extracurricular athletic activity.

### A. Physical Examination

A physical examination is required by the U.I.L. for all students entering the 7th grade and all high school students entering the 9th and 11th grades. With all physicals submitted for athletes wanting to participate in school athletics, the approved UIL form to record physical examinations must be completed. Club or organization forms will not be accepted. The physical form is available from the athletic department or online at the UIL website. Group physicals will be scheduled in May of the preceding school year for all athletes.

### B. Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes: (1) UIL Acknowledgment of Rules, (2) Personal student and parent information. The packet should be filled out completely! Do not leave any requested information blank. This form may be presented by the district in paper form or through an online portal.

### C. Acknowledgment of Elgin Athletic Handbook

The student-athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the handbook *Acknowledgment* page. It should then be returned to the Athletic Department. This shows receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies contained in the Athletic Handbook.

### D. Academic Eligibility

A student in grades 9-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number of credits in state approved courses:

- a. Beginning the 9th grade year; must have been promoted from the 8th grade to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- b. Beginning the 10th grade year; must have earned at least 5 credits toward graduation.
- c. Beginning the 11th grade year; must have earned at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.
- d. Beginning the 12th grade year; must have earned at least 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.

A student participating in UIL activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (other than a district approved advanced course). This suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three week period and the suspension will be removed if the student is passing ALL classes with a grade equal or greater than a 70, per UIL policy.

Athletes who may be academically eligible by UIL standards; but however, are currently failing a class shall not be dismissed from that class to participate in any extracurricular activities during the school

day. If the event takes place outside the school day they may participate. The athlete may make special arrangements for transportation to the site of the event through the administration to avoid missing the class.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM**

The administration of the Athletic Program should provide every boy and girl the opportunity to participate in any sport. No student in any grade should be deprived of the opportunity to begin participation in any sport if he/she has met the off-season and pre-participation requirements.

The general administration of the Athletic Program is the direct responsibility of the Athletic Director. This includes the arrangement of all schedules, time and place of playing games, selection of officials, and the general management of all matters pertaining to the Athletic Program. In carrying out this program, each head coach in the department shall attend to details of their respective sports.

## **Athletic Objectives and Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the athletic program is to do more than provide competition between two individuals and (or) two schools. It is to teach fair play, sportsmanship, the understanding and appreciation of teamwork, the teaching of discipline, and that quitting means failure and hard work translates into eventual success. We will attempt to accomplish this general objective as outlined below.

1. Academic success, hard work, and dedication will be stressed on a daily basis throughout the entire athletic program. We will encourage the students to grow physically, mentally, morally, and socially. They must pass in the classroom to be eligible for athletic participation (UIL).
2. Keep as many students as possible involved in a positive athletic environment.
3. Instill good work habits, sound morals, exemplary citizenship, and a high standard of sportsmanship in the athletes of Elgin ISD. Athletes are to display positive leadership at all times in our school and community.
4. Escalate an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness. The importance of proper rest, good eating habits, and proper hygiene will be stressed at every opportunity.
5. Develop all programs in such a manner that end result will be one of unity, harmony, and success. Mass participation is to be emphasized and encouraged especially below the high school varsity level. Students will be encouraged to participate in multiple sports at all levels of competition.
6. Instill in all athletes the desire to represent their school and community in a manner that will make citizens, parents, school personnel, and classmates proud of them.

Participation in the athletic program and (or) The University Interscholastic League (UIL) contests is not a right but a privilege. No student is required to take part in the contest or activities; therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the Athletic Code of Conduct. All students must conform to these guidelines, and understand that the coaches of the sport or activities along with the athletic director shall have every right to remove these privileges if guidelines and procedures are not followed.

## **Sportsmanship**

The athlete will win and lose with class. Temper fits, flagrant violations of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Total respect to officials, other team coaches or players, and anyone taking part in the athletic event will be shown. Any behavior contrary to the above mentioned or any other act which is not conducive to good sportsmanship may result in removal from the contest and possible expulsion from the entire athletic program.

## **Grooming**

See Elgin ISD grooming policies.

***No athlete will groom or dress in a manner that will draw attention to themselves and away from the team. Athletes will dress in accordance with district and campus dress code policies.***

## **Dress**

Should be very professional in or out of uniform. Everyone will wear the uniform in the same manner. WE ARE A TEAM!!! It is against UIL Guidelines to wear any type of jewelry during most athletic events. No earrings are allowed in the athletic field house during weight room workouts or other times as prohibited by UIL rules or specific coach team policies. Also, covering a piercing with a Band-Aid will not be allowed during practices or contests. Wearing hats, caps, bandanas, and rags may be restricted on athletic trips and during athletic competition unless part of the uniform and with the coach's approval. If caps are to be worn, they need to be matching and part of a uniform. Shoe color and brands may be regulated by the coach of each individual sport. Game uniform shirt tails must be completely tucked in at all times during a contest unless designed otherwise. A contests team uniform dress code begins when players leave the locker room and include pre-game, bench time, half time, etc. Uniformity and class will be apparent when traveling to other towns, communities, schools, restaurants, etc., as representatives of the Elgin Independent School District. Athletes should be groomed and dressed in a manner that brings pride to our community, school, and coaches. Giving up untidy fads of dress and appearance is a very small sacrifice to help bring pride to our entire community.

***Note: Violations of the above standards of grooming and dress may result in suspension and possible removal from the team.***

## **Drugs and Alcohol**

1<sup>st</sup> offense: an athlete that is in possession, served a M.I.P., under the influence, selling or delivering a controlled substance, abusive glue, alcohol or volatile chemicals at any time during the school year will be suspended for a minimum period of 30 days from all after school athletic team activities. School year is defined as the first day of practice or the first day of school (whichever comes first) through graduation. This includes participating in practice, traveling with athletic teams, or being present on the sideline at athletic events. Student/athletes will still attend athletic periods and complete assigned conditioning activities at the coach's discretion. Reinstatement onto the athletic team will be determined at the coach's discretion upon completion of the suspension period. Athletes may be removed from the athletic team and athletic period activities for failing to comply with coach directives during the suspension period, but will not be able to enter another sport/athletic team until the full suspension time has been served.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: an athlete that is in possession, under the influence, served a M.I.P. is found to have sold or delivered an illegal substance or a prescription drug after being reinstated to the program or during the suspension period will result in the athlete's termination from any further participation in the athletic program for 1 calendar year.

## **Tobacco**

1<sup>st</sup> offense: athletes in possession, using, selling, or delivering tobacco products will serve a 5 day suspension from all game activities and complete assigned conditioning activities at the coach's discretion. Students will not be able to participate in games, travel with athletic teams, or be present on the sideline at athletic events during the 5 day suspension period. Student/athletes will be able to attend practice activities during the suspension period.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: will result in a 10 calendar day suspension period with additional assigned conditioning activities at the coach's discretion.

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: will result in a 30 calendar day suspension period with additional assigned conditioning activities at the coach's discretion.

\* Athletes may be removed from the athletic team and athletic period activities for failing to comply with coach directives during the suspension period, but will not be able to enter another sport/athletic team until the full suspension time has been served.

## **District Drug Testing**

The District shall implement a mandatory random drug-testing program for students in grades 6- 12. Program participation will be required of any secondary students involved in any school-sponsored extra-curricular activity including without limitation any activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the school and for any student who applies for and holds a permit to park a vehicle on campus . This program shall include random testing throughout the school year.

The District's intended purpose shall be:

1. To allow each student in programs subject to testing to make a commitment against drug use;
2. To give each student an effective tool against drug use;
3. To ensure the health and safety of each student during practice and performance;
4. To deter drug use by students.

Each student and his or her parent/guardian shall be required to give written permission. Permission for student drug testing will be effective as long as the student is enrolled at the District campus designated on the permission form as provided in this policy. If a student or parent/guardian refuses to sign a form or provides written notice of revocation of the consent to the principal, the student shall not be allowed to participate in the school-sponsored extracurricular activities or be allowed to park at school for which such testing is required.

Following the first confirmed positive test result, the **Level I consequences shall be as follows:**

1. Parent conference
2. Suspension of 10 school days from any activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the school.
3. Suspension of 10 school days from parking
4. Must participate in next two random tests

At the discretion of the appropriate administrator, the student may attend scheduled practices or meetings.

Following a second confirmed positive test result, the **Level II consequences shall be as follows:**

1. Parent conference
2. Suspension of 30 school days from any activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the school.
3. Suspension of 30 school days from parking
4. Must participate in next three random tests

At the discretion of the appropriate administrator, the student may attend scheduled practices or meetings.

Following a third confirmed positive test result (Level III); the student shall be removed from the applicable school-sponsored activity and privileges for one calendar year. Once the student is reinstated the student is required to go through the next three campus random drug testing process and must provide a sample at each testing. After reinstatement, any further positive tests for the student shall result in removal from the applicable school-sponsored activity and privileges for another calendar year.

A student or parent may appeal any decision made under the drug-testing program in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). The student shall be ineligible for participation in any applicable school-sponsored program until the appeal process has been completed.

A parent of a student in grades 6-12 not participating in an mandatory random drug testing program may choose to have his or her child participate in the District's drug-testing program. Both parent and student must sign the same consent form and shall follow the same procedures as described above as applicable. Test results for voluntary participants shall be reported directly to the parent. The school shall not be notified of the results of the voluntary participants.

### **Profanity**

Use of profanity will result in disciplinary action at the coach's discretion. **Profanity directed to an administrator, campus staff director, teacher or coach may result in removal from the athletic program.**

## **Stealing**

Stealing will not be tolerated. Punishment may result in permanent removal from the athletic program. This also includes school equipment not returned in or after the season has ended.

## **Class and Respect**

Adults should receive a Sir/Ma'am response from athletes. Failure to show class and respect will result in disciplinary action.

## **Promptness**

Always be on time. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

## **Attendance and Practice Regulations**

Do not miss class, practice, or games due to unexcused reasons. A coach must be consulted with ahead of time if an athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing practice without permission will directly affect playing status. If attendance becomes a habitual problem, suspension or removal from the team may result. Excused and unexcused attendance will be determined by the coach and/or athletic director.

- Excused missed practices - make-up conditioning, no consequence
- Unexcused missed practices - conditioning and consequence
- Excused missed games - make-up conditioning
- Unexcused missed games - make-up conditioning and one game suspension.

Unexcused absence from school on the day of contest. The student will not be allowed to participate or attend the contest.

Follow and obey all guidelines set by the coach. Poor effort will not be tolerated. If students do not want to work hard and be a team player, then they should not choose to be in athletics.

## **Multiple Sports**

Athletes are encouraged to participate in more than one sport. The success of our entire athletic program necessitates the sharing of athletes between programs. Participation in school sports takes precedence over any club, league, or tournament team sport. Conflict in several school extracurricular activities will be up to the directors and coaches to work out a solution for the student athlete to participate in all possible activities. If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on relative importance of each event, importance of each event to the student, relative contribution the student can make, how long each event has been scheduled, and consultation with parents.

## **Vacations**

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged. Parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be conflicts. (i.e., spring break for baseball, softball, and track) In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, the athlete will acquire unexcused absences and consequences. See *Attendance and Practice Regulations*.

## **Athletic Period**

In order to participate in team Athletics, athletes are required to be in the athletic period and participate in the strength and conditioning program. In order to participate in fall football each athlete must go through the off-season athletic program. Exceptions must be approved by the athletic

director prior to an athlete beginning practice and may result in missed contests.

### **Quitting**

Think hard before you decide to participate in a sport. Athletics requires hard work, time and dedication. Any athlete who quits a team or is dropped from the team will not be permitted to work out with another team until the previous sport season they left has been completed. This athlete will forfeit his/her award in the sport he/she quit. Rejoining a team in the following school year may not be an option based on the nature of why a student chooses to remove themselves from the team.

Any exception must be discussed and agreed upon by all coaches involved and approved by the Athletic Director. Any athlete that quits a team in one school year and desires to rejoin the team the following school year will be required to have a parent meeting with the head coach before beginning practice or joining the athletic period for the sport in question. Requirements to rejoin a team may include make up conditioning, missed competitions, and behavior mandates based on the nature of the incident as determined by the head coach and through approval from the athletic director. In some instances, lack of acceptance of reasonable reinstatement conditions by the student athlete or their parent(s) may disqualify a student athlete from being eligible to participate in athletics.

### **Equipment and Facilities**

The athletic budget provides sufficient money to field well-equipped teams in all sports. While this equipment is not always the most expensive available, it is always good equipment that provides the utmost protection.

With proper care and inspection, it can be kept in use for extended periods of time. Proper care of equipment relies basically on the use of common sense and mandatory inspections. This includes keeping equipment as clean as possible at all times, repairing equipment as soon as possible, and discarding equipment beyond repair and age limits of protective head gears.

**Do not take equipment or clothing home. Return equipment that you are not using to your coach. To reduce the spread of infection, do not use other players' equipment.**

**ATHLETES ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN ISSUED TO THEM.**

Equipment should be hung in assigned lockers as instructed. You are to clean your equipment as needed. When you change into your workout gear, your street clothes should be hung in the same manner. Latrines and toilets are to be flushed, showers and faucets turned off, and all trash picked up and thrown in the trash. Do not leave towels on the floor. We are classy and professional athletes because we practice the same image we promote.

### **Travel**

All athletes in middle school and high school represent the community and school district. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the athlete code. Violations may result in suspension from the next contest, and any incident of a serious nature may result in additional suspensions and possible permanent removal from the team or athletic program.

1. Be on time for all trips or you will be left and not permitted to play. Punctuality is imperative and tardiness will not be tolerated.
2. Dress appropriately as directed by the coach.

3. Show respect for opposing teams facilities. Make sure not to abuse dressing rooms in any way. Leave the dressing rooms cleaner than when we arrived.
4. Be mannerly in all eating establishments. All student participants will sit in restaurants or at other special events as a group.
5. Do not take personal valuables on road trips, and avoid the possibility of losing these items or having them stolen. The athlete is responsible for their valuables.
6. All athletic personnel making the trip on the team bus will return on the team bus unless an emergency situation arises or when parents have made prior arrangements with good cause for not returning on the bus. The utmost effort should be made for teams to travel to and from contests together. This builds the “team” concept.
7. Athletes should never leave a contest with anyone other than their own parents or on the team bus.
8. At visiting events, students will remain in one group at all times. No contact with fans will be allowed prior to loading the buses. It will be the parents’ responsibility to provide transportation from school to home.

At home events, there will be limited contact made with fans prior to exiting the facility. This includes parents, relatives, and friends. No public display of affection will be permitted.

### **Injury or Illness**

All injuries should be reported to a coach and/or trainer on a daily basis. If you are injured, you will be required to attend daily treatment(s) at times designated by the Athletic Trainer. Remember, there is a distinct difference between injury and pain and this will be determined by the athletes, athletic trainer, and physicians when needed. Due to insurance purposes, we ask that you consult with the Athletic Trainer before going to the doctor. If you must leave school because of illness, contact and verify with the coach to ensure an excused absence. If you are ill or injured, we do not expect you to work out. However, if you are at practice, we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group from station to station unless given special permission by the head coach or athletic trainer.

### **Emergency Procedures for Athletes Who Have Received Severe Head Injuries**

Student athletes who have received a severe blow to the head will be handled in the following manner:

- The student will be kept still and not moved.
- EMS will be called for evaluation of the injury and transportation to the local emergency room.
- Parent or guardian will be notified of the injury at the same time EMS is called to the scene of the injury.

### **Suspension from School**

If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in practices and/or games during the entire period of suspension. A second suspension in the same school year may result in the total removal from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

### **DAEP Placement**

If an athlete is sent to DAEP, the same rules for suspended athletes will apply during the entire placement period. The athlete may miss contests upon return from school or be removed from the

team and/or athletic program for the remainder of the school year. Students who miss tryouts due to DAEP placement may only receive a special tryout for a sports team if they notify the coach of their intent to tryout within 48 hours of returning to campus and at the individual sport coach's discretion. Coaches will take into consideration a student's discipline history, specific infraction details, length of DAEP placement, and possible disruption to the athletic program when determining whether or not to allow a special tryout in this circumstance. An allowed tryout does not mean that the student/athlete will make the team, only that they have been afforded an opportunity to try out. Athletes who tryout and make their respective teams will be required to make up conditioning for all missed practices if a special tryout and entry onto the athletic team is allowed. Athletes may miss additional game time during their makeup period.

**ISS**  
Student/Athletes who are assigned to ISS will receive disciplinary action from their athletic team that will include additional conditioning and may result in lost playing time or suspension from part/or all of an athletic contest and is based on the coach's discretion. Coaches will take into consideration the student's infraction, discipline history, and length of placement into consideration when determining consequences for students serving time in ISS.

## **Classroom Progress and Conduct**

Athletes who are habitual problems in the classroom and receive repeated poor conduct and grades may be suspended from a team on a temporary basis or permanently if the problem continues. Athletes will be expected to treat all teachers, administrators, and coaches with the utmost respect. Athletes must meet the minimum grade standards established by T.E.A. and U.I.L.

## **Discipline of Athletes**

A student is not required to take part in athletics nor is it required for graduation. Therefore, athletics is a privilege; and consequently, when these expectations and standards are violated, this privilege can be revoked. Elgin athletes will act with respect, pride, and dignity at all times.

The general philosophy of the Elgin Athletic Department is that we will make every attempt to help an individual who makes a "mistake". However, if a "mistake" is repeated, the welfare of the program and team must take priority. All mistakes will result in disciplinary action and hopefully not repeated.

Coaches have the right to discipline athletes on their individual teams but should exercise sound judgment in evaluating specific penalties, keeping in mind the welfare of the student.

A coach should not dismiss an athlete from a team until it has been discussed in detail with the athletic director and parents. A twenty-four hour evaluation period will exist before the final decision will be made. Also, the student will not be able to participate in any athletic contest and may be excluded from all other athletic activities (practice, trips, pep rally, etc.) during this 24 hour period.

## **Off Campus and Out of School Offenses**

If a student athlete is arrested and charged with a felony crime, they will automatically be suspended from athletic activities until guilt or innocence is determined. If the student is found guilty, they will be suspended from all athletic activities for one calendar year from the date of the first suspension. At the end of one calendar year from date of the violation, the case may be reviewed by all parties concerned to determine reinstatement procedures.

It is impossible to outline each and every discipline problem and the possible outcome that can arise from such distractions to the overall athletic program. However, the following Disciplinary Procedures for Extracurricular Activities covers additional scenarios with resulting consequences. Furthermore, infractions that are not spelled out specifically in the Elgin Athletic Code of Conduct will be reviewed and treated with similar consequences.

## **Harassment, Hazing, Intimidation**

Any type of harassment, hazing, or intimidation directed toward fellow team members or students is forbidden.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **Civil and/or criminal prosecution may occur**

#### Profane language by a student during a contest.

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Extra conditioning/drill work

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Extra conditioning and possible suspension from the next contest

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Possible removal from the team for the remainder of the season and a written contract to follow in order to participate in other sports in the same school year.

#### Profane language by a student directed towards an administrator, sponsor or coach.

1<sup>st</sup> offense: May result in removal from the program for the remainder of the school year. A behavior contract along with discipline measures may be written if the person that the verbal assault was addressed to agrees to such contract.

#### Participant walking off or out of contest area for non-emergency reasons without consulting a sponsor.

1<sup>st</sup> offense: One game suspension, meeting with parent(s), written contract to follow and abide.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Removal from the program for the remainder of the school year.

#### Unsportsmanlike actions or antics during a contest by a participant (i.e., taunting, fighting, and/or verbal actions. This does not include roughing, flagrant, etc.)

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Immediate removal from the contest with a possible one game suspension, meeting with parent, and a written contract to follow and abide by for the remainder of the year. Extra conditioning drills will be administered.

#### Unexcused absence from school on the day of a contest.

1<sup>st</sup> offense: The student may not be allowed to participate in the game or activity.

#### Quitting a team before the end of the season.

Any athlete who quits or is released from a team will not be allowed to participate in another sport until that season ends. Any exception must be discussed and agreed upon by all coaches involved and approved by the athletic director.

#### School extracurricular opposed to non-school extracurricular.

It should be understood that school extracurricular activities take precedent over non-school extracurricular activities. For example, a child should not miss a school practice or contest to attend a non school practice or contest unless previous arrangements have been made with the head coach of their individual sport.

All violations will be documented and parents will be notified. Also, this form must be completed by both parties and returned before the student is allowed to participate in an athletic contest.

**No one athlete is bigger than this program. This program is a privilege. When this code of conduct is broken, there will be disciplinary action. If breaking of this code of conduct becomes habitual and begins to take away from the integrity of the program, then removal from the athletic program will be the final result.**

## **Elgin Athletics Strength and Conditioning Program**

### **Varsity Sports in Season**

Required to lift 2 times a week. Lifting routine should be based on maintaining strength, keep the athletes in a lifting routine, and injury prevention.

### **Varsity Sports Out of Season but next Sport**

Required to lift 3 times a week. Four weeks prior to first contest, athletes may begin sport skills 2 times a week.

### **All Sports and Athletes Out of Season**

Required to lift 3 times a week. Two times a week, athletes will do running condition, stations, agilities, etc. One of these two days may be used for skill work combined with conditioning at the Athletic Directors approval. Our philosophy during this time is to become bigger, faster, and stronger. During track season, the track workout may be used 2 times a week.

### **All Sub-Varsity Athletes**

Lift 3 times a week. Two times a week, athletes will do running condition, stations, agilities, etc. Our philosophy as a sub-varsity athlete is to get bigger, faster, and stronger to make the Varsity Sports.

## **Elgin High School Awards Policy**

A school district may give one major award (usually a letter jacket) to a student during that student's high school enrollment at the same school for participation in UIL interschool competition. We believe that the awards students earn in athletics are symbols of hard work, dedicated effort, positive attitude, and a desire to be successful.

- Student athletes will letter in each sport if the following criteria are met and the athlete completes the entire season, including playoffs and is in good standing with the coach and overall athletic program.
- Practice habits and attendance are criteria for lettering and left to the discretion of the head coach.

VOLLEYBALL – Compete on varsity in at least half of the total sets of the season.

FOOTBALL – Compete in at least 20 quarters.

BASKETBALL – Compete on varsity in at least half of the total quarters of the season.

SOCCER – Compete in half of the varsity games.

POWERLIFTING – Compete at the regional meet.

TRACK – Score in the varsity district meet or compete at varsity level for at least 50% of the meets.

SOFTBALL – Compete in half of the varsity season and finish in good standing.

BASEBALL - Compete in half of the varsity season and finish in good standing.

GOLF – Compete in half of the varsity tournaments.

TENNIS – Compete in half of the varsity matches in fall & spring or two of the same seasons.

SWIMMING – Compete at the regional meet.

CROSS COUNTRY – Score in the varsity district meet or compete at varsity level for at least 50% of the meets.

- A student that quits a varsity sport at any time forfeits the right to letter in that sport.

Managers and student trainers may letter after successfully completing two years of that responsibility or three sport seasons of any combination. Seniors may letter that have participated in sports for at least three years and are in good standing with the athletic department.

## **ELGIN ISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES**

Dear Elgin ISD Student-Athlete:

Elgin ISD and the Athletic Department recognize and support 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 Elgin ISD is a privilege. As a student- athlete, you represent Elgin ISD and the community of Elgin and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the School District in a positive manner at all times.

- 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 even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant or athletic recruit. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information.
- Similar to comments made in person, the Elgin ISD Athletics will the not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as: Derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates or coaches; other Elgin student athletes, teachers, or coaches; and student-athletes, coaches, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect any opponents.
- Incriminating photos 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 behaviors.
- 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 want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

We ask parents/guardians to refrain from posting disparaging comments about students and employees as well. Any disagreements will be handled by following the Elgin ISD School Board policy. (Employees have signed a similar Social Media agreement.)

**Each student athlete and their parent or legal guardian must read and sign the following agreement before competing for Elgin ISD:**

"I have read, understand and agree to follow the Elgin ISD Athletic Social Media policy. I also understand that as a student athlete, it is my responsibility to not use any form of social media (text messages, Facebook, Twitter, Skype, etc.) to be critical of teammates, coaches, game officials, school administrators, opponents, opposing schools, or any other personnel involved in the athletic program. Furthermore, I understand that a violation of this policy could be cause for suspension or removal from the Elgin ISD athletic department."



**Elgin High School  
Athletic Expectations & Code of Conduct  
Agreement Form 2017-2018**



I have read and understand the 2017-2018 Elgin Student Athletic Policies/Athletic Social Media Policy and agree that I will abide by them. I understand that my child will be held accountable for the behavior and disciplinary consequences outlined in the Athletic Handbook/Athletic Social Media Policy. I understand that this includes all behavior at school, school sponsored, school-related activities, school sponsored travel, and some behaviors occurring off campus, and for any school related misconduct regardless of time or location. I understand that any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct or the Athletic Handbook/Athletic Social Media Policy guidelines is subject to disciplinary action. Please return this form with the student's name printed, student's signature, parent/guardian signature and date to Elgin High School.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF STUDENT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)