

EDGEWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

POLICY GOVERNING STUDENT ATHLETES

The Athletic Department of Edgewood City Schools believes in the development of the individual to her/his fullest potential through the medium of interscholastic athletics. We believe that it is our duty to help develop the student athlete's understanding of her/his responsibility to the school community, the team, and herself/himself. Student-athletes should exhibit respect for themselves and all others associated with the activities of their team. Each student-athlete should provide a positive role model for fellow students, and should represent our school system and community in a positive manner.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT.

The following guidelines and responsibilities have been established for the student athlete. A head coach of a given sport, the athletic director and the building principal may establish additional team guidelines and responsibilities. This policy is in effect 365 days a year, 24 hours a day for grades 7-12.

I. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligibility for Edgewood Middle School is determined as stated in the Ohio High School Athletic Association Handbook.

- Bylaw 4 - Student Eligibility - Section 4-2-2 (Page 33)– If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.
- Bylaw 4 – Scholarship – Section 4-4-4 (Page 35) – A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading in 75% of those subjects in which the student received grades.

B. In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic competition, students in grades 9-12 must meet the following academic requirement.

Students must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses (or the equivalent).

- Students must have had at least a 1.5 GPA for the preceding grading period.
- Students must maintain proper grade placement as defined in the ECS Board Policy (IKE-R).

II. FORMS AND RELEASES

Beginning with the official OHSAA starting date of each sport season, a student-athlete must have the following information completed and turned in to the athletic director or head coach of the sport in order to participate:

- OHSAA Health Questionnaire and Physical Examination Form (required for pre-season conditioning programs)
- Emergency Medical Authorization (also required for pre-season conditioning programs)
- Acknowledgment of “Policy Governing Student Athletes” and Insurance Waiver
- Booster Uniform Policy

- Random Student Drug Testing for Students in Extracurricular Activities, Events and Privileges (IGDJA-R)

III. ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete must be in school for at least (four) 4 complete class periods of the school day in order to be eligible for practice or to participate in an interscholastic contest on that day. Special circumstances may be reviewed by the athletic director / administrator where participation would be allowed. An athlete serving In-School Suspension will not be eligible to practice or participate in a contest on that day. Any exception must be approved by the athletic director, building principal, or other district administrator with the consent of the coach.

IV. TRANSPORTATION

Athletes must travel to all interscholastic contests via transportation arranged by the Edgewood Athletic Department. Athletes can be released to their parents or legal guardians at the game site only by the coach in charge. Athletes cannot be released at a contest site to anyone other than their own parents / legal guardians unless prior arrangements have been made with another adult approved by the parent and communicated to the coach before departure. The bus driver is in charge of the bus and her/his directions must be followed the same as any teacher or coach. The driver is solely concerned with safe transportation of passengers to and from the contest. Insubordination toward a bus driver will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as both a school and athletic violation.

V. ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT/UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITIES

As a student-athlete participating in interscholastic athletics in the Edgewood City School District, you have the following responsibilities concerning school-issued uniform and equipment items:

- A. It is extremely important that your equipment provides you with the protection for which it was designed. Bring all of your equipment problems to the attention of your coach immediately.
- B. Records will be kept by the coach for any equipment issued. You are responsible for the security of these items. Do not loan your equipment or uniform to others. Keep all items under lock. Equipment or uniform items that are lost, stolen, negligently damaged, or not returned are your financial responsibility. A student-athlete will be placed on the student fine list, report cards will be withheld, and the student-athlete will be ineligible for future athletic participation until restitution is made to the athletic department.

VI. SEPARATION FROM A TEAM

A. SEPARATION DUE TO PERSONAL CONDUCT

Participation on an athletic team is a privilege. Participants must earn that privilege to represent Edgewood City Schools by conducting themselves in such a manner that they are a credit to the school district. Any participant whose conduct is determined by the head coach, athletic director, and principal to be a discredit to him/herself, the team, or the school may be subject to disciplinary action. This will apply before, during and after school hours.

Removal (temporary or permanently) from a team or contest may be made by the head coach, athletic director, or principal. Causes for removal include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Unsportsmanlike conduct during practice or a contest
- 2) Violation of athletic department or team policies
- 3) Verbal or physical attack at any contest or practice with any individual
- 4) Repeated unacceptable behavior as determined by the coach or school administration
- 5) Individual coaching rules and policies cannot supercede district Board Policies or administrative regulation.
- 6) An athlete removed under this section may exercise his/her right of appeal as listed in section X of this policy. No participation, in any form, will be permitted until the appeal process has been finalized.

B. VOUNTARY SEPARTATION

There is a proper manner in which a student-athlete may quit a team. The student-athlete must meet with the athletic director and the coach of the sport they are leaving in order to be in good standing so that participation will be allowed in the next sport the student-athlete chooses to participate in. In order to be permitted to participate in another sport, the student-athlete must return any equipment previously issued and meet any outstanding financial obligations

C. SEPARTATION DUE TO PARTICIPATION WITH OUTSIDE GROUPS OR TEAMS

If an athlete chooses to participate with a non-school athletic team or activity that conflicts with the school team or activity, that athlete is subject to disciplinary action or removal from the school team, at the discretion of the coach. This policy is in effect for grades 7-12.

VII. DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL USAGE/POSSESSION

In keeping with the philosophy of education and the role of interscholastic athletics supported by the Board of Education and the Edgewood City Schools, the athletic department recognizes student use of drugs and alcohol not only as a violation of the law, but as problematic behavior which has an adverse effect on individuals and the programs in which they are involved. All tobacco, alcohol and drug offenses are cumulative.

In accordance with the rules of the athletic department of the Edgewood City Schools, except for supervised medications prescribed by a physician, a student under the influence, using, possessing, buying, distributing, or receiving drugs (narcotics, hallucinogens, intoxicants, counterfeits, look-alikes, designers), anabolic steroids, controlled substances and alcohol at any time and at any place is in violation of this code.

The following consequences are issued to student-athletes found to have used or been in possession of drugs and/or alcohol:

1st Offense (one calendar year non-participation)

The student may petition to have the one-year obligation reduced given the following conditions are met:

- a. The student cannot participate in the next scheduled 20% of the competitive events of the current sports season. If a season concludes prior to the completion of the obligation, the period of ineligibility will be met in the next sports season in which the student has previously participated. New activities that the student has not participated in (within the previous calendar year) will not count towards this obligation.

- b. The student (at their cost) consents to non-random, mandatory drug screening for the remainder of enrollment at Edgewood High School.
- c. At the cost of the student, he/she will provide a written statement from a trained certified chemical dependency counselor or a licensed physician trained in the treatment of chemical dependency relative to the student's capacity to return to the applicable activity in light of his/her findings and the recommendations for rehabilitation. A copy of this assessment and any recommendations shall accompany the request for reinstatement.
- d. The student provides a negative drug screen at the student's expense from an agency approved by the program administrator and the testing agency

2nd Offense

The student:

- a. Is suspended from all applicable activities for one calendar year.
- b. Attends a district approved drug intervention program:
Program administrator must approve the drug intervention program prior to enrollment
- c. Provides evidence of a negative drug screen at the student's own expense from an agency approved by both the program administrator and the testing agency (must take place prior to reinstatement).
- d. Continues the mandatory drug testing through the school at the student's expense.
- e. Attends a review by program administrator, parent/guardian, student and other "need to know" personnel to determine reinstatement (reinstatement is not automatic).

3rd Offense

The student will be ineligible for the remainder of his/her enrollment at EHS.

VIII. TOBACCO USAGE/POSSESSION

The Edgewood City School District understands the destructive effects of underage tobacco use (both smoking and smokeless). All tobacco, alcohol and drug offenses are cumulative. In order to deter student-athlete tobacco use, the following consequences are issued to student-athletes found to have used or been in possession of tobacco:

1st Offense -The student cannot participate in the next scheduled 20% of the competitive events of the current sports season. If a season concludes prior to the completion of the obligation, the period of ineligibility will be met in the next sports season in which the student has previously participated. New activities that the student has not participated in (within the previous calendar year) will not count towards this obligation.

2nd Offense – The student will be ineligible for one calendar year.

3rd Offense – The student will be ineligible for the remainder of his/her enrollment at EHS.

IX. SELF-REFERRAL

If a student has never had a prior drug/alcohol/tobacco violation, and the student or parent comes to the coach, principal or athletic director seeking help because of a drug, alcohol, or tobacco problem prior to being questioned by a school administrator or law enforcement officials, the athlete will not be found in violation provided she/he follows the recommendations of a school-approved counseling

agency. Self-referral can only occur one time for an athlete. Subsequent violations will be treated as a second offense.

X. APPEAL PROCEDURE

An athlete prohibited from participation (in accordance with the above regulations) will have the right of appeal to the superintendent or his/her designee.

XI. AWARDS

1. The recommendations for winning monogram awards are as follows:

- A. Participate in more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the games in baseball. Players who are pitchers only must participate in $\frac{1}{3}$ of the games;
- B. Participation in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the game quarters in basketball;
- C. Have one of the seven lowest scores for the season (total) in cross country;
- D. Participation in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the game quarters in football;
- E. Participation in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the halves in soccer;
- F. Participation in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the games in softball;
- G. Participation in a scoring position in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the tennis matches;
- H. Participation in a scoring position in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the track meets;
- I. Participation in more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the matches in volleyball or
- J. Participation in a scoring position in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the wrestling matches

2. Plaques may be awarded in each sport at the discretion of the Coach and Athletic Director.

3. Each sport may also present a plaque to an athlete who exemplifies sportsmanship, ethics and integrity

4. Awards may be presented to the best senior boy and girl scholastic athlete and to the outstanding senior boy and girl athlete at the discretion of the athletic council.

5. Any athlete whose participation is terminated in a given sport because of illness or injury suffered in a given sports season shall be eligible for the monogram award.

XII. Award Program

1. The time, place and format of the Awards Program will be determined by the personnel involved.

2. The Awards Program officially ends each sports season.

3. Due to state competition and completing postponed events, it may be necessary to hold awards until final competition is completed.

