

**EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
ATHLETICS HANDBOOK**

Dear Student and Parent,

The Emmanuel Christian School Athletic Department would like to provide an opportunity for participation in a variety of sports programs. We believe that a young person's spiritual, physical and emotional growth can be greatly enhanced by participating in Christ-centered, organized sports.

This Athletics Handbook is designed to inform you of important information about participation in ECS athletics, and is supplemental to ECS student handbooks; all school policies in the student handbook apply to any school sponsored activity, to include athletics.

Please feel free to contact the Athletic Director or any coach if you have any questions.

Please read all of the handbook before signing and returning the signature section at the back of the handbook. Your signatures indicate that the information in the handbook has been read and is understood.

As coaches, we rely on the support of each athlete's parents, especially in reinforcing that academic responsibilities come first and that each student-athlete must learn to manage his time, energy and talents in such a way as to excel in the classroom as well as athletics.

In Christ,

David Murray

## **Philosophy of Athletics**

ECS athletes, fans and parents must understand that the primary focus of our athletics program is NOT winning games, but to use athletics as an extension of the classroom, all in a combined effort to equip our athletes for success in life and not just in sports. We must judge the quality of our athletics program by the development of Christ-like character in the young people that pass through our program and not their win-loss record; by the development of each athlete as a team member rather than an individual in pursuit of self-glorification.

The ECS athlete must understand that sports participation is a privilege rather than a right, and that each athlete is expected to consistently display a Christ-like witness at all times in these ways:

- Showing respect for authority (officials, coaches, parents) at all times.
- Playing hard, but playing hard within the rules.
- Playing to win, but while winning is important, recognizing that winning is not the sole reason for playing.
- Exercising self-control at all times.

## **Academic Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in a any sport, a student must have no grade below “C” on the report card immediately prior to the start of their sport.

Eligibility for fall sports is determined by the May report card of the previous year.

Eligibility for winter sports is determined by the October report card.

Eligibility for spring sports is determined by the January report card.

## **Facilities and Equipment**

Each athlete has been given the privilege of participating in a program, and each athlete must exercise responsibility as well. The facilities used in the programs are designed for safe use by the athletes, and each athlete must accept individual responsibility for the proper use and care of the facilities and equipment used in their sport, as well as all others. With the proper team effort across all sports at ECS, needless injuries can be avoided and needed equipment will last. Remember at all times that you are engaged in a sport, not playtime, and let your behavior reflect this.

## **Transportation**

ECS currently provides a school bus for transportation to events. In the event that the bus is not available, the school will arrange carpooling. In some cases involving events in the Dothan area, students who normally drive to school may be allowed to drive if the necessary permission form is on file in the athletic department.

All athletes who board the bus at the school to travel to any event will be noted on the bus driver’s roll sheet. If a parent is present at the end of an event and wishes to take their child off the bus, the parent must sign the roll sheet before leaving with their child. If an athlete is to ride home with a parent other than their own, the office must be provided with a copy of a permission note before the athlete leaves for the event.

The bus will not stop for meals after an event on school nights. Athletes should bring food for the trip or money to use at the concession stand.

### **Medical Permission Forms and Emergency Procedures**

All students who travel with any program (athletes, scorekeepers, line judges) must have a current Medical Permission and Release Form on file with their coach. Coaches carry their teams' forms on each trip, and should an emergency arise, this form contains the information required to seek medical care. No student may travel with any program until this form is given to the coach of that program.

If an athlete is injured on a trip and needs medical attention, and the athlete's parents are not present, the athlete will be taken to a local emergency room. If an athlete is injured at a home game or practice and needs medical attention and a parent is not present, the parent's phone number(s) will be called, followed by the emergency contact number(s) on file, and if no contact is made, the athlete will then be taken to a local emergency room.

### **Home School Athletes**

ECS allows home-school students to try out for and to participate in school athletics.

The number of home school athletes per team is limited to 20%.

Home school athletes will be expected to follow all school policies as contained in the student handbook as well as meet the academic eligibility requirements in this handbook.

### **Attendance, Practices, Events**

All team members are expected to attend school. An athlete who is absent from school for more than half of a day will not be allowed to participate in any practice or competitions scheduled for that day.

All team members are expected to attend every practice, and to participate with full attention and a willing attitude. While the coaches understand that an occasional practice will be missed, the athletes need to understand that this can impact playing time. This is not necessarily a matter of discipline, but often is because the practice(s) missed by an athlete contained conceptual information that the athlete needs to learn before he is able to contribute effectively to the team effort.

All team members are expected to attend every game. It is obvious that the team's primary players must be present at the games, but the games also present a very critical learning time for those athletes who are on the team in a learning capacity. The bench player who gives full attention to the game and the coach's instructions during the game can gain much knowledge.

Each sport will have its own practice schedule, which will be discussed during tryouts and at the beginning of the season. Practices will not be scheduled for Wednesday evenings or Sundays. Rarely, a practice will be called for Saturday, but this would be an exception based on need rather than an on-going practice time.

Some sports will hold practices during school breaks; however, practices during breaks are never

mandatory except when a conference tournament occurs during a break.

An athlete's amount of playing time is determined by many factors, but the primary determining factor is the amount of skill the athlete exhibits. All athletes should remember that playing time is not determined by seniority or grade.

The athlete's manner of dress during practices, competitions and on road trips must always be in keeping with ECS dress code.

Ball teams will end their season at the end of the last conference tournament in which they participate. Cheerleading has the option of attending one competition in addition to the conference tournament.

### **Pickup of Athletes**

Unless prior arrangement is made between the parent and coach, all athletes should be picked up no later than fifteen minutes after practice concludes.

### **Parental Involvement**

Parents are an important part of the success of any athletic program. The program and the athletes need and appreciate your attendance at the events, and parents' cooperative and enthusiastic support is a blessing to the school and a source of encouragement to the athletes.

Many times, parents have great ideas on how they can do something to help the programs. If you feel the Lord would have you offer to help in any way, please contact the coach.

During the season, there may be problems or concerns that parents have with an athletic policy or a decision made by a coach. All members of the athletic department staff should have an open-door policy. We ask, though, that you approach the coach privately, and that you do not approach the coach just prior to, during, or immediately after a game. The coach has responsibilities to the team before, during, and after the game, and will not be able to give full attention to the matter being discussed, and it would always be best to discuss a matter after the post-game emotions have dissipated.

If the concern is not alleviated after discussion with the coach, a meeting with the Athletic Director will be arranged. If the concern is not alleviated after discussion with the Athletic Director, a meeting with school administration will be arranged.

As parents, you are the primary role model for your children's behavior. Let us all remember that the athletes we are watching are children, and that what they are doing is playing a game. Remember also that the officials have total authority over the entire building or field the moment they enter the facility, and that we should all set a proper example of submission to the authority that has been placed over us.

**Participation on Other Teams**

Concurrent participation in an athletic contest/practice on any other similar team during the same season in which an athlete represents ECS in that sport is strongly discouraged. If an athlete is involved in concurrent participation, participation on an ECS team should take precedence over a non-school participation should conflicts arise concerning practices or games.

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**Please detach, sign and return the following form to the appropriate coach:**

My child and I have read and understand the Emmanuel Christian School Athletic Handbook. We also understand that necessary changes may be made that may not be included in this Handbook.

Athlete's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_