

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2020-2021

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Athletic Director:

Allen Kingry

akingry@emmanuelchristian.org

Head Coach Contact Information

SPORT	HEAD COACH	Coach's E-MAIL
Volleyball	Alexis Johnson-Clark	ajohnson-clark@emmanuelchristian.org
Girls Basketball	Jennifer Bostic	jbostic@emmanuelchristian.org
Boys Basketball	Perry Summerford	psummerford@emmanuelchristian.org
Baseball	Allen Kingry	akingry@emmanuelchristian.org
Softball		@emmanuelchristian.org
JV Cheerleading	Marsha LeMacks	mlemacks@emmanuelchristian.org
Varsity Cheerleading	Tammy Loyed	tloyed@emmanuelchristian.org
Golf		@emmanuelchristian.org
Tennis		@emmanuelchristian.org

Special note: When contacting a coach, players and parents have two options. You may email your coach using their @emmanuelchristian.org address, or you may message them through the ECS official GroupMe. Upon making the team, you will be added to the team GroupMe. The application allows you to privately message your coach outside of the main group message. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, use the private message feature. Do not post anything in the team group message. All major communication from the coach and AD will be posted in this app, it is a good way to keep us all connected and up to date. We ask that you do not post in the main group because it could cloud potentially important information coming from your coach.

Dear Student-Athlete and Parents,

The Emmanuel Christian School Athletic Department would like to provide your student with 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 Athletic Handbook is designed to inform you of important information about participation in ECS Athletics, and is supplemental to the ECS student handbook; all 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 questions (contact information on page 2).

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 fully understood.

As coaches, we rely on the support of each student-athlete's parents, especially in reinforcing to your student that academic responsibilities come first. Each student athlete must learn to manage their time, energy, and talents in such ways as to bring much honor to God in the classrooms as well as participation in athletics.

Respectfully,

Allen Kingry

Mission Expectation

Having the word “Christian” in our school name means little if we do not work diligently to represent Christ in every area of our life. Representing Christ on the field of play starts with practice. Each athlete is encouraged to be excellent in their sport and position, knowing that when they play they are glorifying God through the talents He has given them. We strive to be recognized by our competitors for our sense of fair play, outstanding effort, and Christ-like character.

The Emmanuel Christian School Athletic Department exists to support the school's overall mission by providing a Christ-centered competitive outlet for students that develops character, integrity, leadership, and other life-skills needed to become Christ-like leaders in life. Simply put, the mission/objective of Emmanuel athletics is to see student-athletes growing in the likeness of Christ, to promote the glory of Christ in all athletic contests and competitions.

We expect our student-athletes, parents, and coaches to exemplify the character of Christ in all athletic competitions. In order to accomplish this, there must be a higher level of accountability. Student-athletes have both the privilege and the responsibility of representing our school. These students are always representatives of Christ to those who they come in contact with. This increased visibility demands that the students be held to a higher standard of conduct that is glorifying God, both in school and out of school. "[So]that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life." (Philippians 2:15-16a)

Athletic Policy Disclaimer:

All written policies and areas of concern either specific or non-specific covered in the Athletic Handbook are subject to clarification and/or change by the school administration.

Athletic Affiliation:

Emmanuel Christian School is currently competing in the Panhandle Christian Conference. We will also compete in out of conference play. Throughout any given season we will compete with non conference teams, and not all of these will be

Christian schools. Regardless of how opposing teams/fans conduct themselves it is imperative that **we** are an example of a well disciplined and Christlike organization. **It is not our place to tell opposing schools what they should or should not be doing; instead, it is absolutely our place to lead by example. I challenge you to embody the change you wish to see.**

Eligibility:

Students are eligible to try out for sports teams in the 6th grade. For all sports, JV may consist of students 6th - 10th grade. Varsity may consist of 7th - 12th grade students.

Homeschool students are not allowed to participate in ECS athletics. Tryouts for all sports teams will take place once a year at a predetermined time (see page 6).

Academic Requirements

Emmanuel Christian School believes that participation in co-curricular activities is part of the student's educational experience. However, when involvement in a co-curricular activity interferes with his/her academic performance, in the best interest of the student, he/she must set aside the co-curricular activity to concentrate on their academic studies.

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, students must meet or surpass academic standards:

- As a member of any Emmanuel athletic team an athlete's continued participation is contingent on maintaining a passing grade in **all** classes.
- All athletes must have, on their 1st quarter report card, a **C** or better in every class and maintain a **C** to qualify to participate fully.
- If your grade is a **D** in any class on your 1st quarter report card or drops below a **C** to a **D**, in any class during the season, a parent and the athlete will need to meet with the principal and the athlete will be considered on probation for the remainder of the season.
- Athletes with an **F** in any class will not be allowed to play.

An athlete who is struggling academically may be placed on academic probation as a means to encourage greater academic success. Any decision involving a suspension will be made jointly by the AD and Coach, school administration, and parents of the athlete.

Tryouts:

Tryouts for all sports teams will take place once a year at a predetermined time. Tryout dates will fall within this timespan:

- Volleyball: First two weeks of April
- Soccer: First two weeks of April
- Cheerleading: Last two weeks of April
- Basketball: Last two weeks of August
- Baseball/Softball: Two weeks prior to Thanksgiving

After tryouts are completed, coaches will need time to consider their decisions. Once a decision is reached, coaches will pass out letters that indicate why or why not a student has made the team. Coaches are encouraged to list things that a student will need to improve throughout the year whether they make the roster or not.

Daily Attendance Requirements for Participation in Athletic Contests:

All athletes are expected to be present at school a minimum of four classes prior to participating in a game. Exceptions may be granted by the administration for doctor's appointments, pre-arranged absences, or justifiable emergencies.

If a student is late and does not attend a minimum of four classes, he/she will generally be ineligible to participate in any co-curricular activities that day.

If a student is too ill to be in school, then a student is too ill to participate in any co-curricular activity that day, unless a doctor authorizes in writing that the student is able to participate.

Wednesday Practice:

Practices that take place on Wednesday are valid for exemption. The gym is reserved for cheerleading every Wednesday, and other coaches should not attempt to book a Wednesday practice in the gym. Cheerleading only practices on Wednesdays and receives an exemption to practice later than 4:00. Wednesday practices will always end at 4:00 pm.

Travel:

Student-athletes are to travel on school provided transportation to and from all away games/matches (unless otherwise directed by administration). They are under the authority of Emmanuel Christian School and should conduct themselves accordingly. Student-athletes who need to take alternate transportation home from an away game, must have a parent/guardian sign them out prior to leaving the athletic contest.

Student-athletes should keep in mind that the use of school vehicles includes the responsibility of keeping them clean. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure the players keep the vehicle clean. Food and drink in school vehicles are permissible but can be removed if the responsibility of keeping them clean is not met.

Boys and girls will not sit side-by-side on bus trips.

Commitment:

Students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as they can manage while remaining academically successful. Student-athletes are expected to be loyal and committed to that team for the entire season. In case of multi-sport athletes or coinciding co-curricular activities, coaches will grant flexibility where possible. However, in case of a dilemma, the ongoing or first joined sport must have the player's first loyalty. With that said, the currently active sport season takes precedents.

Student-athletes playing on the varsity level may not participate in outside or non-school teams that coincide with the existing school sport's season without permission of the coach/Athletic Director. If this situation were to arise, the student-athlete would be asked to decide with which team he/she wants to participate. ECS athletics as a whole commits a great deal of time and effort into our athletes, we expect any student athlete to fully commit as well.

Facilities/Equipment/Field Care:

When participating in athletic events, physical education classes, or general playtime, athletic shoes with non-marking soles must be worn. When wearing non-athletic shoes, please avoid walking on the playing surface of the gym. Student-athletes will not be allowed in gymnasium, athletic fields, equipment

storage areas, and concession areas without the approval and supervision of a coach/Athletic Director.

All facilities/equipment should be limited to the use for which it was intended, handled with proper respect, and returned to the proper storage area after each use. Any damage to facilities/equipment should be reported to the Athletic Director as soon as possible.

Practice and Attendance:

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games, unless absent from school. Student-athletes with an unexcused absence from practice or game are subject to **athletic suspension, discipline, or removal** from the team by their coach. Again, Failure to attend practices/ games without valid excuse and proper notice is grounds for removal from the team. Players are fully expected to attend every practice and every game.

Athletic Department Chain of Command:

The Athletic Director oversees the entire athletic program. The AD works with the Head Administrator and Assistant Administrator to provide a quality program.

Each Assistant Coach reports to the Head Coach of their sport, and all Head Coaches report directly to the Athletic Director.

Questions or concerns about a specific team will be first addressed to your son/daughter's coach. If your questions are not sufficiently addressed, feel free to make an appointment with the Head Coach of that sport, and then the Athletic Director. Parents are strongly encouraged to support the decisions of the coach. While you may not agree with every decision of a coach, how and when you express your feelings may have a negative effect on your child and the team.

The time immediately following a contest is an emotional time, so please refrain from approaching a coach with issues at that time. A good standard to follow is "right time, right place, and right spirit."

Communication you will expect from the coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for the team members.

- Locations and times of all games and practices.
- Approximate return times for all away games.
- Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- Procedure to follow for injuries.
- Discipline that would affect playing time.
- Actions that could result in removal from the team.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- Remember, the best time to cover questions and concerns is at the parent/coach meeting at the start of the season.
- Time and place are crucial to consider when questioning a coach. The time directly after an event can be emotional, wait until the next day to discuss issues you have with the coach- you are both more likely to have a level headed discussion if you let time pass.

Appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

- The treatment of your student-athlete, mentally & physically.
- Ways to help your student-athlete improve.
- Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with a coach:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

Sportsmanship

The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "whether therefore you eat or drink, or s you do, do all to the glory of God." Athletics can be used to develop many positive qualities in student-athletes, parents, and spectators. We must maintain a Christ-like testimony while in the midst of competition. The following guidelines have been developed to help us maintain a godly walk & testimony.

For the Coach...

- Exemplify godly character, behavior, and leadership at all times.
- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual student-athlete.
- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and spirit.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Respect the integrity, judgment, and authority of the officials. Show respect to the officials.

For the Student-Athlete...

- Accept the responsibility of representing ECS.
- Treat opponents & teammates with self-control & respect.
- Avoid actions & words that demean or taunt opponents.
- Display modesty in victory & graciousness in defeat.
- Respect the integrity & judgment of the officials.
- Shake hands with opponents after the game (subject to change for 2020...)

For the Spectators...

- Remember that you are at an athletic contest involving school students. They are not adults or professionals.
- Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, & cheerleaders.
- Respect the integrity, judgment, & authority of the officials.
- Avoid personal contact with the officials.
- Avoid booing, taunting, and sarcastic & personal comments directed at opposing players & officials.
- Recognize & show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Be the change you want to see in other schools. A light in the darkness. Lead by Example so that others may follow.

Discipline for Technical Fouls/Cautions/Ejections:

Student-athletes who receive a conduct technical foul in basketball, a caution in soccer or volleyball (yellow card), or a verbal caution in baseball or softball will be removed from the contest for a period deemed necessary by the head coach. Any student-athlete receiving a caution or conduct technical in two consecutive contests will be removed for the remainder of the contest and be suspended the next contest. A student-athlete who is ejected from a contest will be suspended for the next two scheduled contests. These suspensions are carried to the next year if ejection takes place during the last contest of the current season.

Fundraising:

It is not the desire of Emmanuel Christian School to become a fundraising institution. Therefore, fundraisers are limited in number and must be for a specific purpose. It is the responsibility of each Coach to ensure that all fundraisers are approved through the administration and placed on the school calendar. If the fundraiser is not approved by the administration and placed on the school calendar, the fundraiser will not happen. Fundraisers are to be beneficial for the group involved, and offer a worthwhile product for those supporting the school.

Chain of Command For Fundraisers:

Sole responsibility for a fundraiser for any sport falls directly to the head coach of that sport. It is the coach's responsibility to form, organize, and fulfill said fundraiser to completion. Coaches will count the total and turn in funds to the AD all at once, not piece by piece. Head Coach and AD will confirm the total once more together. The AD will turn in funds to the office and ensure that it enters the correct account. Funds in a team-specific athletic account are at the discretionary use of the head coach and administration.

Coaches are allowed **two** fundraisers per year. Fundraisers may not run into another sports season unless permission is given by both coaches and the AD.

ECS Stance On Booster Clubs:

Coaches may choose to involve parents to assist with the duties of an event at their discretion. ECS does not, for any sport, allow the formation of a "Booster Club." **This means** no group may conceive, organize, or otherwise attempt to influence the acquisition or application of funds within any sports program. **This does not mean** that parents are barred from participation in athletic fundraisers, in fact quite the opposite. As a school we depend on our parents for so much, and when it comes to fundraisers we love to see parents that are passionate about helping their coach and team in any way they can. We encourage you to make your willingness to assist known to the coach, so that if the need arises, Coaches will know who to contact for assistance.

Parental Guidelines

No matter the sport, parents should not interfere with practice or games. Parents are expected to maintain an attitude that reflects the schools' code of conduct at all times.

Just as you would not walk into a classroom while a lesson is being taught, do not involve yourself in a practice unless a coach asks you for assistance ahead of time. Our coaches devote an immense amount of time to the betterment of your student athlete, we ask that you show them respect and treat all interactions with dignity. As a school we understand that sporting events can be intense, and sometimes excitement can get the better of you. With that said, berating coaches, officials, and especially players on opposing teams from the stands is unacceptable and may result in removal from the facility. If you are approached by a member of the administration and asked to settle down, please do so. Let us not forget who we represent and what we stand for, no matter the opposition.

Dress Code For Away Games

Student athletes will remain in full accordance with school dress code on away games, to and from. Shorts must be worn to the correct length, shirts will be worn at all times, there are no exceptions to this rule. Any player seen shirtless in our gym, on the bus, or at any other school will be removed from that event for the day. If that student exhibits this behavior once more they will be subject to removal from the team.

Student and parent signatures are to be turned in to the Athletic Director prior to the season. All students must have a signature on file to be eligible for participation

By signing this document you are agreeing to respect and uphold all of the guidelines listed within the ECS Athletic Handbook 2020-2021.

Do not sign this document without fully reading and comprehending the information within. If you have questions about any of the policy listed in this handbook contact Allen Kingry at akingry@emmanuelchristian.org

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____