

EMERALD HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICY



Mission Statement

The mission of Emerald High School is to educate all students to become responsible, productive citizens and life-long learners.

Philosophy and Beliefs

The interscholastic athletic program of Emerald High School is an extension of the classroom. The school offers a comprehensive athletic program in grades 7-12 to provide a wide array of athletic opportunities for students.

Interscholastic athletics provide a laboratory where students learn practical application of their skills and problem-solving in a cooperative environment. The purpose, as with any co-curricular activity, is to develop the student's ability to lead and to follow, to experience teamwork and fair play, and to cultivate lifetime citizenship skills of determination, self-discipline, respect for others, responsibility, goal-setting and perseverance. The opportunity to excel in athletics is available to any student with the skills, dedication, and commitment to achieve.

The interscholastic athletic program is organized as a system to provide developmental skills at beginning levels to a wide range of athletes leading to a varsity-level program for the most athletically talented students.

With this philosophy in mind, Emerald High School has developed a set of beliefs regarding interscholastic athletics to guide the implementation of the program.

- We believe in a commitment to excellence and are very proud of the great traditions of athletic excellence at our school.
- We believe interscholastic athletics develop positive lifelong values.
- We believe that a quality interscholastic athletic program is a partnership of the students, staff, parents, and community.
- We believe athletics develop valuable relationships.
- We believe in sportsmanship and standards of conduct at all times.
- We believe in clear expectations and open communications.
- We believe in a continuity of purpose between middle school and high school programs.
- We believe our interscholastic athletic program is committed to enhancing our athletes' skills.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Introduction

The following articles shall be interpreted as the requirements that every Emerald High School athlete must maintain on a year-round basis to be eligible for participation in interscholastic sports at Emerald High School. Athlete is defined as anyone connected with interscholastic athletics, including but not limited to team members, team managers, and cheerleaders. It is recognized that it shall be the responsibility of all people associated with Emerald High School athletics to enforce this Athletic Code of Conduct.

Students who participate in interscholastic athletics are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct, good sportsmanship, good citizenship and good training, which include abstaining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, controlled substances, misuse of patent medications, and all illegal substances. Accordingly, student athletes are expected to abide by the Athletic Code of Conduct at all times and at all places. The Athletic Code of Conduct is not limited to a student's conduct at school-sponsored activities or on school property. The Athletic Code of Conduct applies on a 12-month, 24-hour basis and has no limitation as to the place of conduct or whether the student is currently in a sport season. This code begins with the first day of school in the seventh grade year, even if you have not participated in any sport at EHS.

Principles of a Student Athlete

An Emerald High School athlete is expected:

1. To welcome the privileges of an athlete, but to sincerely assume the responsibility and obligations that go along with it.
2. To agree that studies come first, and athletics, as important as they are, come second.
3. To apply the philosophy that nothing worthwhile is accomplished without hard work, application, and the desire to succeed.
4. To sacrifice personal desires for the good of the team.
5. To recognize and value the principle that, as an athlete, you do represent your school; and, therefore, must adhere to the highest conduct and performance of citizenship.
6. To respect and encourage excellence of performance and conduct among opponents as well as teammates.
7. To realize that a positive attitude, total effort, and dedication to the athletic program is the responsibility of the athlete throughout the year.
8. To recognize that true athletes, despite unjustified criticism, a losing season, or being up against an opponent that is better, will still have the will and courage to go beyond their apparent ability.

RULES AND ENFORCEMENT

Student athletes possessing, using or under the influence of alcohol or an illegal drug will be disciplined according to the District 50 Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and will receive the following consequences from the athletic director.

- Removal from the team/activity for the remainder of the season. **If the remainder of the season is .5 or greater a student may not participate during the next eligible season until the number of games missed equals 1.0(ex student C is suspended with 3 games remaining of a 10 game season [30%]. Student C is ineligible to participate in 70% of the next eligible season.)**A student may not participate in a different sport until the play offs are over in the sport from which he/she was suspended. If the student violates this rule out of season, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the next sport season where his/her name appears in the certificate of eligibility from the previous year. As with all other district procedures, the next school year is a new beginning. [Emerald High School defines the next school year for fall sports and extracurricular activities as beginning with the first preseason practice or meeting, be that in the spring or summer.]
- The student must enroll in the Cornerstone Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program or an appropriate counseling program approved by the school principal. The student will not be eligible to return to any extra curricular activity until the program is complete.
- For any subsequent drug or alcohol offenses as listed above, the student will be disciplined according to the Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and will be prohibited from participating in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the year.
- Exceptions may be made for cheerleading or dance team tryouts. If elected, the student will not be allowed to participate in any team activities until the end of the school year.
- Student athletes charged with a felony will not be allowed to participate in athletics until charges are dropped or the athlete is found innocent. Athletes found guilty will be ineligible for one calendar year from the date of their conviction.

APPEALS PROCESS

Formal appeals may be made as follows:

- a) First, a student who wishes to appeal their consequences must submit the appeal in writing to the athletic director. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the athletic director they may appeal the decision in writing to the school's athletic committee.
- b) **Secondly, the student may appeal to a committee of school personnel headed by GHS Athletic Director (non-voting). This 3 member committee will be made up of the student's home school assistant principal, a teacher/coach from another sport and a teacher. The school athletic committee will listen to and render a decision. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the school's athletic committee they may appeal the decision in writing to the school principal.**
- c) Lastly, final appeals will be made in writing to the principal of the student's home school where the principal will then consider the committee's recommendation and a final decision will be made in writing by the principal to the student.
- d) The final decision of the principal is to be respected and complied with by all parties involved.

Eligibility Requirements

Daily Attendance

- Athletes are expected to abide by all school attendance policies
- Athletes must be in school the whole day unless they are pre-excused in the main office. Missing half a day of school without pre-approval in the main office will automatically make a player ineligible for the game or practice that day. If an athlete is gone for an appointment, they need to bring a doctor's slip to the Athletic Office.

Academic Eligibility Notes

- Every student on a team will have their grades checked by coaches, starting with the second week of practices for each season. These checks will be done by the Athletic Office using the Power School grade-book program that the teachers input grades into or by sheets sent around to be signed by teachers with their team members.
- Eligibility concerns for an otherwise qualified student with a disability will be addressed on an individual basis and consistent with applicable law, the SCHSL as well as the student's educational plan.
- Teachers are encouraged to email and notify coaches of classroom behavioral and academic concerns regarding that coach's student-athletes.
- Any student-athlete that has an F in any class will have their GPA calculated via Power School, or Students referred by teachers are expected to be provided some plan (either Athletic Study Hall or additional tutoring) by the Athletic Staff if the student athlete is "In-Season" with a sport.

For complete eligibility rules please refer to the SCHSL at www.schsl.org.



Sportsmanship Code

It is expected that proper sportsmanlike behavior at athletic contests be ongoing and adhered to by all athletes, coaches, and spectators. The guidelines the OK Conference has adopted for fans will be followed at all school sponsored events, at home and away. Cheers and signs are to be positive and respectful, fans should be considerate and courteous, noisemakers of any kind are not allowed, and the throwing of objects will not be tolerated. Greenwood School District 50 students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct as printed in the student handbook at all school-sponsored activities, home and away.

Administration and contest management will determine if these guidelines are being followed. Failure to adhere to behavior expectations may result in a warning, an ejection from that contest, and/ or a suspension of privileges to attend school activities for a specified period of time. Disciplinary action will be determined based on prior occurrences and/or the severity of the offense.

Awards

- ❖ Varsity Letter
 - Presented once during the 4 years of competition. The head coach will establish the requirements for earning a letter.
- ❖ Certificate
 - Every athlete that participates in a sport will earn a certificate stating the team and level that they participated in.

EHS Athletic Policy

Parents are required to sign the statement below verifying that they have read and discussed the EHS Athletic Policy with their child.

This is to verify that I have read and discussed the EHS Athletic Policy with the following student for whom I am responsible:

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature _____

Sport(s): _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

(Please sign and return this sheet.)