

**EAST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**



**PARENT AND
STUDENT-ATHLETE
HANDBOOK**

Handbook for Parents and Student-Athletes

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

The athletic program is an integral part of the educational process of the East Allegheny School District. It promotes a desire in our students and community to take part in sports either as a participant or a spectator.

Our aim is to develop competitive student-athletes but not to lose sight of educational values such as sportsmanship, citizenship, health, and scholastic attainment. The athletic programs should also promote school morale and provide an additional source of self-esteem for our students.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To provide opportunities to learn games and improve playing skills to the best of their abilities.
2. To develop physical fitness and desirable health, hygiene, and safety habits.
3. To provide opportunities to make real friends with team members and widen circles of friends by meeting student-athletes from opposing teams.
4. To provide opportunities to observe and practice good sportsmanship.
5. To realize that athletic competition is a privilege that carries definite responsibilities with it.
6. To reap the benefits of the special type of discipline that comes from participation and competition.
7. To understand the concept of teamwork and the individual's role as a team member.

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

1. The community should realize that control of and responsibility for school athletics rests entirely with the school authorities.
2. School athletics should furnish a recreational opportunity for the general public as long as a community is willing to see that the program is conducted solely for the benefit of student competition and student spectators.
3. The community should judge the success of the season on the number of participants, the number of spectators, new skills acquired and good citizenship and good sportsmanship taught, rather than on the number of games won or lost.
4. The community should constantly keep in mind that an athletic contest is part of the school program and therefore is governed by the same philosophy.

SCHOOL AND STUDENT-BODY OBJECTIVES

1. Athletics should be educational.
2. Athletics should promote pride in one's school and community.
3. Proper student interest should be promoted.
4. All visiting schools should be treated as guests.
5. School policy should be consistently applied so as not to provide student-athletes with special privileges.
6. Sportsmanship, fair play, and good school citizenship should be the goals of all student-athletes.
7. Every effort should be made to provide the best coaching, facilities and equipment possible within the economic constraints of the school district's budget.

PARENTS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

While being a parent is often challenging, this effort and responsibility is frequently complicated by being a parent of a student-athlete. This handbook, with its guidelines and suggestions, will give you some insights into this responsibility.

There are many relationships, which are involved in being the sport-parent of a student-athlete.

The Player-Coach Relationship:

Unfortunately, many adults feel that they understand or perhaps know more than many coaches. Everyone becomes an expert. While this newfound expertise may heighten your appreciation of a sport, as a sport-parent, however, you are not the coach.

The player-coach relationship is perhaps the most critical relationship in athletics. A sport-parent can have a pronounced effect on this very important and delicate relationship. While you may not agree with all decisions of a coach, how and when you express your feelings can have a decided effect upon your child.

If you express a negative opinion in front of your child, you need to remember that he or she will return to practice the next day and may carry with him or her your convictions. Your son or daughter will then have to interact with their coach. You, as the sport-parent, can greatly affect this delicate relationship.

Offering technical or strategic instruction to your child at home may interfere and conflict with the instructional process at practice sessions and games. This may ultimately impede your son or daughter's progress and affect their playing time or whether they win a starting position.

The Parent-Coach Relationship:

In your role as a sport-parent, you obviously love and are concerned about your child's welfare. You want the best for him or her. But a student-athlete can have only one coach. Allowing the coach to instruct and guide the team is crucial in many respects.

Should you have any question or concerns, do not approach the coach immediately at the conclusion of a contest. At this time, coaches have other responsibilities and it may be an emotional time. Call and make an appointment for a later time and approach this meeting in a calm, courteous and logical manner.

One of the responsibilities a coach has at the conclusion of a contest is to have a brief meeting with his or her players. Student-athletes should not pause to talk to parents or friends immediately after games. These brief meetings are essential to the learning process involved in athletics.

The Parent-Player Relationship:

Some sport-parents may try to live through their child's athletic efforts. Being positive and supportive is important, but adding pressure and unrealistic expectations can be extremely harmful. Allow your son or daughter to enjoy and grow from this valuable experience. In numerous national studies, it has been determined that most student-athletes participate for enjoyment or fun. Excessive pressure or expectations can alter this most fundamental reason for playing.

When you do speak with your child after a contest don't dwell on his or her play, how many points they scored, or if they started. Instead, first ask how the team did? Did your son or daughter play hard, give 100% and have a good experience?

Relationship with Officials:

There is an age-old phrase often used by irate fans, "How much are you paying the officials?" The home school does not get the officials. All officials are assigned by a commissioner or assigner of the particular sport and neither team has control of which officials are assigned.

Officials agree to and follow a code of ethics. They really do not care or have vested interest in which team emerges as the victor. It is also important to understand that they are a very necessary part of a game. A contest cannot be played without them.

So while you may not agree with all of their calls please do not harass or taunt them. It is also important to remember that they are in charge of the contest and have complete authority to have unruly spectators removed. In many sports, a team will see the same official several times during a season. Coaches, athletic administrators and schools often work hard to establish a rapport and good working relationship, which can easily be damaged by spectators.

Spectator-Cheerleader:

Cheerleaders try to infuse spirit into the fans/spectators and to lead them in selected cheers. Taking this responsibility into your own hands is not appropriate. Fans that leave the stands to direct cheers may often cause or lead to confrontations with the opponents. Following the cheerleader's directions, therefore, is absolutely necessary at all athletic contests.

The emotion and atmosphere at athletic contests can be very exciting and the cheerleaders need to be allowed to direct and control this aspect of the event.

EAST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT FOR ATHLETICS

The primary purpose of the athletic program in the East Allegheny School District is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional and moral well being of the participants. It is hoped that athletics in our schools will be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in their life.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the athlete gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/She also accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities, which are unique to an athletic program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the athlete must willingly assume these obligations, as the role demands that the individual make sacrifices not required of others.

In addition to the policies set forth by the East Allegheny School District, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and the W.P.I.A.L also govern the athletic program participants.

Being a member of the interscholastic program is a privilege to be earned and maintained throughout the season. Each time participants step into a school or onto the practice field and anytime they participate in a game they are expected to represent themselves, family, team and school in a responsible, sportsmanlike manner.

It is our responsibility to provide challenging opportunities for our student-athletes to compete successfully at the league, district, and state levels.

ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND

At East Allegheny High School and Logan Middle School, the following chain of command is in effect.

Principal
Athletic Director
Head Coach
Assistant Coaches
Student-Athletes

If there are any questions or concerns involving some aspect of our athletic program, the student-athlete should first contact the appropriate coach. If there were no resolution, he or she would then go to the head coach, etc.

Different Coaching Styles

Just as our students are exposed to a variety of teaching styles and techniques, our student-athletes are exposed to a variety of coaching styles and techniques. Consequently, the Athletic Department does not have any rules, which mandate the amount of playing time received by each player. Those decisions ultimately rest with the coaches in the program. Questions or concerns about playing time are best addressed in a player-coach or a parent-coach conference.

Expressing Concerns

When expressing an occasional concern with a coach, please refer to and use the following guidelines:

1. Never approach a coach immediately after a contest. This is not the proper time or place for a discussion concerning your child or the team.
2. Call the following day and make an appointment, which is convenient for both you and the coach to meet.
3. Raise your concern in a calm and civil manner. Yelling, being rude or using foul language is totally unacceptable.
4. Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Often a sport-parent may be blinded by emotion and this overrides logic and reason. Listening receptively may really help you to understand any explanation, which is given.

Contacting the Athletic Office

It is always better to express a concern than to internalize it. A valid concern that is not addressed can lead to other problems for the student-athlete, the coach, or the team. A player-coach or a parent-coach conference is still the most appropriate way to express a concern. If, for whatever reason, a student-athlete or parent feels uncomfortable about talking to the coach, it is then advisable to contact the Athletic Director. Just as the Principal will protect the identity of the person who expresses a concern about a teacher or a class, the Athletic Director will protect the identity of the person who expresses a concern about a coach or a team.

After listening to the concern, the Athletic Director will either address the concern for the purpose of correcting it; or they will explain to the caller why the coach is operating in a correct manner. If the caller does not accept the Athletic Director's explanation, the caller has the option of contacting the Principal.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Since athletics is educational in nature, it is important that all parents demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as role models for our student-athletes and students. Sportsmanship is an overt display of respect for the rules of sport and for all others – players, coaches, officials and fans. It also involves a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. This means:

1. There can be no vulgar or inappropriate language from our fans or spectators.
2. Taunting or trash talking of our opponents and their cheerleaders cannot be tolerated.
3. Spectators cannot leave the bleachers or enter onto the court or field during a contest.

4. Fans should be supportive and positive. Cheerleading should be done for our team and not against our opponent.
5. We should not impede or interfere with our opponent's cheerleaders from leading their cheers.
6. In some specific sports such as basketball, we should not yell while an opponent takes a foul shot.

Responsibilities of a Student-Athlete

Most coaches would expect a student-athlete to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The team's goals, welfare and success must come before any individual.
2. A student-athlete needs to consistently attend practice sessions. This also includes weekend and holiday periods.
3. Players must be receptive to coaching.
4. Team members are responsible for all issued uniforms and equipment.
5. As a member of a team, a student-athlete must agree to and follow the team rules. Student-athletes need to remember that they are ambassadors and represent not only themselves, but the coaching staff and the school.
6. If injured, a student-athlete must report all injuries to either the coach or, more importantly, to our athletic trainer.

Responsibilities of a Coach

At East Allegheny High School and Logan Middle School, a coach has the responsibility for the following:

1. The selection of the squad.
2. The determination of the style of play, including the offensive and defensive philosophy.
3. The teaching and instruction at practice sessions.
4. The determination of who starts and how long an athlete plays in a contest.
5. The decision of who plays in what position.
6. The establishing of team rules.
7. The selection of team captains.
8. The communication with student-athletes and parents with respect to when practice sessions will be held, and when the sessions will start and finish.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. All students and coaches are held accountable to the policies and procedures of the East Allegheny School District at all practices, games, and bus travel. Students who violate the East Allegheny student discipline, attendance, and academic policies will receive the punishments for such infractions as outlined in school and district policy.
2. W.P.I.A.L. and P.I.A.A. rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, starting dates, use of school equipment, etc. Each coach has the responsibility to know, to inform team members and parents, and to enforce school, W.P.I.A.L. and P.I.A.A. regulations in these matters.

3. Any civil law infraction or conduct by a student athlete that is determined by the head coach and school administration to be detrimental to the athletic program, school, or school district will result in a meeting with the head coach and a school administrator with possible suspension, citation and other school penalties as they relate to the specific incidents.
4. No athlete may quit one sport and try out for another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both coaches.
5. Athletes must travel to and from contests by transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are:
 - Injury to a participant, which would require alternate transportation.
 - Prior arrangement between the participant's parent/guardian and the coach for the student to ride with the parent/guardian. This request must be in writing
6. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward an opponent will result in discipline from the coach. Any use of profanity toward an adult, whether that adult is an official, coach, parent, teacher, or school administrator will result in an out-of-school suspension for the student and additional team punishments from the coach.
7. Theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual's equipment or property will not be tolerated and will be subject to punishments outlined in the student handbook, including possible citations and dismissal from the team.
8. Completion of the sports season is required in order for the student to be eligible for letter or other team or individual awards. No awards shall be given to any student suspended for the remainder of the season for athletic code violation.
9. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and drugs by athletic program participants is prohibited. Use of performance enhancing supplements, pills, powders, or drugs by athletes is prohibited.
10. Before any team suspension provided for under these rules shall take effect, the student shall be verbally advised by the head coach of the alleged violation and the student will have an opportunity to explain. If, after such conference, the head coach is satisfied that a suspension is justified, the student and parents shall be notified.
11. The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any violations that occur during practice, transportation and contests, whether they are held at East Allegheny or other sites during the season of participation.
12. The principal and Athletic Director must clear any additional rules or regulations the head coach wishes to put in place. Any additional rules and regulations must be in writing and on file in the athletic office.

School Attendance Requirements

A student must be in school the day of the game by 9:00 a.m. in order to participate. An exception would be made if the student had an approved appointment; in which case, the student must present a signed statement to the attendance supervisor.

A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate again until the date indicated by the student's doctor. This release form must be issued to the Athletic Trainer.

P.I.A.A. ELIGIBILITY RULES

Age

To be eligible for a school year, you must not have reached your 19th birthday by June 30th immediately preceding the school year (15th birthday where interscholastic competition is limited to grades 7 and 8; 16th birthday where limited to grades 7 or 9).

Amateur status and awards

To be eligible to participate in a sport, you must be an amateur in that sport. Amateur status, and eligibility is lost if you, or your parent or guardian, receive money or property for or related to your athletic ability, performance, participation, services, or training in a sport.

You may receive awards only from your school, the sponsor of an athletic event, the news media, or a non-profit service organization approved by your school principal. Permissible awards include a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, shorts, jersey, cap, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar trophy, which must bear appropriate organizational insignia or comparable identification. Your school and/or sponsor of an athletic event may pay the reasonable and necessary expenses for your transportation, lodging, and/or meals incurred while participating in interscholastic athletic events.

Attendance

You must be enrolled in and in full-time attendance at a PIAA member school, or be home-schooled.

Generally, you are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled or, if a home-schooled student, at a public school in the public school district in which you reside. Charter school students should consult with your principal to determine the school at which you are eligible.

If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you have been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following your 20th day of absence. Attendance at summer school does not count toward the 45 school days required.

Consent of Parent or Guardian

You are eligible only if you have completed a **C**omprehensive **I**nitial **P**re-participation **P**hysical **E**valuation (**CIPPE**), performed by an authorized medical examiner before your first sport season's first practice of that school year. If you seek to participate in subsequent sports in the same school year, you may be required to be re-evaluated. Your principal or Athletic Director can determine what re-evaluation is needed. **A CIPPE may be performed no earlier than June 1st; and, regardless of when performed during the school year, remains effective only until the next May 31st.**

Period of Time after Eighth Grade, Participation, and Grade Repetition

Your athletic eligibility extends only until you have reached the end of your fourth consecutive year beyond the eighth grade. Therefore, if you repeat a grade after eighth, you will be ineligible as a senior.

You may participate in a maximum of six seasons in each sport during grades seven through twelve, a maximum of four seasons in each sport during grades nine through twelve, and a maximum of three seasons in each sport during grades seven through nine.

You may participate in only one season in each sport during each school year.

Academic and Curricular Requirements

You must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by your Principal as a full-time curriculum.

You must be passing at least four full-credit subjects, or the equivalent, as of each Friday during a grading period. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility from the Friday in which the report is made by your coach until the next Friday as of which you meet this requirement.

You must have passed at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous grading period, except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on your final grades for the preceding school year. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility for 15 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day grades are issued.

ADDITIONAL RULES SET FORTH BY THE EAST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Attendance

A student who accumulates ten (10) unexcused or illegal absences will be pulled from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

Academic and Curricular Requirements

In order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must have passed the four core subjects (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) or the equivalent, during the preceding semester. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility for (15) school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day grades are issued.

Back work may be made up, providing it is in accordance with the regular rules of the school. Following the semester where insufficient grades led to academic ineligibility, attendance at summer school to improve grades is acceptable. Transcripts of class grades must be presented to determine eligibility. (Athletes will be following the PIAA semester rule guidelines and East Allegheny guidelines during the school year for all subjects).

Weekly Eligibility Forms

When the final squad has been selected, each member of the team will submit their grades weekly to the head coach. The head coach will complete the eligibility forms and submit them to the Athletic Office. Each student-athlete should maintain a 2.0 average of all subjects to be eligible to participate. If the minimum 2.0 has not been achieved, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in contests until grades are submitted the following Friday. If a 2.0 has been achieved at that time, they will be eligible to participate.

Equipment Obligations

Students must turn in all equipment/uniforms and/or any monetary obligations from a previous season before the student is eligible to practice and compete in a subsequent sport. Participants will be responsible for the replacement of such equipment.

N.C.A.A. Clearinghouse

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid, and regulates college sports. The NCAA has three membership divisions – Division I, II, and III. Institutions are members of one or another division according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If a high school student-athlete is planning to enroll in college as a freshman upon graduating from high school and they wish to participate in sports, the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse must certify them.

The Clearinghouse will analyze the student's academic information and determine if they meet the NCAA requirements.

Clearinghouse forms are available in the Guidance Office and is your responsibility to make sure this process is followed.

Discipline with Athletes

The head coach is usually the judge of what shall be done when rules are violated, but the Principal and Athletic Director will be kept informed when any serious violation occurs.

The following guidelines are designated to add consistency to East Allegheny Athletic Discipline when infractions occur.

1. We will be firm, fair, and consistent to all parties and the school.
2. We are concerned first with what is best for all athletes and second with what is best for the individual.
3. Suspension is usually the best device where major discipline is needed because it is felt most strongly by the athlete and makes clear that the team will do without him/her if he/she does not

live up to standards set. All athletes are subject to the policies and procedures of the East Allegheny School District

The following consequences will result from discipline referrals:

DETENTION- Player reports to detention and then to practice immediately after detention and must makeup that lost practice time with the coaching staff.

- If detention is issued the same time a game is to be played, detention must be served.
- 2nd detention- Player is inactive for the game following this 2nd detention.
- Further detentions may lead to removal from athletics.

ISOLATED CLASS ENVIRONEMT (ICE) - Player must successfully complete the ICE assignment (time). In the event that the team has an early dismissal to attend an event, no special arrangements will be made for the student-athlete. The team will proceed as scheduled without the player. Without a signoff of completion from the ICE supervisor that player is inactive for that day and is not permitted to participate with the team; a 2nd inactive receives a 1 game suspension.

- 2nd ICE – Player receives a 1 game suspension effective for the game immediately following that ICE
- 3rd ICE – Player is dismissed from the team for the remainder of that season.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS) - Player is removed from all team contact, including as a spectator, for the length of the OSS and receives a 1 game suspension after completion of the OSS.

- 2nd OSS – Player is suspended from the team for an indefinite amount of time as determined by the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.
- In the case of a second Fighting Offense, the student is prohibited from participating or attending athletic events for the remainder of the school year.
- 3rd OSS – Player is dismissed from the team for the remainder of that season, and is disqualified from any further athletic participation for the remainder of that school year. Any student that has been suspended from school (OSS) for the third time is ineligible to participate in athletics for the remainder of the school year from the point of the third OSS.
- A suspension may be for a definite time (day, week, month, and season) or may be for an indefinite time until a specific purpose has been realized.

Participation on an Athletic Team

It is important to understand that participating on an athletic team at East Allegheny High School is a privilege and not a right. Being on and maintaining one's membership on the team means accepting all the responsibilities of a student-athlete. However, unlike recreation or intramural teams, equal or guaranteed playing time does not exist. In an effort to win, a coach will use players best suited to the conditions or demands of the contest at that time.

Physical Education Class Participation

It is important to also understand that all student-athletes are expected to actively participate in all required Physical Education classes even when “in season” during their particular sport. Physical Education is an important and required course for graduation. Students who participate in interscholastic athletics should not expect “special” treatment from teachers to be excused from Physical Education classes even on the day of competition. Physical Education teachers will use prudent judgment with student-athletes on determining their participation level in class on the day of competition.

GAME RULES

DRESS CODE IN SCHOOL (Suggestions)

- Home Games: Dress shirt, dress pants, and shoes. Game jerseys with casual pants or team travel suits are acceptable.
- Away Games: Team polo shirts, Game jerseys with khaki pants, or travel suits.

GAME TIME

- Uniform must be worn properly with shirts tucked in, no sagging pants/ shorts.
- Shirt under game jersey must be of same color.
- Same color socks.
- Head/wrists bands must match uniform color and worn according to PIAA rules.
- Players will stand on sideline during National Anthem and be silent and respectful.
- Players will not talk to the media without permission from the coach.
- Players will not leave until coaches dismiss them.
- Players remain with the team at all times: leaving the team area results in an immediate 1 game suspension from the following game. 2nd offense results in **Immediate Dismissal** from the team.
- Coaches will not meet with parents after games (there will be appointment time after practice)
- Parents or other spectators are not permitted in the bench/team area.
- At no time will players use profanity towards a referee, coach, spectator, or any other player. Anyone who does so will be removed from the game.
- At no time will team members taunt or demonstrate unsportsmanlike conduct which would include, but not be limited to: spiting at others, kicking/throwing/punching objects, shouting at referees/spectators, or excessive celebration.

POST GAME

- All players must changed clothes; do not leave the locker room in uniform.
- Players should take a shower.
- Players wear a team T-shirt or team Polo home (a jacket if weather dictates).

BENCH CONDUCT

- Coaches determine personnel and strategy (do not question lineups or strategy).
- Do not ask to go into the game (earn playing time in practice).
- No communications with spectators during the game.
- Do not leave the team during the game.
- Focus on the game and stay prepared.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

Every student participating in interscholastic athletics will receive the proper equipment, which is provided for his or her health and the prevention of injuries. The equipment is to be returned at the end of each sport season. If, for any reason, an athlete fails to return his or her equipment, he or she will be held financially responsible.

If an East Allegheny School District student is observed wearing athletic equipment other than that which has been entrusted to him or her for a particular sport, the equipment will be confiscated and the student will be subject to disciplinary action.

The East Allegheny Athletic Department and Administration will order equipment and supplies through regular purchasing procedures within the confines of the approved budget.

The head coach of each sport is responsible for requisitioning all equipment and supplies to that particular sport. Additionally, the head coach is also responsible for an up-to-date inventory to be on file in the Athletic Director's office.

Cutting the Team

While our ultimate goal is to promote the greatest athletic participation possible at East Allegheny, it may be necessary in some sports to cut a squad. This may occur due to limitations of our facilities, regulations specific to some sports, travel restrictions, and other factors.

Every coach has the responsibility and authority for selecting his or her team. The criteria for selecting the team, is developed by the coach. A copy of the written criteria is then distributed to our student-athletes prior to the tryouts.

It is also important to remember that there are no guarantees. Players from the previous year's JV team, for example, do not automatically make either JV or varsity squads the following year. Having been a member of a team during the previous year or even being a senior does not ensure that a student-athlete will make the squad.

Parents should expect that every candidate is treated fairly and given every consideration. Coaches are sensitive to feelings of disappointment, will handle the task as positively as possible, and be available to answer student-athletes' questions.

While we understand that being cut is disappointing for many student-athletes and even for their parents. We unfortunately cannot keep everyone. Anyone cut from a team is welcome to try out again next season or to try another sport as long as there is an agreement with the coaches of those sports.

When parents and student-athletes understand and support the coach's decision, this difficult process becomes a less painful experience for all.

The Purpose of a JV Team

JV teams exist to provide those student-athletes unable to participate on the varsity squad an opportunity to develop skills and gain experience. While the student-athletes age, size, or skill level may be the limiting factor in not making the varsity team, participation on a JV team may enhance the student-athlete's potential to make the varsity squad in the future.

A caution, however, must also be given. Being a member of a JV team does not guarantee that a student-athlete will automatically move up the following year to the varsity squad. The student-athletes best suited for varsity competition will make the squad next year.

Striving to win is important in athletics; however, compiling a great record or winning a championship should not be the primary objective of a JV team. The development of student-athletes should be the ultimate purpose of a JV squad while at the same time acknowledging the value of winning, learning, and enjoying being a member of a team.

Practice Sessions and Games

For the safety of our student/athletes and coaches, practice sessions are closed to spectators. These sessions are the equivalent of a teacher's classroom and there is real, quality instruction taking place. Interruptions and interference to a student-athlete's concentration and focus in practice cannot be allowed any more than a disruption would be tolerated in an academic setting. Education in any setting cannot be compromised.

At East Allegheny High School and Logan Middle School, practice sessions:

1. May last two hours.
2. May start and end at different times due to the schedule of the coach or of our facilities. The Head Coach will set specific practice times.
3. Will not be held when school is dismissed early due to inclement weather.
4. Will not be held when school is not in session due to inclement weather.
5. May be held on Saturdays and over holiday periods.

Spectators at games, however, are very much encouraged. Positive and nurturing support of teams and student-athletes can be very helpful to performance in athletic contests.

Transportation

Transportation for all athletic contests, scrimmages, and when necessary, practices will be arranged by the Athletic Director. Departure times will be scheduled and published for coaches, players, custodians, faculty, and administration.

Student-athletes MUST use school-provided transportation to all athletic contests and scrimmages unless prior arrangements have been made with the administration. In addition, student-athletes who are transported by school-provided transportation to events MUST return by school-provided transportation unless the head coach receives parental permission personally. Only a legal parent or guardian may transport student-athletes. This however, should only occur in emergency circumstances.

Hazing

In athletic settings, some may view hazing as a harmless rite of initiation or an important activity for team bonding. However, it is actually a form of harassment and represents a Disciplinary Code offense. A more complete explanation of harassment can be found in the East Allegheny Student Handbook.

Hazing, therefore, cannot and will not be condoned or permitted in our athletic program. This means on the fields or courts, in the locker rooms, on the bus, or at any other activity in which student-athletes represent East Allegheny.

Pennsylvania Hazing Law

[P.S.] 5352. Definitions

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meaning given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“HAZING” Any acting or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education. The team shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Risks of Athletic Participation (Assumption of Risk)

In spite of protective equipment, and the supervision and sound instruction by our coaches, there are some risks associated when someone participates in athletics. Injuries in some of our activities can and do occur. In extremely rare cases, death could also result. All student-athletes and parents need to be aware and understand this possibility. At East Allegheny School District, we will do all that we can to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our student-athletes. When injuries occur during practice or games, they must be reported to the Athletic Trainer immediately. The Athletic Trainer will then follow the

procedure for care and will communicate with the parent/guardian. **All necessary forms must be completed by the parent/guardian and returned to the Athletic Trainer the day following the injury.**

Sports Booster Clubs

East Allegheny Booster Clubs exist to support all teams and the entire athletic program. Booster Clubs should have three primary goals: Securing funds to assist the athletic programs, to increase school spirit, and to encourage and promote good sportsmanship.

The Booster Club is not a vehicle to remove coaches, advance vested interests or to alter Athletic Department policy. It is a service and support organization, which works in harmony with its athletic program.

All parents are encouraged to join a Booster Club and become an active member. Most Booster Clubs hold monthly meetings throughout the year.

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS (Acceptable Behavior)

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in a positive manner.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of contests, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game.
- Applause at the end of a contest for performances of all participants.
- Set a positive example for the East Allegheny School District.
- Everyone showing concern for injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage only sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free-throw attempt.
- Disrespectful or derogatory comments, chants, songs, or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on official, coaches, or participants.
- Taunting or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.

If you see or hear something which is inappropriate, please help us by saying something to the offending individual. Remember, that purchasing a ticket provides you with the opportunity and privilege to watch a contest; it is not a license to verbally assault others or to be obnoxious.

EAST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE WPIAL, AND THE PIAA RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EJECT ANY SPECTATORS WHOSE CONDUCT IS DETRIMENTAL TO GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. MISBEHAVIOR AT SPORTING EVENTS MAY LEAD TO PROSECUTION OR SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ACTION.