

East Texas Christian Academy

Athletic Manual and Forms

Revised May 2011

Athletic Program

General Policies

Mission Statement

Our mission is to enhance a quality academic program with an extra-curricular program that provides our students, boys and girls, the opportunity to participate in activities which will help them develop physically, mentally, socially, and foremost, spiritually.

Philosophy

As with all activities at East Texas Christian Academy, the athletic program works with and enhances other programs and activities all of which are conducive to educating the whole child for Christian living in today's world. The program is designed to help our students develop moral and spiritual values while building personal skills and developing teamwork with other students and coaches. The various fields of athletic endeavor are designed to work in cooperation with the educational experiences in the classroom and other involvement opportunities to assist our students as they grow and mature. While a positive experience for students, athletics should never take priority over the demands of the academic classroom and our mission to provide a quality educational experience for our students.

Attendance

The ETCA coaching staff plans meetings and practices to maximize use of time. Well-planned practices are a vital part of a successful athletic program. It is of extreme importance that all players be in attendance and on time for practices. Team success is dependent on each team member consistently participating in drills and activities planned for team improvement.

Even when a player is not feeling well or is recovering from an injury, he or she can gain insight into drills and team needs by watching from the stands or sideline.

If a situation arises which will cause a player to be unable to attend practice/meeting or to be late for a practice/meeting, the player should call the coach. If the coach cannot be reached, a message should be left with the school receptionist. If a call is not made, the player will face disciplinary action upon returning.

Any player that does not attend school the day of a game will NOT play in that day's game. School attendance is of utmost importance to the student athlete. The first obligation of the student is in the classroom.

Eligibility

To be eligible for extracurricular activities, including athletics, a student must be passing all subjects. If the student earns a grade below 70 on his or her report card, the student will be declared ineligible for the following three-week grading period. If the student is then passing all classes when the three-week progress report is issued, the student will regain eligibility status to resume participation in extracurricular activities. If the student is still failing at the time of the progress report, he or she will remain ineligible for the remainder of the six-weeks.

Poor citizenship can also result in ineligibility for athletics and other extracurricular activities.

- Any student earning a U (Unsatisfactory) or two N's (Needs Improvement) in citizenship for a six-weeks grading period will be suspended from extracurricular activities for the following six-week grading period.
- Any student earning N (Needs Improvement) in the same class for two consecutive grading periods will be suspended from extracurricular activities for the following six-week grading period.
- Any N or U earned by a student involved in athletics will merit additional consequences that will be assigned by the Athletic Director and/or coaches.

When a player is having difficulties in a class, he or she should talk to the teacher and the coach. Extra tutorials can be arranged to help the player improve in the class. A player should not wait until the last minute to attempt to salvage a failing grade. Remember that the academic side of school must ALWAYS come before the athletic side!

Attitude

It is the expectation of the athletic department, that all who participate in ETCA athletics will exhibit a positive, Christ-like attitude. Everyone likes to win, and we will always strive toward that outcome. However, we will never sacrifice attitude and behavior for winning. When players display inappropriate behaviors or attitudes, they will be asked to adjust those attitudes or behaviors and will be expected to work toward doing so. Coaches and parents are also expected to display appropriate attitudes on and off the playing field.

Discipline Expectations and Policies

Student Honor Code

*In keeping with the principals taught in the Bible, we ask that all agree to do what is **right**, to speak the **truth**, and to show **integrity** in all that we do. Our commitment to honor means that we will not be involved in lying, cheating, or stealing. If we fail to uphold this goal, we will accept correction from others and the consequences that have been established to guide us. We should continually seek **honor** in all that we do.*

The principles of honor apply to the athletic arena as well as the academic environment. Doing what is right, maintaining truthfulness, and showing integrity are the foundation for the student athlete's behavior whether in the classroom or on the playing field. No situation in a game or practice justifies dishonesty or playing unfairly.

Assertive Discipline Plan

The Assertive Discipline Plan has been established school wide to assure consistency in expectations and consequences. The plan is based on the foundation of communicating classroom and school expectations to students and their families through the Student Handbook, verbal directions from administrators and teachers, and displays of student expectations in the classroom.

Consistent consequences are in place to address violations of school policies and classroom expectations. The goal of any disciplinary plan or action is always to help students become accountable for their actions and develop self-control.

Discipline issues are handled in the classroom. Teachers follow the Assertive Discipline Plan for handling misbehavior in the classroom. Consequences associated with violations of the Assertive Discipline Plan may affect athletic eligibility.

Classroom Expectations

1. Obey all ETCA rules.
2. Be seated and working when tardy bell rings. (unexcused tardiness is **not** acceptable)
3. Come to class with supplies, homework, and covered textbooks.
4. Raise hand for permission to speak or leave seats.
5. Leave inside and around desks clean and chairs pushed under the desk.
6. Be respectful and courteous to others at all times.

Consequences

1. Demerit and warning
2. Demerit, detention, and parent phone contact
3. Demerit, detention, parent phone contact AND a "N"
4. Demerit, detention, parent phone contact, AND a "U"
5. Referral to Office

Athletic Discipline Policy

- Athletes are to listen and show proper respect to coaches at all times. Disrespect towards coaches, officials, opposing coaches, adults, opposing players, or teammates will not be tolerated.
- Athletes will be responsible for their behavior during class time as well as athletic time. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.
- Athletes are responsible for being at all meetings, practices, and games on time. In the event that an athlete will be missing practice or will be late for practice, he or she should notify the coach ahead of time.
- Athletes are responsible for following team rules and regulations. A list of these will be given to each athlete by the coach.
- All disciplinary action will be carried out before the athlete is eligible to play in the next game.
- Decisions by coaches stand! In the event of unresolved conflict, the Athletic Director will be used as a mediator.

Athletic Disciplinary Actions

Continued and persistent violations of athletic and/or school policies will advance the severity of the disciplinary action.

1. Verbal warning
2. Extra conditioning at the end of practice
3. Loss of playing time in games
4. Suspension for one or more games
5. Dismissal from the team
6. Dismissal from the entire athletic program
7. Dismissal from school

Grounds for Immediate Dismissal

Any athlete that participates in an activity deemed illegal or immoral by the athletic staff or the ETCA President may be dismissed from all school athletics. Use of profanity, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or stimulants will not be tolerated. Athletes are asked to be shining examples to the rest of the school.

Equipment and Uniforms

A limited budget is available for the athletic program at ETCA. The Booster Club, school lunch revenues, and a yearly golf tournament fund much of the athletic program. Careful thought is given to the purchase of equipment and uniforms to make the best use of program funds. Athletes should take special care of any uniform or piece of equipment issued to them as participants in the athletic program. They should follow laundry instructions for uniforms.

If there is a problem with a uniform or equipment, the coach should be notified immediately. Every effort will be made to get the item repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

Athletes are responsible for returning all uniforms and equipment issued to them at the end of the season. Damage caused by negligence or loss of issued materials will be charged to the athlete. Records and report cards will not be released if outstanding charges exist.

Injuries

An injury should be reported to the coach at the time the injury occurs. Serious injuries will be referred to the athlete's family physician. If an injury becomes apparent the night or day after a contest, the coach should be made aware of the problem. Parents should be assured that ETCA coaches always put the health and welfare of the student above any other concern. If a player is injured, the coach will always adhere to the wisdom of the physician in making decisions about the student's participation in games and practices. When parents have concerns about an injury, they should contact the coach or Athletic Director.

If a player is injured in a contest or practice when the parent is not in attendance, every effort will be made to contact the parents before medical treatment is given. However, if the parent cannot be reached, the coaching staff will do its best to secure the best possible medical treatment for the player.

It is very important that parents complete and return the Permission to Seek Medical Treatment form at the back of this manual. This authorizes the coach or other staff members to seek medical attention for the student in an emergency.

Insurance

East Texas Christian Academy is covered by a general liability insurance policy. The school **WILL NOT** provide individual health or liability policies for students. Therefore, if the student is to be insured against sickness, accidents (on school premises or at school functions off premises), or any other issue, it will be the parent responsibility to provide such insurance.

Transportation

Athletes are expected to travel to and from games with the team. Buses are provided for travel. If riding with parents reduces the travel time for the trip home, athletes may be given permission to do so. Athletes riding with parents should sign out with the coach. Only team members, assistants, managers, and coaches are allowed to ride in the buses.

Parents will be given an estimate of arrival time back to the school following a game. Parents should be prompt in picking up athletes to prevent adding to the lateness of the day for the coach.

Players should use consideration of others on the team when traveling and show respect for school property. The buses should be left clean with any trash placed in garbage bags and removed from the bus when the team returns. Food and drinks will be limited on the buses when traveling, and may be forbidden if trash and/or damage to the buses becomes a problem.

Travel Behavior and Expectations

When traveling as a member of an ETCA athletic team, players travel as ambassadors of the school. Actions of players should be those expected of Christian young men and young women.

- Players should always be courteous to schools hosting athletic contests.
- Players should respect the property of others.
- Players should leave locker rooms neat and orderly, being sure to remove all personal items and any trash.

If a player is asked to alter his or her behavior by an adult representative of ETCA or the host school, the player is expected to comply with the request.

Boy-Girl Relationships

While we acknowledge and understand that some of our athletes may be dating, we expect these relationships to take place outside of athletic time. "Dating" should not take place at home or away games. When sitting in the stands before or after games, players should sit with teammates. We ask that all athletes respect and adhere to this policy.

Panther Pride Booster Club

The ETCA Booster Club is the support group for the athletic department. Parents or guardians of student athletes are asked to join for the school year. Members of the Booster Club help plan and carry out several special functions during the year including Homecoming and the Athletic Banquet. Members also are asked to help with selling tickets to athletic events or work in the concession stand during the games. Involvement of Booster Club members is vital to the continued growth and success of the athletic program. A membership form is included in the *Current Year Forms Packet*.

Quitting

ETCA athletes are strongly discouraged from quitting a sport once they have begun. Parents and athletes are asked to consider this before signing up to play. If an athlete does quit, he/she must wait until the conclusion of that season to begin off season training, practices, or games for any other sport. We ask that parents and the athlete communicate to the coach and athletic director before making a decision to discontinue participation in a sport once begun.

Athletic Forms

Student Profile

Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies

Medical Release

* TAPPS Physical Evaluation/Medical history

TAPPS Acknowledgement of Rules

All forms must be completed and returned to the Athletic Director BEFORE the student may participate in any athletic games or practices.

- * Every student must complete the entire **medical history** form. **New students** and those entering **grades 6, 7, 9, and 11** must have a **physical examination**.

Student Profile

2011-2012

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Birth date: _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____

Sports participated in last year:

Father or Guardian: _____

Mother or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Father's Work Phone: _____

Mother's Work Phone: _____

Other Phone Numbers: _____

Emergency Contacts and Phone Numbers: _____

Health Insurance Policy Information: _____

Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies

We have read the current athletic manual and agree to abide by all rules and regulations contained within for the 2011-2012 school year.

We understand that each athlete serves as a representative of East Texas Christian Academy casting positive or negative light on the school and its students and staff by the behavior exhibited in participation of athletic events. We agree that the student will constantly strive to exemplify Christian morals and sportsmanship. Additionally, we understand that parents and family members also have a responsibility to show the same positive attitudes whatever the outcome of the contest. By acknowledging this expectation, we also recognize that the coaches and administrators have the right and responsibility to caution family members who choose to act in a disrespectful and unsportsmanlike manner and to discipline athletes who violate the basic principles set forth in the Athletic Manual.

We understand that with all sports available to students at East Texas Christian Academy there is **always** the potential for accident or injury including serious and permanent injuries. We understand and acknowledge the risks involved and do not hold the school and its administration or coaching staff responsible for accidents and/or injuries that may occur during practice or games.

We also understand that East Texas Christian Academy does not maintain insurance policies to cover student injuries. Further it is our responsibility to cover the cost of medical expenses related to any injuries incurred in practice or participation in athletic events.

Student

Date

Father or Guardian

Date

Mother or Guardian

Date

Medical Release for ETCA Athletics

In the event that I (we), _____, cannot be reached,

I (we) give permission for a representative of East Texas Christian Academy to seek necessary medical treatment for my child, _____. I (we) understand that I (we) will be responsible for all associated costs and reimbursements that may need to be made for medical treatment and related expenses.

Mother's Signature

Father's Signature

Date

Date

Phone Numbers

Home: _____

Her Work: _____

His Work: _____

Her Cell: _____

His Cell: _____

Health Insurance

Company Name: _____

Insured: _____

Group Number: _____

Policy Number: _____

Emergency Contacts and Phone Numbers in the event a parent cannot be reached:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____