

Dear participants and parents;

At Elk Point-Jefferson we believe that school sponsored activities are vital to the success of our school and the communities of Elk Point and Jefferson. As participants in these activities, participants, parents and fans are expected to represent EPJ in a respectful and positive manner.

Participation in school sponsored events is dependent on your ability to follow the guidelines that are outlined in the policies below. It is the responsibility of the participants and parents to read, understand and follow the included policies. If you do not understand any of these policies, please feel free to contact the Activities Director for further explanation or discussion.

The coaches and advisors here at EPJ are committed to building a stronger school and community one student at a time. Not only do they teach skills related to their activity, but will also work hard to teach and foster the following skills in the students under their leadership:

1. Work Ethic
  - Students will learn to accept challenges and work to overcome them.
2. Discipline
  - Students will learn to follow rules and accept responsibility when they deviate from the rules.
3. Community Involvement
  - Students will learn what it means to be a part of a community.
4. Academic Achievement
  - Students will understand academic responsibility comes first.
5. Goal Setting
  - Students will learn the value of setting goals and how to set goals that are achievable.
6. Sportsmanship
  - Students will learn how to be a good sport and teammate.
7. Teamwork
  - Students will learn how to accept a role as a member of a larger group with common goals.

Thank you for your participation in our programs here at Elk Point-Jefferson. Together we can make 2022-23 a year to remember!

Sincerely,  
**Justin Clercx**  
Activities Director

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Elk Point-Jefferson School is to provide a safe environment where students will be empowered with knowledge and skills to successfully navigate life's transitions and challenges.

### ELK POINT-JEFFERSON COACHING STAFF 2022-2023 School Year

K-12 ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: Justin Clercx  
School Phone # 605 356-5859  
Email: [justin.clercx@k12.sd.us](mailto:justin.clercx@k12.sd.us)  
School Website: [www.epj.k12.sd.us](http://www.epj.k12.sd.us)

#### **FOOTBALL**

Jake Terry - Head Coach  
Adam Timmins- Assistant  
Jake Otkin - Assistant  
Manny Scarmon – Assistant  
Mason Temme - Assistant  
Zach Ronning -7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>  
Seth Fisher– 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

#### **CROSS COUNTRY (Boys & Girls)**

Jeff Neuharth – Head Coach  
Steve Cross - Assistant

#### **WRESTLING**

Tyler Nolz - Head Coach  
Seth Fischer - Assistant  
– Assistant

#### **BOY'S BASKETBALL**

Jake Otkin - Head Coach  
Adam Timmins - Assistant  
Zach Ronning- Assistant  
Jeff Zeller – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>  
Scott Hanson - 7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup>

#### **GOLF**

Kelly Haberling – Boys Head Coach  
Kelly Haberling – Girls Head Coach  
Marcee Irlbeck – Junior High Coach (SPRING)

#### **ONE ACT PLAY AND ALL SCHOOL PLAY**

Kirsten Colt

#### **BAND/JAZZ BAND/ORCHESTRA**

Aaron Schmeling

#### **GIRL'S BASKETBALL**

Jeff Neuharth - Head Coach  
– Assistant  
Matt Hammitt - Assistant  
Marcee Irlbeck – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>  
Kelly Haberling - 7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup>

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

Erin Ellinger - Head Coach  
Tami Goehring - Assistant  
Alicia Loiland– Assistant  
Brooklyn Tolliver - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>  
– 7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup>

#### **GIRL'S TRACK**

Jeff Zeller – Head Coach  
Steve Cross - Assistant  
Maria Love - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

#### **BOY'S TRACK**

Jake Terry – Head Coach  
Alicia Loiland - Assistant  
– 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

#### **CHEERLEADER ADVISOR**

Maria Love – FB/WR

#### **ORAL INTERPRETATION**

Kirsten Colt

#### **VOCAL/SHOW CHOIR**

Katelyn Brunick

**Athletic Trainer:** Julie Brennan - CNOS

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Superintendent.....Philip Schonebaum  
6-12 Principal..... Skyler Eriksen  
K-5 Principal & Special Education Director .....Laura Throener  
K-12 Activities Director/Title IX Coordinator..... Justin Clercx

# **Sports Offerings and SDHSAA Season Start Dates**

Elk Point-Jefferson is a member of the Dakota XII Conference. Member schools are Canton, Dakota Valley, Dell Rapids, Elk Point-Jefferson, Lennox, Madison, Tri-Valley, Sioux Falls Christian, Tea Area, Vermillion and West Central.

Competitive sports include Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys', and Girls Cross Country; Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Wrestling, Boys and Girls Track, Boys and Girls Golf and Academic Bowl.

The Dakota XII Conference determines a champion in each of these sports, except football, and also determines a "Conference Cup" champion that is a combination of placing in all the conference activities.

### **FALL SPORTS**

The South Dakota High School Activities Association sets the dates for the start of all sport's programs.

The starting date for the 2022 fall sports is:

- Boys Golf..... Monday, August 8
- Football..... Thursday, August 4
- Volleyball ..... Thursday, August 11
- Cross Country..... Thursday, August 11

### **WINTER SPORTS**

The SDHSAA 2022-23 starting dates for the winter sports are:

- Wrestling..... Monday, November 14
- Girls Basketball..... Monday, November 21
- Boys Basketball..... Monday, November 28

### **SPRING SPORTS**

The SDHSAA 2023 starting dates for the spring sports are:

- Track..... \* Monday, February 27
- Golf..... \* Monday, March 27

\*Even though these are the official starting dates, some coaches will opt to start later so as not to interfere with sports programs in progress.

## Academic Eligibility Policy

### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

The Elk Point-Jefferson School has very high expectations of our students. We believe that it is a privilege to participate in our extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. If the student participant does not maintain a minimum level of academic standing, he/she will not be able to participate in these activities.

Every participant shall have all passing grades during each four and one-half week reporting period, a passing grade consisting of a D-. If he/she does not, he/she will be ineligible to participate for at least one full week in all school activities that are considered co-curricular or extra-curricular. A week is from Monday until the following Monday when the grade is checked. If they are not passing after one week, they will be ineligible for an additional week. They will only be eligible when they have a passing grade. The students are responsible for reporting a passing grade to the Principal using the grade report form provided in the high school office. If the affected students do not get their grade checked by Monday, then they will become automatically ineligible for another week. The students will be eligible the Monday that the grade has been reported as passing. The period of ineligibility will begin the Monday following the report of the failing grade. There are no exceptions to this policy.

The principal will be responsible for providing the Activities Director with a list of the students failing courses and notifying the students of their ineligibility. The Principal will provide an updated list weekly on the status of the students' eligibility that will be distributed to the teachers and directors of the activities.

At the semester break eligibility will be based on the second nine weeks grade, not the semester grade. If a student is failing a course after the second nine weeks, he/she will not be eligible until the first day of the second semester. If a student fails a course after the fourth nine weeks, the student will sit out one contest after the school year ends. This contest may be in the spring (golf or track post season), or it could carry over into the fall sports season.

**Co-curricular activities include the following: *\*Band and \*Vocal***

Academic Contests	Annual/Yearbook	Destination Imagination	Field Trips
Newspaper	Quiz Bowl	National Honor Society	
Oral Interpretation	School Play	Homecoming and Prom Royalty	

***\*Band and \*Vocal do not fall under this policy since students receive a transcript grade for these courses. Eligibility for participation at events as a graded part of each course will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion and cooperation of the band/vocal advisor, activities director, and high school principal.***

*(The South Dakota High School Activities Association sets minimum requirements for all students in the state to participate in state sanctioned activities. A student must pass four courses in the prior semester, or they will be ineligible for the entire semester that comes next.)*

# ABSENCE POLICY

## ABSENCES / ATTENDANCE POLICY

When a student is absent, a phone call from a parent or guardian must be received at the school, or a written statement signed by the parent or guardian must be delivered to the principal's office before the absence occurs or immediately upon return to school.

- The school must be notified of a student's absence by the parent (or guardian). This pertains to all students regardless of age. **A student must be in classes all day prior to an extra-curricular or co-curricular activity to participate in the activity unless the student has been excused through the high school office. Students that receive a tardy for their first period of the day MAY be ineligible to participate in that evening's activities at the discretion of the principal and activities director.**
- If students are absent from school in the morning, the parent or guardian must call the principal's office between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The phone number is 605 356-5900. A note must be given to the principal's office when they return.
- Any student who has been absent for any part of the day is asked to report to the principal's office when he/she returns to school to acquire an admit slip.
- A student who has been in school any part of the day but plans to be absent from school later, must bring written permission, be accompanied by parent or guardian, or telephone call, followed by an excuse slip. The student must sign out at the principal's office before leaving.
- If a student has become ill, he/she must get permission from the principal's office to go home. Parents will be contacted, and students must sign out before they are allowed to leave.
- Pre-excused absences are permitted for certain occasions, such as out-of-town appointments. To obtain such an excuse, the student must bring written permission from parents in advance of the planned absence.

In the case of **pre-arranged/pre-excused absence** (vacation, advanced notice medical appointments, school activities, etc.), the parent and/or student shall report the anticipated absence to the office and to each of his/her teachers. As according to the direction of his/her teachers, the student shall complete the work prior to the absence or make arrangements with his/her teachers to complete the work upon return. The student shall initiate contact with his/her teachers prior to the absence making arrangements for the work to be completed in a timely manner. If a student fails to contact his/her teachers prior to the date of the pre-arranged/pre-excused absence to make arrangements for work completion for said absence, the student may be docked credit for the work in question by his/her teachers as according to their classroom procedures for late work inclusive of quizzes, tests, projects, etc.

### ABSENCES - UNEXCUSED:

Students absent from school without prior knowledge or approval of the parent/legal guardian or school personnel will be subject to a one-day in-school suspension.

### SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL:

In school suspension will require the student to be in attendance from 8:15 – 4:00. The student will be required to complete all class work for the day and can receive full credit for this work. In addition to being isolated from classes, students serving an in-school suspension will be expected to participate in practice that day and may participate in after school events if they are still able to catch the bus before it departs or if the event is at home and has not yet begun when they complete their suspension. Students serving an in-school suspension CANNOT be driven to the event by a third party to participate – if you are not on the bus due to suspension, you do not participate that day. Students not involved directly in said activity will be allowed to attend such an event as a spectator.

Students serving out of school suspension will not be allowed to participate in school events (games, events, or practices) as either a participant or as a spectator.

# ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District believes that it is important for our athletes to understand the significance of being able to compete as a representative of the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies and refrain from any activity that is considered illegal by the criminal justice system. These activities include, but are not limited to, the use, possession of, or attempt to purchase alcohol, tobacco, nicotine and nicotine delivery devices, and all other illegal substances by a minor as well as refraining from committing crimes against a person or property. The expectation that student/athletes will refrain from the use of illegal substances and participating in illegal activities does not just apply to a season or sport, rather, student/athletes are expected to follow these training rules throughout the course of an entire school year. An entire school year, for all students, is defined as beginning with the start of practice in the fall and concluding at midnight on the day of the last school-sponsored activity of the year. Please note that there are NO times during the school year, outlined above, when using alcohol, tobacco, nicotine and nicotine delivery devices and illegal drugs or participating in illegal activities are tolerated by the Elk Point-Jefferson School District.

The Activities Director and Principal will investigate infractions and will consider the individual, other students, parents, community members and law enforcement as acceptable sources of information. It is important to note, that due to the sensitive nature of these infractions and the seriousness of the penalties enforced, the school can only enforce penalties if at least one of the following standards is met for the final determination of guilt:

1. Admission of guilt by the student in question.
2. Admission by parent or guardian of the student in question as to their guilt.
3. Signed affidavit by an adult that witnessed the infraction.
4. Citation by a law enforcement agency.
5. Enrollment into a court approved diversion program.

**Self-Report** – Any student that self reports a violation will have their penalty reduced by one-half (1/2). An admission of guilt is considered a self-report if the student initiates the reporting of the incident and if the incident is reported to the Activities Director or Principal within 24 hours of the infraction. A self-report would only apply if the student admitted to consuming, possessing, or attempting to purchase alcohol, tobacco using or possessing a nicotine delivery device or committing crimes against a person or property. If the athlete does not admit to an infraction and it is later determined that the athlete did indeed commit one of the infractions listed above, the self report would be considered invalid, and the athlete would face the full extent of the penalty.

\*Note: A self-report does not exist for violations that include controlled substances and marijuana. Refer to the Suspension from Extra-curricular Activities for use or possession of a controlled substance or marijuana policy for penalties and procedure.

**First Offense:** If a student is found to have used, possessed, or attempted to purchase tobacco, nicotine, alcoholic beverages, or any other type of illegal substance or committed a crime against a person or property during the time period outlined above, the following penalties will be enforced.

	<b>No Self-Report</b>	<b>With Self-Report</b>
Football	2 varsity dates	1 varsity date
Girls and Boys Basketball	4 varsity dates	2 varsity dates
Cross Country	2 varsity dates	1 varsity date
Wrestling	2 varsity dates	1 varsity date
Volleyball	4 varsity dates	2 varsity dates
Golf	2 varsity dates	1 varsity date
Track	2 varsity dates	1 varsity date
Cheerleading	Same as the sport	Same as the sport

If it is determined that the student is guilty of the infraction, they will not compete in any varsity or sub-varsity contest covered during this time frame. Please note that the suspension will be applied to varsity events. NOTE: Sub-varsity events cannot be substituted to lessen the length of a suspension.

During the time that the athletes are serving their penalty, they are required to attend and participate in all practices. They will also be expected to travel with the team and attend extra-curricular activities at the discretion of the coach and Activities Director.

If the student-athlete uses/possesses, or attempts to purchase, an illegal substance, or commits a crime against a person or property during the school year while they are not participating in a sport, the punishment will carry-over into the next sports season or next school year if necessary. The Activities Director will determine the minimum penalty if the penalty cannot be served in any one sport season. Example, if caught during football season and there is only one football game remaining the student-athlete will miss two basketball games also.

The superintendent has the final say on all matters of punishment and determination of guilt. The parents of the offenders and law enforcement will be notified. The student/athlete will not letter in that sport if he/she does not finish the season in good standing.

**Second Offense:** The student-athlete is finished with all athletic contests for the remainder of the year. Parents and law enforcement will be notified. The student/athlete will not letter in the sport he/she is participating in at the time of the second offense.

**Procedures for Suspension of Participants from an Athletic Contest:**

In the event it appears there is a violation the following steps shall be taken immediately:

- 1) The student will be advised of the concern.
- 2) Allow the student to explain his/her position.
- 3) Notify the parent or guardian of the alleged violation and provide an opportunity for a parent conference with any of the following personnel present: coach/advisor, activities director, principal, and student. This conference may be used to determine the action taken.
- 4) The activities director will notify all parties of the decision rendered.
- 5) Punishment will begin the date the guilty decision is rendered.
- 6) The decision may be appealed to the superintendent.

# SDHSAA and SDCL Policy Regarding Drugs and Marijuana

## **Suspension from Extra-curricular Activities for use or possession of controlled substances or marijuana: (Revised 2018)**

The information listed below is a summary of the regulations outlined in the following state statutes, SDCL 13-32-9 SDCL 13-32-9.1 SDCL 13-32-9.2. **Please note that it is the statutes and not the summary that will be used when implementing consequences for all violations.**

Any student that has any form of court ordered consequences for possession, use or distribution of controlled drugs, substances or marijuana or ingesting, inhaling or otherwise taking into the body any substances prohibited by SDCL 22-42-15 will be subject to the following punishment under South Dakota law:

### *Suspension from all extracurricular activities sponsored by the SDHSAA for a period of one (1) year*

For a first offense, a student can have their suspension reduced to thirty (30) days by petitioning the school board and completing an assessment with a certified and licensed addiction counselor. If the assessment indicates a higher level of care required, then that must be completed before the reduction to the suspension is applied. For a second offense, a student can petition the school board for a reduction of the one-year suspension to sixty (60) days if they complete an intensive prevention or treatment program and provide proof of completion. A third offense results in a permanent suspension from all SDHSAA extracurricular events for the remainder of their school career.

As per SDCL 13-32-9.2 – any suspension that is imposed for the above listed violation a student must miss a minimum of two (2) SDHSAA sanctioned events for a first violation and six (6) events for a second violation regardless of whether the suspension is reduced or not. This means that a student's suspension could last longer than the required number of days to meet the criteria. Students must remain an active participant on the team and complete the entire season for the minimum number of events requirements to apply to the given season and any attempt to bypass the rules by quitting a team could result in the suspension upheld for the entire one (1) year. Suspensions not completed within one season will carry over to the next and suspensions not completed in one school year will carry over to the next school year.

Start dates for the suspension can begin one of two ways:

1. The day following a notification by the Unified Judicial System that a student received a court ordered consequence.
2. The day following a self-report by the student, with a parent or guardian present, to a school administrator. NOTE: This option would speed up the penalty by starting the suspension earlier

Nothing in this policy shall relieve the school district from complying with any other state law, including the requirements set forth in SDCL § 13-32-9.

It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a controlled drug or substance specifically prescribed for the student's own use by the student's doctor.



# CO-CURRICULAR DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE POLICY

Co-curricular activities are those activities that are designed to give students the opportunity to experience learning situations not offered by the regular curriculum. Co-curricular activities offered by the Elk Point-Jefferson School include, but are not limited to:

Newspaper	National Honor Society	School Play
Prom	Student Council	Academic Contests
Annual/Yearbook	Quiz Bowl	Homecoming Royalty
Destination Imagination	Oral Interpretation	Prom Royalty
Show Choir	Jazz Band	All-State Band/Choir/Orchestra

Junior and senior high co-curricular activities are completely voluntary. No student is obligated to take part in school activities. Participation is not required for advancement or graduation. To prevent adverse public reaction, dissension on teams, and to promote the general welfare of teams and participants, the following rules will be imposed.

If a student is under the influence of, or in possession of tobacco, alcohol, intoxicants of any kind, nicotine or nicotine delivery devices or has committed a crime against a person or property throughout the school year, the following rules will be enforced.

**Self-Report:** Any student that self-reports a violation will have their penalty reduced by one half (1/2). An admission of guilt is considered a self-report if the student initiates the reporting of the incident and if the incident is reported to the Activities Director or Principal within 24 hours.

\*Note: A self-report does not exist for violations that include controlled substances and marijuana. Refer to the Suspension from Extra-curricular Activities for use or possession of a controlled substance or marijuana policy for penalties and procedure.

**First Offense:** The student will not compete or perform in any co-curricular activity for 20 school days. If a student "self-reports" the incident as defined above, the suspension from co-curricular activities will be reduced to 10 school days. Students shall be required to attend and participate in all practices. The student will not be allowed to travel with or attend co-curricular activities with the organization. Parents will be notified. Elk Point and/or Jefferson Police will be notified.

**Second Offense:** The student will not compete or perform in co-curricular activities for the remainder of the year. Parents will be notified. The Elk Point and/or Jefferson Police will be notified. The student will not letter in the activity he/she is participating in at the time of the second offense.

## **Procedures for Suspension of Participants from an Athletic Contest:**

In the event it appears there is a violation the following steps shall be taken immediately:

- 1) The student will be advised of the concern.
- 2) Allow the student to explain his/her position.
- 3) Notify the parent or guardian of the alleged violation and provide an opportunity for a parent conference with any of the following personnel present: coach/advisor, activities director, principal, and student. This conference may be used to determine the action taken.
- 4) The activities director will notify all parties of the decision rendered.
- 5) Punishment will begin the date the guilty decision is rendered.
- 6) The decision may be appealed to the superintendent.

## SDHSAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following eligibility requirements set by the SDHSAA must be met before any student can participate in the school interscholastic athletic program. Coaches should know these and discuss with all members of their team.

### **YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE IF:**

- 1) You have reached your 20th birthday.
- 2) You have attended more than four (4) first semesters and four (4) second semesters of school (any total of eight (8)) in grades nine (9) through 12. Enrollment in school for 15 school days or participation in an inter-school contest shall constitute a semester.
- 3) You are not passing in four (4) academic classes for and during the previous semester. You will remain ineligible for the entire semester.
- 4) You have graduated from a regular four (4) year high school or institution of equivalent rank.
- 5) You have not enrolled by the 16th school day of the current semester. Date of regular entry into classes is considered the date of enrollment.
- 6) You have been absent from school more than ten consecutive school days. (Illness or death in the family accepted).
- 7) You have transferred from one high school to another without a corresponding change in the residence of your parents.
- 8) You do not have on file in the principal's office a signed physical examination and parent/s permit form.
- 9) You have ever participated in an athletic contest under an assumed name.
- 10) You have ever participated in athletics in any institution of learning of high rank than a standard secondary school.
- 11) You have violated your amateur standing. (Accepting monetary awards beyond limitations established by the SDHSAA).
- 12) You are a member of an independent or non-high school team in a sport during the high school season in that same sport.

**NOTE:** There are exceptions to the above rules. Consult your coach, activities director or principal if any questions arise.

## Chain-of-Command – Athlete/Parent Concerns

In order to ensure a fair appeal process for everyone involved, any concerns by athletes or parents – other than legal or ethical concerns – should go through the proper chain-of-command and be brought to the head coach first. If the issue is not resolved AFTER speaking with the head coach then it can move through the chain of command by the individual voicing the concern. The chain of command is as follows:

1. Head Coach or Advisor
2. Activities Director
3. Superintendent
4. School Board

Each level has the authority to hear and decide an appeal from the level above it. Jumping the chain of command may hinder the opportunity for the next level to fairly hear an appeal and make a decision. Concerns with assistant coaches can be brought to the head coach and do not need to start with the assistant to maintain the integrity of the process. Legal and ethical concerns can be brought to the Activities Director who will investigate the claim and move through the chain-of-command as needed.

## ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION STUDENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION STUDENTS

An individual, of public middle school or high school age, that lives in the Elk Point-Jefferson School District 61-7 is eligible to participate in extra-curricular and co-curricular district offerings including SDHSAA sponsored sports and activities. This includes individuals that are not enrolled at EPJ, but rather participating in an alternative instruction opportunity or homeschooling.

Students that fall into this category must follow all SDHSAA and Elk Point-Jefferson policies regarding participation including, but not limited to, annual physicals, training rules, eligibility rules and academic expectations. Additionally, the parent/guardian or responsible party would need to provide the following information to the school district before the individual would be allowed to participate in sports or activities at Elk Point-Jefferson

1. Proof of age – most opportunities provided by the school district would be for grades 7-12
2. Proof of address – to establish residency within the Elk Point-Jefferson School District
3. Transcript from the previous semester with classes taken and grades achieved

It is the responsibility of the individual providing instruction to notify the school district if the individual participating in activities at Elk Point-Jefferson is ineligible for any reason under SDHSAA or Elk Point-Jefferson School District rules.

Furthermore, it should be noted that participation in a sport or activity is not a guarantee for playing time. An individual participating as an alternative instruction participant will be expected to attend all practices and events and playing time will be earned according to coach's discretion and will not be based on an individual's status as enrolled or not enrolled at EPJ.

Any individual that changes their status within the district from enrolled to unenrolled/alternative instruction during a season will be **INELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE** for the remainder of that season and will have to notify the school – using the process outlined above – to be able to participate in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities at EPJ in the future.

**NOTE: This policy is based on SB177 which passed the South Dakota State Legislature in March 2021**

## Transporting Athletes To/From Events

All athletes **must ride the bus or van to and from an event unless arrangements are made with the coach**. Cheerleaders may ride with the team unless the cheer coach and Activities Director arrange other school transportation. Elk Point-Jefferson strongly encourages all participants to ride home with the team as we consider this a vital part of the team building experience.

If a student is not going to ride the bus home they may only leave with a parent/legal guardian and the parent/legal guardian must be physically present at the event to sign the student out. **NO STUDENT CAN LEAVE AN EVENT WITHOUT CHECKING OUT WITH THE HEAD COACH AND HAVING A PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGN THEM OUT.**

*If a student is not riding the bus to an event or is planning to leave with someone other than a parent it must be cleared through the Activities Director BEFORE the team leaves for the event or the student will be expected to ride in the school provided transportation. The Activities Director has the ability to amend these expectations in an emergency situation.*

# LETTERWINNERS

Definite policies for winning major awards are established for each sport. These will be available to all squad members at the start of the season. One major award, an "EPJ" emblem, will be given when the athlete has met the qualifications as a varsity team letter winner. Repeat letter winners will receive bars after they have the initial emblem and bar for the sport.

The following EP-J Lettering Policy applies as listed below for fall sports:

Football:	Player must earn a total of 135 points based on participation in qualifying events outlined in the football lettering policy.
Volleyball:	Players must participate in half of the varsity matches.
Cross Country (Boys and Girls):	<b>Participants</b> must place in at least one varsity meet during the season or run on the varsity squad for two (2) meets.
Cheerleading:	Must follow the cheer guidelines as signed prior to tryouts. Must have 0 unexcused absences from games.

The following is the approved EPJ Lettering Policy for the winter/spring sports:

Boys Basketball:	Must play in one-fifth of varsity quarters <b>OR</b> Varsity team qualifies for So Dak 16 (all members of the varsity team will letter) <b>OR Senior</b> members for years of service
Girls Basketball:	Players must participate in eighteen (18) quarters of varsity games. Post-season play will count toward the total.
Wrestling:	Participants will earn a letter if they accomplish one (1) of the following criteria: 1) Win 5 matches (forfeits do not count), or 2) Win one match at the Region Meet (byes and forfeits do not count). 3) Wrestle twenty (20) varsity matches
Track (Boys and Girls):	Letters will be awarded to participants for placing in at least two (2) varsity events during the season and they must finish the year in good standing.
Golf (Boys and Girls):	Student must qualify by score and golf in two (2) varsity matches (Duals or Tournaments).

## General Criteria for all Athletic Programs Sponsored by Elk Point-Jefferson:

- 1.) Student-athletes must attend all practices, meets or games unless excused by the head coach.
- 2.) Student-athletes will abide by the rest of the policies in the Activities Handbook.
- 3.) Students will finish the season in good standing to be eligible for a letter for that season.
- 4.) Student-athletes will cooperate with coaches and their respective teams.
- 5.) In case of illness or injury, the coaching staff will take into consideration the circumstances and use their own discretion.
- 6.) Student-athletes that have participated for four (4) years and fulfilled all the other requirements and have not yet lettered, will earn a letter for loyal service.

The following is the approved EPJ Lettering Policy for fine arts activities:

Theater/Oral Interp: There are three theatre/drama activities which students may participate in each year. Those activities are:

1. School Musical or One Act Play (offered on a rotating basis every other year)
2. All School Play
3. Oral Interpretation.

A student must participate in two (2) of the three (3) activities each year to qualify for a letter. Students may participate as an actor, stage manager, assistant director, or in the lights, sound, set, props or costumes crews. Letters are awarded on a yearly basis, not cumulative across multiple years.

Additional Requirements:

- Participants must attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the advisor(s).
- Must attend at least 2 set building days per production.
- Must participate in all strike duties through completion.
- Abide by the policies in the activities handbook.
- In case of illness or injury, the advisor will take into consideration the circumstances and use his/her own discretion in awarding a letter.

Band: A student must earn 16 points throughout the year by participating in various band related activities. These are listed with point values assigned in the band lettering policy.

Jazz Band: A student will earn a letter in Jazz Band if they earn an "A" for the course and attend all Jazz Band concerts and competitions.

Vocal: A student must earn at least 20 points throughout the year by participating in various vocal related activities. These are listed with point values assigned in the vocal lettering policy.

Show Choir: A student will earn a letter in show choir if they earn an "A" for the course and attend all scheduled events.

Student Council: A student elected by their peers that serves on the council for the entire year and finishes the year in good standing will earn a letter for Student Council that school year.

Academic Letter: A student that maintains a 3.5 Grade Point Average (GPA) or higher for that school year will earn an academic letter

**Handbook Signature Page for Student and Parent**



**WARNING:** Due to the nature of the athletic events, it is possible for a student-athlete to be injured during practice and/or games. It is the duty of the coaching staff to provide instruction, discipline, and conditioning to minimize the possibility of injury. However, the possibility of injury exists.

By signing this page we acknowledge that we have read and understand all rules, regulations and penalties set forth in the Elk Point-Jefferson Activities Handbook and agree to abide by all rules and regulations set within. Furthermore, we understand that a violation of rules and regulations may cause penalties to be enforced that could result in loss of participation in school sponsored activities and events.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**2022-2023 School Year**

**RETURN THIS BACK PAGE TO YOUR COACH OR THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE.**