

Elementary Athletics Parent & Athlete Handbook

Philosophy and Goals of Elementary Athletics

School District #11's Elementary Interscholastic Athletic Program strives to provide an atmosphere for all interested students to discover and grow within the offered sports while competing in a developmentally appropriate arena.

GOAL:

The goal of the District Eleven Elementary Interscholastic Athletic Program is to provide student athletes an opportunity to grow in a prospective sport through a positive, enjoyable experience within an atmosphere of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Each student expressing an interest in the sports offered should be afforded the opportunity to participate during the season or try out at the start of the season regardless of size or ability.

Participants in athletic programs will represent their respective schools according to the standards set forth by the school administration and coaches. Good sportsmanship by athletes, spectators and coaches will be emphasized throughout the entire program.

Sportsmanship and Conduct

As participants in School District 11 athletic program, all are expected to conduct themselves with the utmost integrity and sportsmanship. This includes, but is not limited to, respectful behavior toward all opposing team members, officials, and other adult support staff. The expectation is that all participants will be courteous, honest, and maintain the integrity of the sport.

The Coach:

1. Treats own players and opponents with respect.
2. Inspires in all participants a love for the game and the desire to continue participation.
3. Is a good role model.
4. Disciplines those on the team who display unsportsmanlike behavior.
5. Respects the judgment and interpretation of the rules by the officials.
6. Knows they are a teacher and understands the athletic arena is a classroom and always conducts themselves in a manner promotes a positive experience.

The Parent/spectators:

1. Remember that you are at a contest to support and cheer for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to criticize or ridicule players, coaches, officials or spectators.
2. Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and they may make mistakes.

Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

3. Your attendance is a privilege to observe the contest, not to be a negative influence.
4. Our league rules and manner may differ than yours. If you have questions please ask so that you may better understand and appreciate why we do things the way we do.
5. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
7. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
9. Use only cheers that support and uplift the individuals involved.
10. Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and league for their efforts in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the rule of good SPORTING BEHAVIOR to the end.
11. Be a positive role model through your own actions.

The Player:

1. Treats opponents with respect.
2. Plays hard, but plays within the rules.
3. Exercises self-control at all times, setting the example for others to follow.
4. Respects coaches and officials by accepting their decisions without gesture or argument.
5. Wins without boasting, loses without excuses and never quits.
6. Always remembers that it is a privilege to represent the school and community.

Participation

The players and their parents must understand that participation in the District 11 League is a privilege and not a right. Each school has the right to establish more stringent participation and eligibility rules than are stated in the Athletic Handbook.

Daily Attendance:

The District 11 Athletic Department believes and promotes the importance of academic student achievement and the health and well being of all students. It is suggested that students be in attendance on the day of competition in order to compete in a contest. However, realizing that extenuating circumstances sometimes prevent that, it is understood that the student, parent, coach and building admin will work together to determine if the athlete will be able to compete.

Suspension:

Students who are suspended from school are not eligible to participate in practices or contests and should not be on any D11 campus.

Eligibility:

Participation in the District 11 Elementary Athletic Program is open to Elementary students. Grade levels that can participate are primarily fifth and fourth graders but will be a site-based decision.

Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility will be a site-based decision. The district base line is no more than one F.

Title IX Considerations:

The elementary sports philosophy promotes equal and/or separate programs for members of both sexes. Participation in activities is offered on an equal basis for boys and girls.

Student Regulations

1. Prior to the first practice or try-outs, parents must provide a signed permission form specifying dates and times, emergency contact information to the main office and coach/activity sponsor.

2. Students who are enrolled in a District 11 elementary school are eligible for participation in the athletic program at their school of attendance.
3. Interscholastic activities will be structured for involvement by students at pre-determined grade levels per school site. (i.e. grades 4 & 5, 3-5, K-5).

Cheering

Schools have the opportunity to have groups within a school such as a "Pride Team or Squad" with different responsibilities than cheerleaders had in the past. Emphasis involves a change in criteria from "performance of routines" to participation, service, hosting, and community involvement. This group may lead pep club or audience at home school only. They will not travel to other schools. The goal is to get away from the concept of cheerleaders entirely and to encourage student participation in school spirit and leadership activities.

Cancellation of Contests

1. CRITERIA USED BY THE DISTRICT ATHLETICS OFFICE AND SITE BASED ADMIN IN MAKING A DECISION TO CANCEL:
 - o Evaluate the weather conditions and forecast for the afternoon/evening.
 - o Evaluate road conditions as they relate to the safe transportation of athletes, coaches, and supervisory personnel before and after the game.
 - o Listen to parental concerns in regard to providing transportation for athletic teams.
 - o Confer with other administrative personnel.
 - o Determine the effect of the cancellation on the district-wide athletic schedule.
Make a decision to cancel by 2:00 p.m. to enable principals and coaches to inform students and parents at the earliest opportunity.
2. Once a decision has been made to cancel, notification of all building principals will occur as soon as possible.
3. Contact the assignor of officials to cancel officials.
4. Principals can make a site-based decision to cancel an event even if it is not canceled district wide.

Athletic Fees

1. Collection
 - a. All fees will be collected in the school's main office. Coaches are not encouraged to collect money.
 - b. If athletes or parents indicate the above payment would create a hardship:
 - (1) The principal may choose to create a payment plan over a period of time until the fee has been collected, or consideration of a fee waiver.

Banners

Only posters of a positive nature may be displayed at athletic events.

Coaches Responsibilities

1. Obtain CPR/First Aid/AED and Concussion Certification prior to the start of the season.
2. Adhere to all district policies and procedures to include; practicing out of season, eligibility, physicals, emergency contact, fees, participation rules, player conduct, etc.
3. Attend district coaches' meetings.
4. Attend all district scheduled meetings, events and contests for her/his sport.
5. Advertise and host tryouts for cut sports, with a clear process for selection to include rubrics and point system.
6. Ensure that any volunteer coach goes through the registration process prior to working with athletes and is never alone with athletes.
7. Know and adhering to sport specific participation guidelines and the Elementary Philosophy as identified in the Athletic Handbook.
8. Be knowledgeable and Adhere to sport specific rules spelled out by District 11 Athletics as specified in sport specific handbooks.

9. Demonstrate appropriate sideline conduct during matches, games or meets toward players and officials.
10. Maintain open communication and cooperation with district and building level administration.
11. Host a parent/athlete meeting at the beginning of the season.
12. Provide athletes and parents the team guidelines and expectations including the district philosophy of the interscholastic athletic program in written or electronic form.
13. Prepare practices to maximize instruction for all students.
14. Collect all district equipment, providing clean uniforms for storage, turning in all keys, and meeting any additional building responsibilities to complete the season.
15. Maintain inventory lists of all equipment and uniforms to the building AD at the end of the season.
16. Immediately report concerns, emergencies or injuries to the building AD and the District Athletic Office.
17. Complete all post season responsibilities.
18. Ensure that there will be no organized practice or contact with students on non-school days.

Volunteer Coaches

1. All non-District Eleven employees, adults and students, who wish to volunteer in the middle school program must do the following:
 - a. Meet with the head coach and building Admin to get approval.
 - b. Register with D11 Engage and complete the online Volunteer Registration
 - c. Be under the direct supervision of the coach or building administration at all times.

Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators

In order to establish a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere at District Eleven events parents and all other spectators must:

- ◆ Remain in the designated area during competitions.
- ◆ Refrain from coaching his/her child during games and practices.
- ◆ Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators.
- ◆ Refrain from any booing, taunting, profane language or gestures.
- ◆ Refrain from use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol while on D11 campuses.
- ◆ Expect his/her child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- ◆ Support all the players on the court and cheer the accomplishments made.
- ◆ Refraining from criticizing the actions of players or officials.
- ◆ Refrain from officiating from the sidelines.
- ◆ Praise his/her child for competing fairly and trying hard.
- ◆ Maintain self-control at all times.
- ◆ Know the rules of the contest and that they may differ from the NBA.
- ◆ Make an appointment to discuss any concerns at an agreed upon time at least 12 hours after the incident. It is not appropriate to confront an official, coach or school personnel before, during or after a contest.
- ◆ Remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for the students- **not for adults.**

ANY PARENT OR SPECTATOR EJECTED FROM A CONTEST FOR COMMITTING AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACT SHALL BE INELIGIBLE TO ATTEND THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED CONTEST. ANY SPECTATOR IN ATTENDANCE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WHO GETS EJECTED MAY JEOPARDIZE YOUR ABILITY TO REMAIN AT THE GAME OR ATTEND THE NEXT CONTEST.