

East Tipp Middle School



2025-2026
Athletic Handbook
for
Students and Parents

East Tipp Middle School
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A Message from the Athletic Director...

Dear Student and Parent(s),

The East Tipp Middle School Athletics Department would like to extend an invitation to all students to participate in the many athletic programs offered. We believe that the mental, physical, and emotional growth of a student can be greatly enhanced by participating in a well-organized sports program.

At East Tipp we believe that an athletic program is an extension of the classroom. East Tipp athletics offer students an opportunity to develop and grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. The positive benefits that participation in athletics offers include, but are not limited to, self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence, and the development of team spirit. Participants in East Tipp athletics learn the values associated with competition and benefit from the experience of winning and losing.

We count on the support of parents in reinforcing that academic responsibilities come first and that each student-athlete must learn to manage his/her time, energy, and talents in such a way as to excel in the classroom as well as athletics.

This Athletic Handbook is to inform each of you of valuable information relating to participation in athletics at East Tipp Middle School. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kurt Williams
Athletic Director
765-589-3566
Email: kawilliams@tsc.k12.in.us

Policies and General Information for Participation in Athletics

Available Sports

Official East Tipp Middle School Sports: football, girls volleyball, cheerleading, dance, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls wrestling, and boys and girls track and field

Club Sports offered at East Tipp: cross country, golf (when needed)

Participation

Participation in athletics at East Tipp Middle School is a privilege earned by meeting the rules and standards set by East Tipp and in conjunction with the Tippecanoe School Corporation. Students who have questions concerning eligibility should contact the Athletic Director or Principal.

Since it is a privilege to participate in athletics at East Tipp Middle School, the student athlete will be kept accountable for their actions during the time they are a student athlete. This also extends to when a student is in and out of the school building. Coaches have the ability to establish their own code of conduct policies to promote accountability and positive behavior among student-athletes. When necessary, they may implement appropriate measures, such as temporary adjustments to playing time, to reinforce these values and support personal growth.

Requirements for WRMS Athletic Participation

1. A completed IHSA Physical Examination form must be on file in the athletics office before the first day of tryouts/practice. This form is available in the office at East Tipp and on East Tipp's athletic website. Physicals dated prior to April 1, 2025 are not valid.
2. Each participant must pay a one-time \$50 athletic fee per school year to be used to pay for officials and costs of athletics.
3. All athletes need to be signed up on Final Forms. The link to sign up is on the athletic website.

Conduct and Character

Athletes' conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as:

- Not to reflect discredit upon our school.
- Not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, or environment in the school.

Athletes who violate this rule may be excluded from representing East Tipp Middle School in athletic participation.

It is a privilege to represent East Tipp and our community in athletic competition.

East Tipp Middle School athletes and fans must understand that the primary focus of our athletic program is not winning games. Although we have been very successful over the years and have won games and championships, our primary function is to use athletics as an extension of the classroom. East Tipp believes that having an understanding and respect for sportsmanship is just one of the many benefits of athletic participation. Great sportsmanship shows:

- respect for the opponent at all times.
- a dedicated work ethic.
- exercises self-control at all times.
- respect for officials.

Poor sportsmanship displayed by any of our student-athletes may result in suspension, reduction in playing time, or athletic probation.

Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

Not only is the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by middle school aged students illegal, it is also proven that use of these substances by teens is detrimental to not only their physical health but also to their mental/emotional and social well-being.

East Tipp Athletics strictly prohibits the use of these substances by its athletes. Any student proven or suspected of using these substances will be subject to suspension, reduction in playing time, removal from the team, or athletic probation.

Academic Eligibility

To be eligible for athletics, a student-athlete must maintain grades to where there is not one failing mark (F) during a grade check period.

- If the student-athlete receives a failing mark (F) during a grade check the student-athlete will be...
 - unable to participate in the sporting event for the two-week probationary suspension status.
 - required to attend all practices during the two-week probationary suspension, unless the coach and the player have a mutual agreement to miss practices (homework help, tutoring, etc.).
 - required to attend the team's sporting events and sit with the team but cannot be dressed in the team uniform.
 - be expected to meet with his/her teachers to discuss academic progress and seek additional help. East Tipp has after school tutoring available on Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - meet with their athletic coach to create a plan as to how to raise their academic achievement.
- Any student athlete who receives 3 or more F's for 1 grade check will not be eligible for any participation in their sport for the 2 week period between grade checks.

School Conduct Eligibility

As stated above, East Tipp Middle School expects their athletes to conduct themselves in the classroom in a positive and productive manner.

- If a student receives an in-school suspension (ISS) or out-of-school suspension (OSS), they will not be allowed to participate in practice or games that day.
 - If the ISS or OSS occurs during a Friday they will not be allowed to participate in practices or games until the following Monday.
- If a student receives an after-school detention, they are able to participate in practices after that detention is served during the day of the detention.
- Coaches reserve the right to give further suspensions or reduction in playing time based on their team rules.

Grade Checks

For the purposes of determining athletic eligibility, and in accordance with TSC policy, grade verifications will be conducted on the predetermined dates listed below. Students must have a passing grade in all subjects. If, during the grade verification, a student is not passing all classes, they will be ruled ineligible. During the first two-week period of ineligible status, athletes are required to attend all team functions. Students will be able to earn an eligible status only during the next scheduled verification check. If a student is ruled ineligible for a second time during any one sport, they will be removed from the roster and must turn in their school issued equipment.

Any student participating in an official school sanctioned after-school activity will be included during the season of their participation. Events that school sanctions (but are not limited to) are football, volleyball, cheerleading, dance, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and track.

Club sports are not subject to grade checks unless requested by their sponsor. If requested by their sponsor, the same rules apply as school sanctioned sports.

Grades will be pulled the morning of the scheduled grade check. Student-athletes will be notified that day. Exceptions may be made for students who are absent on the last day to turn in assignments of the grade check.

Grade checks will take place on the following dates during the 2025-2026 school year:

Football/Volleyball/Cheer

8/29/2025

9/12/2025

9/26/2005

Girls Basketball/Wrestling

1/30/2026

2/13/2026

2/27/2026

Boys Basketball/Cheer

11/7/2025

11/22/2025

12/6/2025

Boys and Girls Track

4/3/2026

4/17/2026

5/1/2026

Attendance

Student athletes are expected to make school attendance a priority. Students must be in attendance by 8:50 a.m. and attend all afternoon classes to be eligible for extracurricular events that day. Exception to this would be an excused absence with a doctor's note. If there is a family event, then the parents would need to clear the absence with the office for the athlete to be eligible that day.

Any athlete who is not able or refuses to participate in physical education class will not be eligible to participate in athletics that day as well.

Parent Meetings

A parent or guardian is expected to attend an informational meeting conducted by the Athletic Department for each sport that their child participates in. The meetings are held after teams have been selected but before the first game or event. Meetings are usually held before or after a team's practice so parents are already at the school when they pick up/drop off their child. Meetings for individual sports will be held:

Football/ Volleyball/ Cheerleading.....August TBA
Boys Basketball.....October TBA
Girls Basketball/Wrestling.....January TBA
Track and Field.....March TBA

Tentative Athletic Starting Dates

Sports

Tentative Starting Dates

Football/Volleyball

Monday, August 4, 2025

Boys Basketball

Monday, October 13, 2025

Girls Basketball/Wrestling

Monday, January 5, 2026

Track and Field

Monday, March 9, 2026

Participation on Teams Outside of East Tipp

Participation in an athletic contest/practice on any other team during the same season in which they represent their school in that sport is strongly discouraged. Participation on a non-school team, during the same season, should only be done with knowledge of the middle school coach. Participation on a East Tipp athletic team will take precedence over a non-school team if conflicts arise during the same sport season. Participation with a non-school team that results in a conflict of any practice, game, or scheduled meeting of the East Tipp athletic team may result in an unexcused absence, suspension of playing time, or removal from the school team. Any conflict with practice, games, or meetings should be communicated by the parents and athlete to the coach. The coach must agree if the athlete is going to miss the school sports event.

Pick Up and Drop Off of Athletes

Parents should pick-up their son or daughter at door D2 following a game or practice. It is very important that the athletes are picked up on time.

Practices

All student-athletes are expected to attend all practices unless there is a serious circumstance. If a circumstance comes up, the coach must be notified. If you cannot contact the coach, contact the athletic director and the message will be relayed.

Team practices are open to team members and school staff only.

Equipment Issue and Return

East Tipp provides various equipment to all team members. Any school owned equipment that is issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (except normal wear and tear) or the athlete is expected to compensate the athletic department for the lost or damaged equipment.

Team Schedules

Team practice and game schedules are created weeks and months in advance. Things happen, and sometimes changes might occur. The team's coach will communicate any upcoming changes. Also be sure to check any online team communication for any changes.

Online Communication

The athletic department website can be found on the school website. Schedules and other important information can be found on the website.

Final Forms is the primary source of communication for athletes and parents. All athletes must have a Final Forms account to participate in their sport. Instructions on how to sign up for Final Forms can be found on the athletic website.

Eventlink is a source of information where parents and athletes can find various information about their sports. Purchasing tickets, schedules, and alerts are also provided by this. Instructions on how to sign up for Eventlink can be found on the athletic website.

Coaches may also require athletes to register on certain apps and websites to help with further communication. It is strongly recommended that parents and players register for those apps that coaches recommend.

Awards

Athletes that complete their season in good standing will be awarded a certificate of participation by the Athletic Department. Other awards will be provided as seen by the Athletic Department and the coaches.

Transportation

School buses can be used to transport students to events. Students are expected to ride the bus when they are provided. Any changes to this must be approved by the coach. Student Behavior and Expectations are to be followed while riding the bus.