

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY HANDBOOK

2026-27



ELIDA LOCAL SCHOOLS

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This handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects. This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the school's rules. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised, the language in the most current policy or administrative guidelines prevails. Copies of current Board policies and administrative guidelines are available on the District's website.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION & PHILOSOPHY

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The philosophy of the Elida Athletic Department is to inspire a culture of community pride, hard work, and excellence in all we do. We are committed to developing athletes who grow not only in their competitive abilities, but also as responsible, respectful, and resilient individuals.

Through intentional coaching and positive leadership, we strive to provide every student-athlete with opportunities for personal growth, skill development, and meaningful competition. We believe athletics teaches lifelong values—discipline, teamwork, accountability, and perseverance—and we work to instill these traits in every participant.

Together with our community, we aim to build programs that reflect our shared pride, uphold our expectations of character, and prepare our athletes to succeed both on and off the field.

Expectations for the Athletes:

As a member of a team, the athlete must be aware of the important role he/she has in representing the school and community. Team members are often highly recognizable outside of the school setting. For this reason, student-athletes must be willing to accept the unique role as a representative of the school. If a student-athlete truly accepts this role, this will reflect in their conduct all year round.

Student athletes will be expected to:

1. recognize his/her responsibilities to the team, coaches, fellow athletes, and the school.
2. realize that winning is a team effort and a team goal.
3. know that success comes only through self-sacrifice and hard work.

Expectations for Parents/Guardians:

Make sure your children know that win or lose, you appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.

Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level. Don't compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.

Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.

Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. Athletic children need to know their parents are comfortable win or lose.

Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he/she will likely become confused as to what it is they need to do.

Get to know the coaches' philosophy, attitude, ethics, and knowledge; understand his/her leadership style.

Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized.

Temper your reaction and investigate before reacting.

Support your student-athlete and help him/her as they learn the values of discipline, teamwork, accountability, and perseverance through athletic team participation.

Fan Behavior:

Spectators, by their behaviors and reactions impact the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing teams and are expected to be treated as such. Spectators should also be reminded that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters.

It is important that all spectators:

- know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
- respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and student-athletes of all teams.
- be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
- respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

If a parent/guardian is ejected from a contest the result is a minimum one game suspension, but up to a maximum season long suspension based on the reason. The number of games will be communicated by the athletic director or other school administrator. A parent/guardian who has been ejected, will not be allowed to return until they have met in person with the school administration. If the parent/guardian refuses to abide by these expectations, then their athlete will be denied participation until a time that expectations are met.

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY & RESIDENCE

The High School Principal and the Middle School Principal are responsible for athletic eligibility of athletes, cheerleaders, student trainers, and managers in the respective buildings as outlined in the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Elida Board of Education policies.

Athlete's grades and academic performance are monitored at least once each grading period throughout the school year. Bylaw 4-4-1 of the OHSA Constitution states "In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be engaged in coursework during the immediately preceding grading period and at the conclusion of the immediately preceding grading period, a student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation. Additionally, a student engaged in a College Credit Plus (CCP) Course during a high school's semester may be presumed to be passing that class until it is shown that the student has received a failing grade at the conclusion of the class or subsequently dropped the class, at which time the class can no longer be used to assist the student in meeting the five-credit standard. A student who is engaged in a CCP course has an added responsibility to immediately notify the school for which they participate when any changes with their enrollment

status within the CCP course occurs, and it is the school's obligation to confirm the schedule change upon receipt of notification."

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed four full-credit classes carried the preceding grading period that met five days per week or its equivalent. It should also be noted that credits earned during summer school **CANNOT** be applied toward athletic eligibility.

Eligibility procedures:

1. HIGH SCHOOL

- a. To be eligible, you must be enrolled in and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. Incoming freshmen enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed four credits carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled. **REMINDER: Physical Education does not count towards the five.** College Credit classes will be accepted per the OHSAA guidelines.
- b. Accumulative GPA of 1.50 establishes eligibility unless the student falls below 1.00 during the previous nine-week period. In that event, the student will be ineligible until a 1.00 nine-week period GPA is achieved.
- c. A student with an accumulative GPA below a 1.50 may gain eligibility for a nine-week period providing that student attains a 1.25 GPA during the preceding nine-week period.
- d. A student who receives an "F" maintains eligibility providing all other requirements (A, B, & C) are met.

2. MIDDLE SCHOOL

- a. Each athlete must be passing four-full credit classes that meet five days per week or its equivalent. Eligibility is determined by the preceding grading period.
- b. Accumulative GPA of 1.50 establishes eligibility unless the student falls below 1.00 during the previous nine-week period. In that event, the student will be ineligible until a 1.00 nine-week period GPA is achieved.
- c. A student with an accumulative GPA below a 1.50 may gain eligibility for a nine-week period providing that student attains a 1.25 GPA during the proceeding nine-week period.
- d. A student who receives an "F" maintains eligibility providing all other requirements (A, B, & C) are met.

The rules set forth by the OHSAA, WBL, and Elida Board of Education for eligibility shall serve as a minimum standard. A student who quits or is dismissed from a sport will not be allowed to participate in another sport or participate in pre-season or off-season workouts, conditioning, open gyms, mats or fields until the completion of the sport in which the athlete had originally participated. The start of the season begins with the first scrimmage or contest, whichever comes first.

Student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in two sports in the same season as long as the following conditions are met:

- The athlete must have approval from the Principal and/or Athletic Director, both head coaches of the sports of interest and their parents/guardians. The Two Sport Participation Agreement Form must be completed.
- Games take precedence over practices.
- Cheerleading is included as a sport.
- The athlete must make intentions known of interest in participating in two sports at least two weeks prior to the first State declared practice date.

Eligibility is determined by the Ohio school district of residence of parent(s)/guardian. When there has been a change of custody, the student must reside in the same school district with the legal guardian. Elida Schools will follow all OHSAA guidelines and bylaws set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association pertaining transferring from another school to Elida. If a student transfers after the first day of the student's ninth grade year from a non-public to a public school, from a public to a public school, or from a non-public to a non-public school, the student will be ineligible for 50% of the season for the sport they participated in during the past 12 months. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests and OHSAA sponsored tournaments. See OHSAA Bylaw 4-7-2 for exceptions. **Always check with your school Principal or Athletic Director before you change schools to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.**

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

1. When enrolled in grade 9 for the first time, all students have eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility taken in order of attendance whether participation does or does not occur.
2. Age Limitations:
 - a. Grades 9-12: Once a student attains the age of twenty (20), the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition not withstanding where the 20th birthday falls in relation to the sports season.
 - b. Grades 7-8: Fifteen (15) years of age prior to August 1, declares a student ineligible that school year. A student who is fifteen years of age prior to August 1 is eligible to participate at the high school level not to exceed eight (8) semesters. The Principal should be consulted for procedures to follow.
3. Competing under a name other than one's own or falsifying an address would render all students immediately ineligible.
4. Ineligibility will result if an athlete is influenced by a person or group of persons to change schools. It may also affect the eligibility of the school's athletic teams.

Denial of Participation

If an athlete is denied participation for any reason (academics, discipline, etc.), he/she may continue to practice only with the approval of the head coach, athletic director, and building principal. The student may travel with the team and be present in street clothes on

the bench or sideline with the team during the contest. They may not dress for competition during this period of denial of participation.

SECTION 3: SPORTS CAMPS, INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS, NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

1. Sports Camps/Instructional Programs: Athletes in all OHSAA recognized sports are subject to instructional program regulations. These include:
 - a. An athlete may have no contact in an instructional program with the school coaching staff except during the season of the sport or for 13 days from the Monday of the week of May 15 – July 31.
 - b. Camps, clinics, workshops, etc., that involve team play may be attended from June 1 – July 31 only. Team play is defined as any activity of individuals with more than one player.
 - c. Individual skill instruction may be received at any time in individual or group lessons of 4 or less athletes.
 - d. There is no limit on the number of players from the same school participating on the same team from the Monday of the week of May 15 – July 31.
 - e. Members of a football squad may play in non-contact football (helmets and cleats) contests and attend non-contact team football camps.
2. Non-Interscholastic Participation: Athletes may participate in non-interscholastic competition **prior to** and **after the school season** during the school year under the following conditions:
 - a. The number of players from the same school squad (roster) is limited to:

Soccer	6	Volleyball	3
Football	7	Basketball	3
Baseball & Softball	6		

This rule is not in effect from the Monday of the week of May 15 – July 31.
 - b. A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated, but no later than Labor Day.
 - c. During the school year, outside the school's sport season, an athlete may try out, practice, and compete in a non-interscholastic program, **except in football** and during non-contact times per OHSAA guidelines.
 - d. Participation in a non-interscholastic contest while a member of a school squad in the same sport is **PROHIBITED**. An athlete becomes a member of a school squad by participating in an interscholastic contest (scrimmage, preview, or regular season contest).

PENALTY: The penalty for violation during the school season for any athlete is ineligibility for the remainder of the school season. The maximum penalty for violation of the out-of-season regulations for any athlete, except a senior, is ineligibility for the ensuing season; for a senior, ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

SECTION 4: ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment of Athletic Policies:

At the beginning of each school year, the Athletic Handbook and all necessary forms and Information for participating athletes can be found on your respective schools' athletic website via Final Forms. All athletes must have a current Emergency Medical Form on file before they will be allowed to participate in any athletic program. These forms will be completed on Final Forms.

Physical Examination

OHSAA physical examination forms for all participants shall be signed by a physician, the participant, and by a parent/guardian(s), and must be on file in the Athletic office before any candidate for a team may participate in any way.

These forms necessitate the physician's certification of the individual's physical fitness. In accordance with Bylaw 3-5-1, the pre-participation evaluation is required to be completed once every 13 months. However, there is one exception and it reads: if the pre-participation evaluation is conducted between May 1 and June 1, the pre-participation evaluation, signed by the medical examiner, is valid for one calendar year plus the remainder of that current school year's spring sports season (i.e. through mid-June). Students are encouraged to get their physicals during the summer months (the physical form can be found on your respective schools' athletic website via Final Forms).

Attendance

A student's absence on the day of an athletic event, school production, or any other extracurricular activity will render the student ineligible for participation in that day's event (including practices and rehearsals). Students must be in attendance **the last SIX regular class periods of the day at Elida High School (last FOUR regular class periods at Elida Middle School)** to be eligible to attend and participate in school-sponsored and/or extracurricular activities that day.

Exceptions could be made for a documented appointment, funeral, or other justifiable absence other than illness that has been pre-approved by the athletic director or school administration. Participation in any extracurricular event will be denied if documentation is not delivered or emailed (jsarno@elida.k12.oh.us) to the Athletic Office before the start of that event, production, or activity. Students absent from school on Friday with a contest the following day (Saturday) will be eligible to participate provided the absence is an excused absence.

Vacation Policy

Vacations during an athlete's season are discouraged. However, if a vacation is unavoidable:

1. contact head coach prior to the vacation.
2. an athlete must work with their coach to ensure preparedness to participate in competition.
3. be willing to assume the consequences related to your status as a starter, 2nd string, 3rd string, etc.

Removal from or Quitting a Sport

If an athlete quits a team or is released for disciplinary reasons after the first game or match, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any open gym, conditioning or practices with another sport until the sport he/she quit has been completed (last originally scheduled regular season contest).

If an athlete quits a team, they must do the following:

- Make the reason known to the coach verbally
- Return all equipment and clear all financial responsibility with the school or team.

Team Member Selection Policies

Each coach has his/her own policy on how he/she will choose his/her team. Unfortunately, in some sports, it is necessary to cut a team down to a manageable size. Coaches will explain their policy to candidates for their team at the first meeting. It is strongly recommended from the Athletic Department that all cuts be face-to-face while using a rubric of some kind to evaluate all athletes.

Dual Sports/Activities

Athletes may participate in more than one sport/activity during one season. The athlete must declare which sport/activity will have priority in the event of a conflict. Coaches involved with athletes wanting to do this will meet and discuss the possibilities. The athlete will declare which sport is his/her primary sport. Practice schedules will be worked out between the coaches involved. The athlete must realize the extra time for practice is necessary to compete in two sports in one season. If a conflict arises, the primary sport will take precedence.

From time to time, there may be conflicts between times of activities and it is important that all parties work together to make a decision as to which activity to attend. Communication between coaches and sponsors of conflicting activities is a MUST. We will not put the athlete in the middle. The sharing of our student-athlete's benefits all involved.

All school sponsored sport athletes (grades 7-12) will abide by the OHSAA defined non-interscholastic date as it applies to participation in non-scholastic (club) sports outside of the school season. OHSAA "non-interscholastic" dates refer to the regulatory deadlines after which student-athletes may no longer participate in non-school (club) teams while also competing for their school team in the same sport. These dates vary by sport and are determined annually by the OHSAA.

Participation in non-scholastic (club) sports for another sport while participating in a school sport will be at the discretion and by agreement of the Head Coach of the school-sponsored sport for that season. If a student athlete misses a practice or a game due to non-scholastic (club) sport participation the this will be considered an unexcused absence and the coach will follow their team rules as to potential consequences.

Awards

Athletes are eligible to earn awards. No matter the sport, each athlete receives the same awards and all awards are purchased by the school. Athletes must complete the season's play in order to receive an award; however, injuries may waive this stipulation. No awards will be

issued until equipment is turned in to the coach. Each coach is ultimately responsible for the awards in his/her program. The following information indicates the general guidelines and normal progression for awards. Freshmen are eligible to earn varsity awards at any time.

Description of awards:

- Certificate
 - for participants in a sport that do not meet the requirements to letter
- Numerals
 - any athletes first participation in a sport for sponsored by Elida High School
- JV Letter
 - first year junior- varsity participation
- Varsity Letter
 - first year varsity participation
- Sport Specific Pin
 - first year junior-varsity and varsity participation
- Service Bar
 - second year varsity participation
 - second, Third, or Fourth year junior-varsity participation
- Medal
 - third year varsity participation in a given sport
- Plaque
 - fourth year varsity participation in a given sport

Team Requirements for Varsity and JV Awards are established by the Head Coach of each sport. In all sports, the Head Coach has the opportunity with the approval of the Athletic Director to present a letter to an individual who has not met the established criteria.

ALL-LEAGUE SELECTIONS: Criteria for selection to All-WBL League teams are done by coaches recommendations and voted upon by other WBL coaches. **Coaches cannot vote for student athletes from their own school.**

ALL-DISTRICT/ALL-OHIO SELECTIONS: Criteria for both selections are established by coaching associations and the media, not Elida High School or the Elida Athletic Department.

Signing Ceremonies

Procedure for Athletes to follow:

- information must be presented to the Athletic Director who will then verify that there is a scholarship offer from a college or university.
- A signing ceremony date will be established by the athletic department. Generally, there has been two dates each year at the school for these events. Dates will be coordinated with the building Principal and other events going on at the school.
- the ceremony will be held in the High School Commons towards the end of the school day. Athletes will have a chance to invite their families and any others they wish to attend to the ceremony.
- the Athletic Department will notify local media of the ceremony.

Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL)

Pursuant to Ohio High School Athletic Association ("OHSAA") Bylaws and Elida School Board Policy 2431.06, students may enter into an agreement or arrangement in which the student capitalizes on their Name, Image, and Likeness/Personal Branding Rights, commonly referred to as a NIL Agreement. Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)/Personal Branding Rights shall mean the use of self-publicity due to public recognition (athletic fame) and/or the notoriety a student may attain to receive a benefit through appearances, licensing, social media, endorsements, and/or the use of branding.

A student may enter into a NIL/Personal Branding agreement provided the following criteria are met:

- A. The student does not utilize the name, logos, mascots, trademarks, or other proprietary properties of the OHSAA or any OHSAA member school or school team while receiving the compensation and/or during any promotions or imply that the OHSAA or the OHSAA member school or school team approves the NIL/personal branding activity;
- B. The student does not engage in an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement that is provided by an OHSAA member school or an agent of the school (e.g. collectives, booster clubs, foundations, administrators, coaches, or other individuals);
- C. The student does not engage in any name and image/personal branding activities during school hours, while traveling to or from any OHSAA event, or during official team activities;
- D. The student does not engage in an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement that provides compensation based on specific athletic performance or achievement (e.g. points scored, etc.);
- E. The student does not engage in a NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement that is provided as an inducement to attend a particular school;
- F. The student does not display the sponsor's product or otherwise advertise for a sponsor during official team activities; Official Team Activities include activities that occur during school hours, while traveling to or from an OHSAA event, or during school or team events, including any practice, meeting, contest, tournament, or any similar event or facility the OHSAA deems inappropriate or distracting.
- G. The student is the only person impacted by the NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement and this agreement shall never provide any money, merchandise, services of value, or any other benefits directly to the student's school and/or team;
- H. The student does not engage in a NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement associated with gaming/gambling, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, cannabis, banned or illegal substances, adult entertainment products or services, firearms or other weapons, or any other product or service the OHSAA deems inappropriate or distracting; and
- I. The student is responsible for determining what, if any, effect the NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement may have on eligibility with the NCAA, NJCAA, and/or the NAIA.

A student engaged in a NIL/Personal Branding Rights-agreement shall disclose each agreement to the OHSAA within fourteen (14) days after entering into said agreement. Students who fail to disclose their agreement(s) or fail to disclose their agreement(s) in a timely fashion shall be

subject to a period of ineligibility up to twenty percent (20%) of the sport season in which they participate and/or any other penalties as outlined in OHSAA Bylaw 11.

While NIL is currently permitted, ongoing legislative discussions—such as Ohio House Bill 661, which proposes restricting NIL opportunities for high school and middle school athletes—may result in future changes to the regulatory landscape. Students and Parents should stay updated on any future changes in order to protect their eligibility. Please contact the Elida Athletic Department with any questions you may have as well as consult the OHSAA NIL Resource Center.

SECTION 5: COMMUNICATIONS

Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach:

- coaching philosophy
- expectations the coach has for your child, as well as all players on the squad
- locations and times of all practices and contests
- team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
- procedure should your child be injured
- discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents:

- notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- concerns expressed directly to the coach

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

- the treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- ways to help your child improve
- concerns about your child's behavior

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- playing time
- team strategy
- play calling
- other student-athletes

Procedures for Discussing Concerns with Coaches – Follow the Appropriate Chain of Command:

- 1) Parent/Guardian contacts Head Coach of Level of Play (i.e. Varsity, JV, 8th, 7th)
- 2) Parent/Guardian contacts Head Coach of Program
- 3) Parent/Guardian contacts Athletic Director
- 4) Parent/Guardian contacts Building Administrator
- 5) Parent/Guardian contacts Superintendent
- 6) Parent/Guardian contacts the Elida Board of Education

Note: Any issue involving the well-being of a child either physically or mentally should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director immediately.

24- hour Communication Rule

The **24-Hour Rule** is a common standard in sports that helps keep communication respectful, productive, and focused on athlete development. It prevents heated conversations immediately after a game or practice when emotions are high. Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the Athletic Department to set up the meeting if unable to reach the head coach). Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution). If the meeting does not provide a satisfactory resolution, then follow the appropriate progression on the Chain of Command as described above.

The exceptions to this rule would be for the following:

- safety issues
- injuries
- urgent logistical questions and/or situations

SECTION 6: ELIDA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT UNIFORM RULES FOR ALL SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

The Uniform Rules expectations and consequences, are in effect and will be enforced for twelve (12) months of the year. Any violation of the Uniform Rules shall be observed by a teacher, coach, administrator, school board member, verifiable by law enforcement agency report, the parents of the student-athlete involved in the violation, or the student's statement of admission. Reports regarding potential rules violations from other sources will be investigated by the school administration to determine if there is sufficient evidence of a violation.

Behavioral Expectations of Student Athletes

Student-athletes shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects good citizenship. Any behavior that results in dishonor to the participant, his or her team or school will not be tolerated. The head Coach, athletic director and or the administration will deal with all violations on an individual basis. Acts of unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. theft
2. vandalism
3. non-compliance
4. physical aggression or instigating of physical aggression
5. inappropriate use of social media
6. poor sportsmanship
7. hazing
8. alcohol, tobacco products, and drugs

Injuries and/or Illness

No matter how small the injury, athletes are expected to report their injury to the head coach and athletic trainer. All injured athletes capable of being at practices must attend. Before returning to practice or games after an injury, the athlete must present a medical release from the physician to the athletic trainer and/or head coach **OR** be released by the athletic trainer to resume activities. All illness situations are covered by school policy and the assistant principal's office.

Transportation

All athletes must ride to and from an athletic event via school transportation. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests. Under certain circumstances where it creates an inconvenience to the families, athletes may be excused from riding either to or from an athletic event in school-authorized transportation as determined by board policy for various activities. This privilege is to be kept to a minimum since our philosophy continues to be that an athlete is part of a team in all phases of team activity.

To ride on private transportation:

- a travel release must be requested by the parent/guardian by emailing the athletic director prior to the team's departure for the event.
- the athletic director will reply to the request as well as inform the coach.
- the athlete will be released to the parent/guardian(s) or designated adult by the coach.
- athletes will not be allowed to ride home with another student.
- In an emergency situation, the head coach may release a student-athlete from school transportation requirements, provided the student-athlete is released to the parent/guardian(s) or designated adult for travel purposes.

Athletes who miss school transportation will not be allowed to participate in the contest. If there are extenuating circumstances involved that caused the athlete to miss school transportation, the coach may allow the athlete to play only if the athlete's parent/guardian transports them to the contest. The final decision is up to the coach.

All regular school bus rules will be in effect, including rules pertaining to food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect for equipment. Any student who has been suspended from school transportation due to behavior or misconduct will not be permitted to ride the bus for extra-curricular activities.

Additional Training Rules

Each coach may have additional team rules. Once posted and on-file in the Athletic Director's office, these rules become valid. Penalties will be designated/handled by their respective coach(es). Participants and parents will be informed prior to the season and/or participation in an activity. In order to make students and parents aware of expectations, it is required that each coach or advisor hold a meeting to discuss team expectations with parents and students. Participants and parents, together with coaches and advisors, are expected to attend.

SECTION 7: EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

In addition to the rules outlined for all students in the student handbook, the Extracurricular Code of Conduct governs all Middle School and High School athletic teams including cheerleaders. Remember that participation in extracurricular programs is not a right, but a privilege that may be regulated. Therefore, all students who participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular program activities, at any time, must meet the following regulations from date of enrollment or date of participation, whichever comes first. Failure to comply with the regulations could jeopardize a student's extracurricular program.

Any violation of the code of conduct may result in a verbal or written warning, parental contact or conference, community service, denial of participation for a period of time (game, practice, or training session), removal or exclusion from a team, or referral to law enforcement agencies. Criminal acts committed at or related to the School will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined at school. In addition to the above-mentioned types of disciplinary action, the administration may impose disciplinary measures in the nature of community service, repair of or payment for physical damage caused by the student, and revocation of the privilege of participation in school activities. If necessary, the Athletic Council that consists of the Athletic Director, Building Administrator(s), and up to 3 additional school staff or coaches may meet to discuss disciplinary measures when necessary.

A student convicted/adjudicated of a misdemeanor statute may be suspended at least 10% and no more than 33% of the current season depending on the severity of the criminal offense. The penalty will be at the discretion of the Athletic Council. Participation in practice may be allowed at the discretion of the Athletic Council. The student may travel with the team and be present in street clothes on the bench or sideline with the team during the contest. The participant must follow all rules and requirements of the activity.

A student convicted/adjudicated of a felony statute shall be permanently prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities. After a 12-month period from the date of the violation, the student may petition to once again participate in extracurricular activities. The student must furnish evidence to the Athletic Council of successful rehabilitation. The Athletic Council shall review the application for re-entry into extracurricular activities, taking into account the student's age, maturity, and history of appropriate behavior since the initial violation. A recommendation of approval or disapproval of the petition shall be made by the Athletic Council. The Principal shall inform the student and parents in writing of the decision.

The administration reserves the right to exercise flexibility in the assignment of all disciplinary action and **any step found in the student code of conduct may be waived by the administration.** Individuality of the student infractions and other considerations may necessitate disciplinary action other than that specifically listed. Elida High School operates on the assumption that all disciplinary action functions on the philosophy of progression. Therefore, as referrals to the infractions mount, more severe penalties will be progressively implemented. The intent of this philosophy is to modify, and perhaps eliminate undesirable student-athlete behavior.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

1. When a student is in suspected violation of any rules listed in the Elida Board of Education Extracurricular Code of Conduct and/or the Student Code of Conduct, the Athletic Council shall be notified. The student's coach/advisor shall be notified by the Athletic Council.
2. The Athletic Council should meet with the student to discuss the concern as soon as practicable. Students will be given the opportunity to tell their side of the incident. A written notice that the program will no longer be open to the student should be given at the meeting, if applicable. A copy of the notice will be sent to the parent/guardian. The decision is final.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

A student may appeal prohibition or denial of participation in extracurricular activities to the Athletic Council. The appeal shall require the following:

1. The written appeal must be presented to the Building Administrator within three (3) school days following the date of the notice of prohibition from extracurricular activities.
2. The Building Administration shall mail, or otherwise provide, the decision of the Athletic Council in writing, to the student regarding the appeal.
3. The decision of the Athletic Council shall be final and not subject to any further appeal.
4. During the time any appeal is pending, all penalties in this policy shall be enforced. The above consequences are in addition to any consequences that may be imposed by a school official according to the Student Code of Conduct. Students who are suspended out-of-school or expelled from school or have been subject to emergency removal from school pursuant to a violation of the Student Code of Conduct are also automatically denied participation in extracurricular activities during removal. No additional due process is available to the student regarding their extracurricular participation.

Rule #1 – Sportsmanship

Student participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times.

Any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day, as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension for an ejection will sit on the bench, enter the locker room, and be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s), unless administrators determine it is not the best interest of the athlete or team.

A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. If a student is ejected a second time in the season during the last contest they shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Commissioner of the OHSAA. This period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities that this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory.

Additional disciplinary actions are discretionary and will be determined by the Building Administrator, Athletic Director, and Coach. Possible disciplinary action could include suspension or denial of participation for one or more seasons.

Rule #2 – Conduct Unbecoming an Elida Athlete

Students shall behave in a manner that reflects positively on the school and his/her activity at all times. Conduct unbecoming of an Elida athlete may result in loss of participation.

Students shall conduct themselves with self-discipline, self-control, and respect for authority at all times. This Code of Conduct incorporates and includes all school rules and procedures, including but not limited to, this handbook, the Student Code of Conduct, and any rules adopted by the coach or advisor of an individual activity. Any behavior that results in dishonor to the participant, participant's team or organization, or participant's school will not be tolerated, and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and permanent prohibition from participation. Students shall be held accountable for their actions both during school and outside of school.

Rule #3 – Damaged/Lost Uniforms and Equipment

Student-Athletes are responsible for all school issued uniforms and equipment. Student athletes may be financial responsible for costs associated with repair or replacement of district equipment if it is damaged outside of normal use by the student, lost, and or not returned. These costs must be paid prior to participation in any present or future extracurricular program activity.

Rule #4 – Team Rules and Expectations

Student-athletes shall comply with all reasonable additional training rules or other requirements set by the coach/advisor of the activity.

Rule #5 – Social Media

Social media sites and other digital platforms facilitate a student's communication with friends, teammates or other students and more. Participation in such networks has both positive appeal and potentially negative consequences. It is important that Elida student-athletes be aware of these consequences and exercise appropriate caution if they choose to participate.

Student-athletes are highly visible representatives of Elida Schools. The Elida Athletic Department prohibits the use of e-mail messages, text messages, blogs, websites, Artificial Intelligence, or other electronic communications to make inflammatory or derogatory comments, and/or inappropriate pictures regarding another team member, another student, a coach, another school, a teacher, or other staff member. For the purpose of this policy, inappropriate comments may include, but are not limited to, inappropriate comments/pictures/descriptions regarding another person's race, ethnic background, culture, religion, gender or sexual orientation. The Athletic Department will not tolerate bullying, harassment, or threatening behavior targeted at members of the school community, or any other type of derogatory or defamatory language, or any pictures that depict unlawful or illegal activity or other language or content that otherwise materially disrupts school activities or operations.

Any inappropriate activity in violation of the above prohibition is subject to possible suspension or removal from a team.

Rule #6 – Hazing

Hazing activities of any type are disruptive to the educational process, and are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property if the misconduct is connected to or associated with Board-sponsored activities (e.g., extracurricular teams, clubs, or groups) or incidents that have occurred on school property. No administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, coach, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of the District shall encourage, permit, authorize, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. The preceding prohibition includes recklessly permitting the hazing of any person associated with the District. Additionally, no student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, employees, faculty members, teachers, coaches, consultants, alumni, or volunteers of the District shall be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent. Additionally, no administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, coach, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of the District who is acting in an official and professional capacity shall recklessly fail to immediately report the knowledge of hazing to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the victim of hazing resides or in which the hazing is occurring or has occurred. Students, administrators, employees, faculty members, teachers, and coaches who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law. Likewise, consultants, alumni, and volunteers associated with the District who fail to abide by this policy may be prohibited from continuing their involvement and/or participation in activities associated with the District and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

Board employees, consultants, and volunteers shall not intentionally remain ignorant of hazing or potential hazing activities

Rule #7 – School Discipline

The student-athlete must abide by the Student Code of Conduct; infractions of school rules may result in denial of participation in extracurricular activities and/or other penalties to be imposed at the election of the coach and/or Athletic Council.

An athlete who has been assigned an out-of-school suspension is not eligible to participate in practices, games and/or matches during the suspension. In addition, any suspension of ten days or greater, or expulsion during the current school year, may result in the participant being denied participation in extracurricular activities for one calendar year. At the conclusion of that calendar year the student must meet with the Athletic Council to gain re-instatement.

Rule #8 – Performance Enhancing Drugs

A student who has used anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.

Rule #9 – Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, and Paraphernalia

Student athletes shall not possess, consume, purchase or attempt to purchase and/or use alcohol, tobacco or tobacco substitute products including smokeless tobacco products, electronic smoking or vaporizing devices (The item does not need to contain nicotine to be considered a violation of this rule), anabolic steroids, intoxicants, drugs-of-abuse, products containing any amount of THC (including Delta 8) regardless of legal status, or a controlled substance consistent with federal law and regulations at any time **(twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week)** on District premises, in District-owned vehicles, within any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by the District, and/ at all District-sponsored events and interscholastic contests.

It is recommended that student-athletes avoid social functions where drugs, alcohol, or tobacco are being used in violation of federal, state, and or local law. Violations could result in loss of participation.

Disciplinary Progression for Rule #9

In addition, research has shown that use/misuse and abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol have harmful effects on the social and intellectual development of children and youth, and on their mental, physical, and emotional health. **Regulations concerning tobacco, drugs, alcohol and any conviction of a criminal statute are in effect for the full calendar year while enrolled as students in grades 7 through 12 in the Elida Local School District.** Any remaining percentages of penalties for violations of tobacco, alcohol or other drug regulations not served in the regular activity duration shall be recalculated by the Athletic Council and applied toward the next extracurricular sport/activity in which the student participates. Violations are cumulative from grades 7 through 8 and grades 9 through 12, with respect to the level of violation (first, second, third). Any violations occurring in Middle School may be considered in High School if they involved drug or alcohol use.

FIRST VIOLATION:

1. A student found in violation for the first time shall be prohibited from participation for 33% of their current season, based on the regular duration of those activities. If the regular season is completed before the completion of the suspension, it will carry over

to the next athletic season of participation. If the student agrees to participate in a professional assessment education program approved by the Athletic Council, the penalty shall be reduced to 10% of the extracurricular activities. Refusal or failure to comply will result in application of the 33% penalty. The student may practice with his/her activity group, must travel with the team and be present in street clothes on the bench or sideline with the team during the contest. All training rules and regulations of the activity must be followed by the participant.

2. **Self-Referral Policy:** If a student needs assistance for dealing with a tobacco problem by self-referral to their coach/advisor or member of the Athletic Council, and they agree to participate in a professional assessment education program approved by the Athletic Council, there shall be NO prohibition from extracurricular activities. Refusal or failure to successfully complete the tobacco education program will result in the full 33% penalty. Self-referrals that result in no prohibition from participation are still considered first violations.

Any student and/or parent may employ a “self-referral” procedure, allowing the student an avenue to seek guidance, assessment/counseling and/or treatment in regard to the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. A self-referral/parent-referral, however, is not to be used by students and/or parents as a method to avoid consequences once a policy violation has already occurred or prior to being identified through other means.

Note: All costs for professional assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, or counseling shall be the responsibility of the student and/or parents(s)/guardian(s).

SECOND VIOLATION:

1. A student found in violation for the second time shall be prohibited from participation for 50% of the current season based on the regular duration of those activities. If the regular season is completed before the completion of the suspension, it will carry over to the next athletic season of participation.

THIRD VIOLATION:

1. A student found to be in violation for the third time shall be prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities for one calendar year from the date of violation. Any additional violations will be treated the same as third violations.