

Eufaula City Schools



Athletic Department Handbook 2026-2027

The Eufaula City Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Athletic Department Mission Statement

The mission of our athletic program is to provide opportunities in which students can acquire skills, experience leadership, and grow personally. All students are encouraged to participate and to learn to balance academics, athletics, and the arts. Our goal is to provide a positive experience for the students on the field of competition. Every child, from the novice to the advanced player, has a place in our program.

A Note from the Athletic Director

This handbook was created to provide coaches, students, and parents with the procedures, policies, and expectations of the Eufaula City Schools' Athletic Department. Our goal is that you will enjoy participating in our athletic program, and will learn the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and ways in which to be a great competitor. We value the importance of sports within the education process and would encourage all players to work hard and play hard. In the end, your hard work and dedication will bring you great satisfaction.

All students will adhere to the Eufaula City Schools Code of Conduct and consequences for violations of the Eufaula City Schools Code of Conduct will be administered accordingly. Student athletes are looked upon not only as representatives of the school, but as leaders among their respective student bodies. Any actions and behaviors that might compromise the efforts of good sportsmanship and ethical athletic practices are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Parents and athletes must read and sign the Eufaula City Schools Requirement Form located in the back of this handbook before the student is allowed to participate in athletics.

ECS Athletic Objectives

- To support students' academic growth and to build character.
- To provide our participants with the best possible administration, supervision, and instruction available.
- To provide our participants with quality facilities and equipment that are both safe and student friendly.
- To provide our participants with safe, quality transportation to and from all competitions and activities.

General Expectations for Student Athletes

The student athlete will:

1. Come to practice with a good attitude. Athletes should understand that practice is to make the individual and team better. Athletes should listen to corrections and not take constructive criticism personally. Coaches and athletes are all striving to reach the same goals, and if they work together these goals will be attained.
2. Always display positive public actions during and away from school.
3. Maintain good academic and behavioral standing.
4. Accept the responsibility and privilege of representing ECS.
5. Respect the judgment of officials and coaches.
6. Treat opponents with respect and display positive sportsmanship.
7. Attend all scheduled practices.
8. Come prepared and on time for practices and games. If a student needs to miss a practice or a game, the student needs to let the head coach know the morning of the day they are missing or earlier if possible.
Be present more than 50% of the day at school to be eligible to play/practice unless there is an excuse approved by the administration.
9. Not participate in practice or in games on the day of an absence from school, including in and out of school suspension. Students will be eligible to play the following day if all discipline has been served.
10. Not be eligible to practice or play if medically excused from a Physical Education class.
11. Return all uniforms and equipment at the end of each season. If a uniform is not turned in, there will be a fee to pay. If the fee is not paid, report cards will be held until payment is received.
12. Avoid bringing in unnecessary items to school. The school will not be liable for lost or stolen personal property.

Statement from The Alabama High School Athletic Association

Decisions of game officials are final in all games. Protests are not allowed.

All expressions critical of officials' decisions are interpreted as unsportsmanlike and will subject the school, players, and coaches to appropriate disciplinary actions.

Academic Eligibility

Requirements

Students entering the 10th and 11th and 12th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units.

1. (1) Four core curriculum courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. (English, mathematics, science, and social studies are core curriculum courses. Any combination of these courses is accepted.)
2. (2) Any student that accumulates more than four units of core courses per year may earn less than the required four core courses during the next school year and be eligible as long as the student remains on track for graduation with his/her class.

(b) Students entering the 8th and 9th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade.

Note: A new unit is one that has not been previously passed. A semester is half of a school year as defined by the local school system.

(c) Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible. (d) Students in high school must complete a NFHS Sportsmanship online interactive course one time during their member high school careers (7-12). A certificate of completion must be kept on file in the school's DragonFly account along with other eligibility items. Cheerleaders must also complete the course one time during their member high school career.

Age Rule

A student is ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year. If he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday on or after August 1, he/she shall be eligible for the entire school year as far as the Age Rule is concerned. A student is ineligible to participate in junior high interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 16th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year, and in middle school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 15th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year. A student is ineligible to participate on a team, or in a game, composed only of seventh grade students if he/she reaches his/her 14th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year.

Guidelines

1. Eligibility may be determined before the start of each new school year or at the beginning of the second semester. A student that is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year remains eligible for the remainder of that school year so far as grades are concerned. A student that regains eligibility at the beginning of the second semester remains eligible for the remainder of the second semester so far as grades are concerned.
2. Students declared ineligible at the beginning of a school year may regain their eligibility at the end of the first semester (or trimester) as soon as 1st semester grades are posted to transcripts, uploaded in DragonFly and principal certified by meeting the academic requirements listed above during their last two semesters (three trimesters or 2 trimesters and one semester) in attendance and summer school, if applicable. The regained eligibility of any student may be determined any time after the end of the first semester (or trimester), but all course requirements used to determine the eligibility must be completed no later than the fifth day of the second semester (or second trimester).
 - a. A student that regains eligibility at the end of the first trimester may not participate in interscholastic athletics until mid-point by days of the school year have been completed.
3. Only one unit (or subject) of physical education per year may be counted.
4. Any number of units (or subjects) earned in an approved summer school may be counted in accordance with local board policy. If a unit (or subject) is repeated in summer school, the higher numerical grade for that unit (or subject) may be used to compute the composite grade average.
5. All summer school credit recovery, correspondence courses and dual enrollment must be approved by the local system and must be completed and posted to the student's transcript prior to the first fall contest date.
 - a. Units earned through Credit Recovery may also be among the summer units counted and must be completed before the first fall contest date. If Credit Recovery is used to make up Carnegie units, those units can only be accepted if they are earned through a State Department of Education-approved program.
 - b. For eligibility purposes, special recitation, extra work, make-up work, tests, review, etc., may not be given for the purpose of making a student eligible.

- c. To be eligible, all students (including repeaters and hold-backs) must be enrolled in a specified number of new units at the school they represent.
- d. (a) 9th, 10th and 11th graders must be carrying at least six new units (three per semester on a 4x4 block schedule).
- e. (b) 12th graders that are on track for graduation with more than the required number of units earned must be carrying at least four new units for the school year (two units per semester on a 4x4 block schedule).
- f. (c) 7th and 8th graders must be carrying at least five new subjects.
- g. The eligibility of a student that has attended another school during the preceding year must be established by a transcript from that school before the student is permitted to participate at the new school.

Athletic Eligibility & Limits

What every parent should know about Eligibility Verification Requirements:

- Must have the following items on file in the principal's office:
 - Copy of certified birth certificate
 - Current physical exam form signed by a doctor (M.D. or D.O)
 - Concussion information form signed by student-athlete and parent
 - Student release form
 - A student athlete is ineligible to participate in middle school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 15th birthday prior to September 1 of the current school year.
 - All first year seventh graders are automatically eligible to participate.
 - Completion of Sportsmanship Course:
 - Every student athlete must complete the Sportsmanship Course before participating in an Alabama High School Athletic Program.
 - Online Course: Login to www.nfhslearn.com/courses/61130/sportsmanship
 - At the top select your state (Alabama) and click on "Order Course" for the Sportsmanship free course. You will register as a "first time" (new) user. The school does not have access to the user information the athlete creates so it is a good idea that they use their school Google information that they use to access their device and Google account. This is a username and password they will need to keep up with. Use one that can be easily remembered.
 - The course has several parts that need to be completed. Athlete will need to print the certificate when completed and turn it in to the coach.

Code of Ethics for Coaches

1. Each student athlete should be treated as an individual whose welfare shall always be primary. The coach must be aware that he or she serves as a model in the education of the student athlete and, therefore, shall never place the value of winning above the value of character building.
2. The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the teaching profession. In all personal contact with the student athletes, parents, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
3. The coach shall support and enforce school rules for the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and abuse, and under no circumstance shall allow the use of these substances or use them in the presence of student athletes.
4. The coach shall promote the entire athletic program and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.
5. The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with the game; state, association, and local rules; and is responsible for his/her interpretation to team members. The coach shall always abide by the letter and spirit of these rules.
6. The coach is responsible for entering his or her coaching credentials as well as student eligibility into DragonFly.
7. The coach is responsible for confirming with opposing teams, officials, and other game day logistics.
8. Coaches shall actively use their influence to promote sportsmanship by working closely with parents, athletes, and administrators.
9. Game officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct that will incite players or spectators against officials, or against each other. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

Before and after games, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set an appropriate tone for the event.

Preparing Student Athletes For The Next Level

The power of sports to propel student athletes in successful college and life transitions is evident. All coaches should work with each of their players to develop a plan to achieve these goals. Continuous monitoring of academics, character and skill development must be ongoing. Coaches are expected to ensure that students athletes are given every opportunity to pursue playing at the next level if the student athlete chooses to do so. This will involve, but not be limited too, contacted college coaches to share stats, highlights and schedule campus visits and tryouts.

Student Athlete Conduct

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is the expectation that a student athlete's behavior meets the following:

- **On the Field** In the area of competition, athletes will not use profanity or illegal tactics. Players must understand that losing is part of the game. He or she must be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest, whether in defeat or victory. Under no circumstances will verbal or physical altercations before, during or after athletic competitions be tolerated. Discipline, which may result in removal from athletics, may occur as the result of any altercation.
- **In the Classroom** In the academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. A student athlete must always be prepared to give his/her best in character, the classroom and in sports. As an athlete, one must plan his or her schedule so that he or she gives sufficient time and energy to his or her studies to ensure acceptable grades. In addition to maintaining grades, an athlete must always give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect to other students and faculty and staff.

Guidelines for Communication

Parenting and coaching are both essential partners to student athlete success. By establishing and understanding each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to children.

Communication Expectations From Your Child's Coach

- Coach's philosophy.
- Expectations and goals the coach has for your child as well as for the team/season.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements, special equipment, strength, and conditioning programs.
- Procedures if your child is injured during participation.
- Team rules, guidelines, and consequences for infractions.
- Team selection process.

Communication Expectations From Athletes & Parents

- Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach.
- Parent's contact number, both home and emergency.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Notification of special medical conditions.
- Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches & Discussion Procedure

- Treatment of your child.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.
- Concerns about your child's academic performance.
- Safety of your child.
- Procedures:
 - Please do not attempt to confront a coach immediately before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach.
 - Call the coach to schedule an appointment.
 - If the coach cannot be reached, call the school athletic director and he/she will set up a meeting for you.
 - If the meeting does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and schedule an appointment with administration.

Additional Expectations:

1. Parents should be on time to pick up their children at the end of each practice or game.
2. Parents are financially responsible for any fees as well as full replacement value of all uniforms and equipment assigned to the student athletes.
3. Players should avoid bringing in unnecessary items to school. The school will not be responsible for loss of stolen personal property.
4. To participate in a team sport, your child must have a physical examination within the last 12 months and all other health forms filled out and turned in to the nurse. The student will be unable to join a sports team unless this is done. This is done to insure the health, safety, and welfare of the student athlete.
5. Parents should inform the nurse and head coach of any known medical conditions of their children.

Game Behavioral Expectations For Fans:

1. Parents and fans are expected to be respectful and polite to all coaches, officials, and participants, which includes appropriate conduct at all events, practices, and games.
2. Parents and fans are expected to demonstrate positive support for the coaches and the school's athletic program including its policies, strategies, and team rules.
3. Parents and fans should refrain from discussing playing time, team strategy, play calling, and other student athletes with coaches

4. Parent and fans who become unruly at any school sanctioned event may be subject to not being allowed to attend future events

Physicals & Concussion Statement Notice

- All athletes must have a current physical on file at school before participating in a sport, including tryouts. The AHSAA requires that all student athletes have a physical on file with the athletic director. This physical must include a completed medical history along with physician signature. Eufaula Athletics offers physicals to all student athletes during the spring every year. The physical is valid for a year and must be current until the end of a specific sport season.
- Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the contest and shall not return to play until a medical release is issued by a medical doctor.

Concussion Statement

A concussion is a brain injury, and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. In other words, even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. You cannot see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Insurance

All student athletes are required to have primary insurance coverage. The athletic department must have on file a copy of each student athlete's parent's insurance card.

Team Selection

Selection of the team members shall be at the discretion of the head coach. Students are encouraged to try out for multiple sports. Coaches will explain their process of selection to all candidates before practices/tryouts begin. Once an athlete begins the in-season training period for a sport, he/she should not quit while that sport is in season. If an athlete quits a sport, then he/she will be withheld from participation in another sport until that season has been completed (including the playoffs). The in-season coach and athletic director can override this particular rule if he/she feels that there are extenuating circumstances that have caused the athlete to quit the team.

Dismissal from a Team

A requirement for being on any ECS sports team is following school rules and all athletic guidelines within this handbook. Dismissal from a team is a serious matter. The decision to dismiss a player from any team will be decided upon by the principal, athletic director and coaches. Any behavior in violation of the standards listed in the Eufaula High School Handbook may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

Practices

- Your attendance at every practice is necessary. Coming late or missing a practice or game without prior approval is not tolerated.
- If you are not going to be at a scheduled practice, please notify the coach ahead of time and have an excuse following the practice.
- Failure to let the coach know will result in discipline and/or sitting out a game. If you have a school related activity that conflicts with practice or a game, you must get your absence approved by your coach ahead of time.
- Injured players must attend practice at the coach's discretion.

Games & Playing Time

- All players must be in uniform. Failure to be in uniform will result in sitting out that game.
- Playing time for athletes is determined by attendance, attitude, effort, performance, the athlete's potential, the team's current needs, and the team's needs in the future. The coaching decision is left solely to the discretion of the assigned coach. It is the athlete's responsibility to ask how they can improve to get more playing time. Athletes will be expected to play in any position to benefit team performance. There may be games when not every player receives playing time. As a player, if you are not satisfied with the amount of playing time you are receiving, you will need to arrange a meeting/conversation with the coach. It is expected to hear from the player first before hearing from the parent.

Transportation

All athletes shall travel to and from all away athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department. Athletes will remain with their team under the supervision of a coach when attending away contests. All school bus rules remain in effect for athletic travel, including but not limited to rules regarding food, noise, remaining in seats, and the care and respect for equipment.

Exception: When an emergency arises, athletes may return from athletic events with their parents with prior approved written permission. Written parental permission must be submitted to the coach prior to the event. Parents should contact the involved coach well in advance of the event if there are any questions.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their children are picked up from the school at the end of each practice and athletic contest. If a student athlete is left at the school

waiting for a ride home for an extended period, the Eufaula Police Department will be contacted.

Weather

Eufaula High School will follow the Alabama High School Athletic Association rules related to athletic activity and heat. When schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, all school activities shall be suspended. This rule applies to all games, practices, rehearsals, etc.

AMMS Athletes Playing At EHS

Before participating in athletes at EHS, all AMMS athletes must practice and complete all games with the AMMS team prior to being moved up to an EHS team.

Eufaula High School Student Athlete Player and Parent Consent

A signed electronic copy of this contract will be maintained by the coach for each student athlete during the 2026 – 2027 school year.