

EMS ISD Athletics

Student Athlete Handbook

2026-2027

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD's athletic handbook reflects the district's concern for the safety, well-being, and conduct of its athletes participating in all athletics. Since extracurricular athletics are optional, those who choose to participate will be held to higher standards of behavior and performance in and out of school. This handbook is neither a contract nor a substitute for the official district policy manual. EMS ISD policies and procedures can change at any time. Additionally, athletes and parents are reminded that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. In addition to obeying rules set forth in the EMS ISD Student Code of Conduct, all athletes in grades 7 through 12 participating in EMS ISD athletics will be required to comply with the following guidelines and disciplinary regulations.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Athletics is not a requirement for graduation, and participation is strictly voluntary. Athletics, as a discipline, stresses work ethic, teamwork, sportsmanship, integrity and sacrifice. Should the actions of an athlete fail to exhibit these same characteristics, the privilege of participating in athletics may be revoked. All coaches will work within the guidelines of the athletic department to help every athlete succeed. However, when an athlete violates the guidelines, it is up to the appropriate coach to address the situation. Because participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD is authorized to set higher standards for athletic activities than it would for those who choose not to participate. Therefore, this Athletic Code of Conduct extends beyond the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD Student Code of Conduct not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of EMS ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. No provision of an extracurricular behavior standard shall have the effect of discriminating based on the athlete's sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

As representatives of EMS ISD, athletes in grades 7 through 12 who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate exemplary behavior and dedication, whether at school or away. Nothing limits or otherwise restricts the authority of the coach or administrator to limit or restrict participation or assign consequences for offenses.

Before an athlete is suspended or removed from participation in an extracurricular activity, and before any other consequence is imposed as provided in this handbook, the alleged infraction will be documented, and a reasonable investigation of the allegation shall occur.

The coach shall then schedule a conference with the athlete and the athlete's parent/guardian to explain the reasons for which the action is being taken and to offer the athlete an opportunity to discuss the matter. An athlete may appeal the decision through the procedures set forth in the EMS ISD Board Policy FNG(LOCAL).

Note: The athlete may not participate in the extracurricular activity during the appeal process.

An athlete in grades 7 through 12 participating in any EMS ISD extracurricular activity shall comply with the following rules of conduct 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, and 52 weeks per year in addition to obeying:

- The rules set forth in the EMS ISD Student Code of Conduct
- EMS ISD Random Drug Testing Program FNF(LOCAL)
- The individual extracurricular activity's constitution/handbook,
- Any rules otherwise communicated to the athlete by the activity's coach.

Athletes who participate in extracurricular activities shall comply with the following rules at all times, on or off campus, regardless of whether school is in session:

1. Demonstrate respect for all EMS ISD employees and staff;
2. Participate in every practice, competition and event required by the coach, unless the coach has granted an excused absence;
3. Arrive promptly and properly attired to every practice, competition, etc., unless the coach has granted an excused absence;
4. Do not possess or use any tobacco or tobacco-related products, including all types of e-cigarettes/vaping;
5. Demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior at all sporting events regardless of the location;
6. Demonstrate a positive attitude;
7. Be courteous and polite to others;
8. Respect the possessions of others;
9. Display academic integrity.

Dress and Grooming

Athletes who participate in any sport shall comply with the district's policy on dress and grooming and the coach's specific requirements for the extracurricular activity.

Attendance

An athlete must be in attendance as a full-time student at an EMS ISD school in order to participate in any sport, including tryouts, at their EMS ISD campus of enrollment or in the case of an eighth-grade athlete being promoted to high school from their EMS ISD middle school campus of enrollment.

Practice Regulations

Athletes are responsible for:

- Informing his/her coach of any anticipated absence prior to any practice or games. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the team. Unexcused absences and/or failure to communicate with a coach about any absence may result in the loss of playing time at the next game.
- Obeying all rules given by the coach,
- Refraining from the use of profanity, vulgar or disrespectful language,
- Contributing their best at all times.

Athletes engaged in extracurricular activities are expected to participate in all practices, competitions, and other events identified by the coach. Academically ineligible athletes can practice with other athletes but are restricted on travel and participation in a competition.

Excessive unexcused absences may result in suspension or dismissal from extracurricular activity. Such decisions shall be made in consultation with the Campus Principal/Campus Athletic Coordinator and are subject to appeal through EMS ISD Board Policy FNG(LOCAL).

Athletes with injuries will be allowed to attend any practice, competition, or other events relating to the extracurricular activity and allowed to participate only to the extent authorized by written order of the athlete's physician. All documentation from a physician must be given to the athletic trainer or the coach at the particular campus.

Athletes will be excused from participation in any practice or competition if they are observing holy days, including days of travel to or from a site where the athlete will observe holy days. Athletes are responsible for notifying the coach of any need to be absent for religious reasons prior to the absence.

Athletes should make every effort to schedule health care appointments at times that will not interfere with school or extracurricular activity participation. If a conflict is unavoidable, the athlete shall inform the coach prior to the appointment.

Travel

Athletes who have the opportunity to travel in connection with an EMS ISD athletic event are representatives of the district and must always exhibit exemplary behavior. Athletes who dress or act inappropriately while traveling to or from an EMS ISD activity may be suspended or removed from the event.

Students are required to ride to and from a school-sponsored event in transportation provided by the district. Only in extenuating circumstances will a student be allowed to ride to or from the event in a private vehicle.

Students will not be released to the parent/guardian, unless the parent/guardian has made arrangements with the head coach.

EMS ISD RANDOM DRUG TESTING PROGRAM FNF(LOCAL)

The district may implement a mandatory drug-testing program for all students in grades 7-12 participating in extracurricular school sponsored athletics, band, cheerleading, dance, choir, and UIL academic activities. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and students must meet specific requirements in order to participate.

The district has implemented a drug-testing program to protect students and to deter the use of alcohol or illegal drugs. The intended purposes are:

- To allow each student in programs subject to testing to make a commitment against drug use;
- To give each student an effective tool against drug use;
- To ensure the health and safety of each student during practices and performances;
- To offer educational and counseling assistance to students who may be identified as having substance abuse problems; and
- To deter drug use by students.

EMSISD Administrative Regulation FNF-Drug Testing

Consequences

Any consequences not completed by the end of the school year shall be carried over to the following school year. Offenses shall be cumulative for grades 7 through 8 and for grades 9 through 12. When a student moves from middle school to high school, any consequences assigned during middle school must be completed before the grade 9-12 cumulative period begins. If a student withdraws from the district and later returns, the cumulative process for positive infractions will continue, not start over. If a student withdraws from the district or campus before completing assigned consequences and later reenrolls in the district or at the campus, all consequences must be completed to the district's satisfaction before the student will be reinstated to the extracurricular activity in which the suspension occurred.

Following the first confirmed positive test result, the consequences shall be as follows:

- The student and his or her parent or guardian shall be required to meet with appropriate school personnel, including the counselor. The student shall be required to complete a series of educational meetings with the counselor.
- The student shall be retested on the dates of the next three random tests.

Following a second confirmed positive test result, the consequences shall be as follows:

- The student shall be removed from participation in applicable school-sponsored performances, games, or competitions for 30 school days. The student shall be allowed to continue practicing during the suspension.
- The student shall attend a district-approved drug/alcohol counseling program. The student must present to appropriate school personnel evidence of successful completion of the program.

- The student shall be retested on the dates of the next three random tests.

Following a third confirmed positive test result, the student shall be removed from the applicable school-sponsored activity for the remainder of the student's school career. After one calendar year from the determination of guilt, an appeal may be made for reinstatement, contingent upon substantiated rehabilitation. If the student qualifies for reinstatement, any further positive tests shall result in permanent removal from the applicable program.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

An athlete who is involved in serious misconduct is subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the EMS ISD Student Code of Conduct and may also receive consequences or experience loss of privileges in extracurricular athletic organization(s). Athletes who are removed from the home campus for disciplinary reasons are not eligible to represent their home campus during the period of removal.

In order for an athlete to be considered in violation, one or more of the following must occur:

- Athlete admits the violation.
- Parent of the athlete admit to the violation.
- An EMS ISD staff member witnesses the athlete in violation.
- An EMS ISD administrator has reason to believe that an athlete has committed an offense through investigative findings.
- A local agency report or violation (law enforcement notification) is filed.
- A local agency of the law makes a verbal report of a violation.

In-School Suspension Placements

Athletes who are placed in In-School Suspension (ISS) may practice but may not participate in extracurricular activities until the completion of their ISS placement.

- For example: A student is assigned ISS for 2 full academic days on Monday and Tuesday. The student will not be able to participate in any activity on Monday due to not completing the ISS placement. The student can participate once the school day is over on Tuesday since the placement is complete.

Out-of-School Suspension and Alternative Discipline Center (ADC) Placements

An athlete in grades 7 through 12 shall lose the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities during any period of suspension (OSS) and/or placement in the Alternative Discipline Center (ADC).

Theft

Taking possessions from other players, students, school property, etc. will not be tolerated. In addition to any school consequences received, a consequence will be issued individually by the head coach and/or campus athletic coordinator.

Loss of privilege-Deferred Adjudication, Felony or Class A Misdemeanor

An athlete in grades 7 through 12 shall lose the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities during any period of:

- Deferred adjudication in connection with either a felony or any offense punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor, whether the felony or offense was committed on or off campus.
- While under indictment for a felony, or while awaiting a final determination of guilt or innocence in connection with either a felony or any offense punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor, whether the felony or offense was committed on or off campus.

Bullying

In accordance with Board Policy FFI(LEGAL), bullying means …a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that satisfies the applicability requirements below and that:

- Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property;
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school; and
- This also includes "cyberbullying".

Bullying of a student could occur by physical contact or through electronic means and may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

Hazing

Hazing is defined as an act that subjects a student to potential harm and is affiliated with initiation into a student organization or team. Hazing may involve an act committed against a student or a situation in which a student is coerced into committing an act.

These acts run counter to the educational mission of athletics, regardless of the victim's willingness to participate. The list below provides examples of some types of hazing. This list is not meant to be comprehensive.

- Being yelled, cursed or sworn at;
- Being publicly harassed;
- Being expected to act as a personal servant to an older group member;
- Being coerced/forced to eat certain foods;
- Being thrown or forced to go into a pond, ocean, toilet or other body of water;

- Being pressured to be tattooed, pierced or shaven;
- Being coerced/forced to participate in drinking contests to the point of intoxication;
- Being forced/coerced to participate in any physical or illicit activity that causes the victim to pass out;
- Being forced/coerced to destroy or vandalize property;
- Being forced/coerced to inflict pain on yourself or others

Reporting of Bullying/Hazing

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying/hazing or has witnessed bullying/hazing of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, counselor, principal, or other district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of misconduct.

Any bullying/hazing reported to a coach must then be reported to the Campus Athletic Coordinator and the appropriate campus administrator within 48 hours from the time that the coach has received notice of the complaint. Campus administrators will coordinate any formal investigation and will seek assistance from staff.

Appeals

Appeals or complaints regarding the use of specific discipline management techniques should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of the policy may be obtained from the principal's office, the campus behavior coordinator's office, the central administration office, or at www.emsisd.com . Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of a grievance. In the instance of a student who is accused of conduct that meets the definition of sexual harassment as defined by Title IX, the district will comply with applicable federal law, including the Title IX formal complaint process. See policies FFH(LEGAL) and (LOCAL).

UIL ELIGIBILITY (High School)

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) is the governing body for public school interscholastic athletics in Texas. The following guidelines are from the University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules Manual.

Students Approved on a Transfer

The district shall follow all rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) when considering student transfer requests. The Executive Director of Athletics shall determine the eligibility of a transfer student for participation in UIL activities.

First 6 Weeks

UIL participants are eligible to participate in contests during the first 6 weeks of the school year provided the following standards have been met:

- Students beginning grade 9 and below must have been promoted from the previous grade prior to the beginning of the current school year.
- Students beginning their second year of high school must have earned 5 credits which count toward state high school graduation requirements.
- Students beginning their third year of high school either must have earned a total of 10 credits which count toward state high school graduation credits or have earned a total of 5 credits which count toward state high school graduation requirements during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.
- Students beginning their fourth year of high school either must have earned a total of 15 credits which count toward state high school graduation credits or have earned a total of 5 credits which count toward state high school graduation requirements during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.

Exceptions:

- When a migrant student enrolls for the first time during a school year, all criteria cited above apply. All other students who enroll too late to earn a passing grade for a grading period are ineligible.
- High school students transferring from out-of-state may be eligible the first six weeks of school if they meet the criteria cited above or school officials are able to determine that they would have been eligible if they had remained in the out-of-state school from which they are transferring. Students who are not in compliance with these provisions may request a hardship appeal of their academic eligibility through the UIL state office. Local school boards may elect to adopt these standards for all activities to avoid having different standards for student participants (e.g., football, drill team, cheerleading, and all other extracurricular activities as defined by Commissioner of Education rule [19 TAC Chapter §76]).

After First 6 Weeks

A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any class (other than an identified class eligible for exemption) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for 3 school weeks. An ineligible student may practice, however the student regains eligibility after the 7 calendar day waiting period has ended following a grading period or the 3 school week evaluation period when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes, other than those that are exempted.

Additional UIL rules and regulations may be found in the TEA-UIL Side by Side

Advanced Courses for Possible Waivers

For eligibility purposes, a student enrolled in an advanced class may request an eligibility waiver as follows:

- The student cannot have a grade lower than 60 in the advanced class.
- The student may not receive a waiver in the same class for two consecutive grading periods during a semester.
- The student may receive no more than two advanced class waivers per six weeks.
- The student must complete the waiver application and make an appointment with the principal (or designee). Once the waiver process is complete and approved, a copy of the signed application will be delivered to the appropriate sponsors. Once approved, the student will be allowed to participate in the extracurricular activity.

This section on eligibility does not include all eligibility standards. Additional explanation of eligibility requirements can be found in the UIL Side By Side publication, or the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.

UIL ELIGIBILITY (Middle School)

- Students are eligible as long as they have been in attendance and are passing all classes in accordance with state law and rules of the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency.
- Eighth-grade students who are over age for eighth-grade athletics may participate on the freshman team at the high school in their attendance zone.
- A player on the eighth-grade team may not have reached his/her fifteenth birthday on or before September 1 of the current school year.
- A player on the seventh-grade team may not have reached his/her fourteenth birthday on or before September 1 of the current school year. Only over-age seventh-grade students may compete on the eighth-grade team. In addition, a student must meet the following academic requirements:
- Beginning in the seventh-grade year, has been promoted from the sixth grade to the seventh.
- Beginning in the eighth-grade year, has been promoted from the seventh grade to the eighth.

TESTING

STAAR Testing – State Board of Education

The Commissioner of Education recommends that school districts avoid scheduling extracurricular activities or public performances on the day or evening immediately preceding the day on which the administration of the statewide student assessment program is scheduled for Grades 3-11.

Athletic practices during STARR testing are permitted. Coaches will use good judgment to complete all activities in a timely manner.

MEDICAL GUIDELINES

Each athlete must be cleared by the athletic trainer prior to participation at the high school level. Each athlete must be cleared by one of the coordinators and athletic trainers prior to participation at the middle school level.

- All required forms must be completed in their entirety and returned to the athletic trainer (high school level) or coordinator/middle school athletic trainer (middle school level) before a student participates in any try-out, practice, athletic competition, travels, etc. with an athletic team for any purpose.

The required forms:

High School and Middle School

- UIL Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation
- Medical History Form (completed electronically on RankOne)
- Emergency Card (completed electronically on RankOne)
- EMS ISD Athletics Student Athlete Handbook Acknowledgement
- Sports Participation Packet (completed electronically on RankOne)
    - UIL Acknowledgement of Rules Form
    - UIL/UT Photographic Consent and Release Form
    - UIL Parent and Student Agreement/Acknowledgement Form
    - UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form
    - UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form
    - EMS ISD Drug Testing Policy and Consent Form
    - EMS ISD Medical & School Information Release Form
    - EMS ISD Athletic Medical Policies Form
    - Extracurricular Travel Expectations

ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM GUIDELINES

- Treatments are to be administered only to athletes involved in extracurricular athletics for an EMS ISD high school or middle school.
- Athletes are responsible for reporting all injuries and illnesses to the athletic training staff in a timely manner.
- Any athlete who is under the care of a physician for an injury, illness, or health condition, must provide written documentation of diagnosis, treatment protocol, restrictions, and/or release for return to play.
- Athletes are required to follow all prescribed treatment and rehabilitation programs assigned to you by any member of the athletic training staff. If you are injured, it is your responsibility to report for treatment at the designated time.

- Athletes are responsible for the care and return of all medical equipment issued/loaned by the athletic trainers (braces, crutches, modalities, etc.…)
- Any student-athlete that is seen by a doctor and does not provide a doctor's note will be required to sit out of all activity, including practices and games, until a note is provided to one of the Staff Athletic Trainers.
- If you feel your child needs to be held out of practice and you do not see a doctor, that needs to be communicated with the athletic trainer and the head coach of their sport. Coaches and athletic trainers will only accept a parent note that is followed up with a phone call or electronic communication from a parent on the same day.

Non-Athletic Injuries

Non-school related injuries will be seen in the athletic training room under the following guidelines:

- The athlete must report any pain or injury, even if it occurred outside of school, to an athletic trainer immediately.
- The athletic training staff will provide an initial evaluation, provide basic care, and help determine whether medical referral is needed.
- If the athletic trainer places restrictions and/or limitations on an athlete based on the injury evaluation, the athlete must follow these restrictions and/or limitations in non-school related activity as well. If an athletic trainer is made aware of non-compliance outside of school, the athletic trainer will discontinue any treatment and may require the athlete to see a physician and provide documentation before returning to athletic participation in EMS ISD.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Every athlete involved in extracurricular athletics must have an Emergency Card on file with the coach. All athletes must obtain an annual physical, recorded on the UIL designated form, before practicing or participating in any sport. All injuries should be reported immediately to the coach. Doctor's notes should also be made available to the coach.

HEAT AND HYDRATION GUIDELINES

Practice or competition in hot and humid environmental conditions poses potential problems for student-athletes; heat stress and resulting heat illness are primary concerns in these conditions. Although deaths from heat illness are rare, constant surveillance and education are necessary to prevent heat-related problems. The following practices should be observed.

General Considerations for Risk Reductions

- Encourage proper education regarding heat illnesses (for athletes, coaches, parents, medical staff, etc.) Education about risk factors should focus on hydration needs; acclimatization, work/rest ratio, signs and symptoms of exertion-related heat illnesses, treatment, dietary supplements, nutritional issues, and fitness status.

- Assure that onsite medical staff have authority to alter work/rest ratios, practice schedules, amount of equipment, and withdrawal of individuals from participation based on environment and/or athlete's medical condition.

MULTIPLE SPORT PARTICIPATION

Participation in multiple sports is encouraged as it creates cross-training and increases the ability for the athlete to be more coachable. In cases where a sport overlaps, an athlete must complete that season's sport before entering the next sport unless agreed on by both head coaches. No coach shall discourage any athlete from participating in multiple sports.

SEPARATION FROM TEAM (QUITTING)

There will be times when an athlete finds it necessary to quit playing a sport before, during, or after the season. The following steps should be taken in order to quit a sport:

- The athlete should meet with the coach. If possible, the coach should also have a face-to-face conversation with the athlete's parents regarding this decision.
- The student may need to be placed into a Physical Education class in order to complete the credit begun in athletics or stay in the athletic period until such time as a schedule change can occur, which could be the next semester.
- All equipment issued must be returned or paid for.
- It shall be the coach's decision whether to allow that student to return to the sport in the future.
- An athlete shall not join another sport until the end of the season of the sport he/she has quit.
    - If an athlete chooses to begin a new sport during the next season, there must be a mutual decision between both sport's coaches.

EQUIPMENT

Any district equipment issued to an athlete is the financial responsibility of the athlete and for the athlete's use while participating in a school-related activity. At no time is district equipment for personal use. Athletes must care for district-issued equipment as if it were their own. Equipment must be stored in a proper location and shall be kept clean and maintained. Athletes who lose or damage District equipment due to negligence will be required to pay for the cost of replacement. All District equipment must be returned at the end of the season or school year, as directed by the coach. Individually owned equipment is the sole responsibility of the athlete; EMS ISD will not be responsible for any loss or damage that occurs to athlete-owned equipment. As uniforms are required for all sports, the athlete shall be required to ensure that the uniform is worn only at appropriate times and is neat and clean for the practice, performance, and/or competition.

AWARDS/LETTERING

All awards to athletes for participation in any sport must meet criteria set forth in the individual activity guidelines, as established by the coach leading the activity and approved by the appropriate district level official. Awards must be in accordance with UIL guidelines for those activities governed by the UIL. This information will be distributed to athletes and parents before the season begins.

If at any time an athlete quits or is eliminated from athletics, in or out of season, he/she gives up all rights to any honors/awards which he/she has earned but not yet received. Any athlete may receive a letter in any one of the four years in high school if they fulfill the lettering requirement for that sport. A participant may letter at the coach's discretion if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to the team.

General requirements for lettering:

- Must complete the season and school year at the Varsity level following all school and athletic procedures and policies.
- All issued equipment must be accounted for.
- Severe disciplinary action can forfeit letter award.
- Special consideration will be given to injured players and seniors not receiving proper playing time.
- Head coaches may add additional requirements if necessary.

Middle School Program

A participation certificate may be awarded to each athlete for every sport he/she participates in. Criteria for these awards will be set by each Campus Athletic Coordinator.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Everything posted on social media is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if security settings are listed as "private". Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after removal. Once a photo or comment on a social networking site has been posted, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after being removed.

Similar to comments made in person, EMS ISD will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online.

Freedom of expression is a foundational freedom in America. The U.S. Supreme Court in Tinker v. Des Moines ruled that students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." However, the Supreme Court has ruled in multiple subsequent cases that student speech may be regulated as to time, place, and manner by a school district. Students may exercise their First Amendment right of expression, as long as that expression does not substantially

disrupt the educational process, including but not limited to, using hateful, inappropriate, or offensive language or fighting words.

Student online conduct can result in disciplinary consequences if it:

- Causes a substantial disruption to school, the athletic program, team, or student-athletes;
- Is serious or severe bullying or harassment of individuals;
- Involves threats aimed at school officials, employees, or students; or;
- Breaches school security devices.

Violations of bullying/harassment, threats, and security will be handled by campus administration in conjunction with the EMS ISD athletic discipline process.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUBS

Booster clubs can be extremely important when managed correctly. Athletic booster clubs are under the supervision of the Campus Athletic Coordinator and Executive Director of Athletics. Booster clubs must operate within the guidelines and procedures set forth by EMS ISD. Head coaches will be held responsible for UIL/EMS ISD compliance.

Guidelines for Booster Clubs — University Interscholastic League (UIL)
EMSISDBoosterClubGuidelines2025_2026.pdf

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication that parents should expect from their child's coach:

- The Coach's philosophy.
- Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team.
- Locations and times of practices and contests.
- Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations.
- Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place. Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

As your child becomes involved in interscholastic athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- What your child needs to do to improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

- How much playing time each athlete is getting.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling.
- Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These conferences are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote a resolution to the issue.

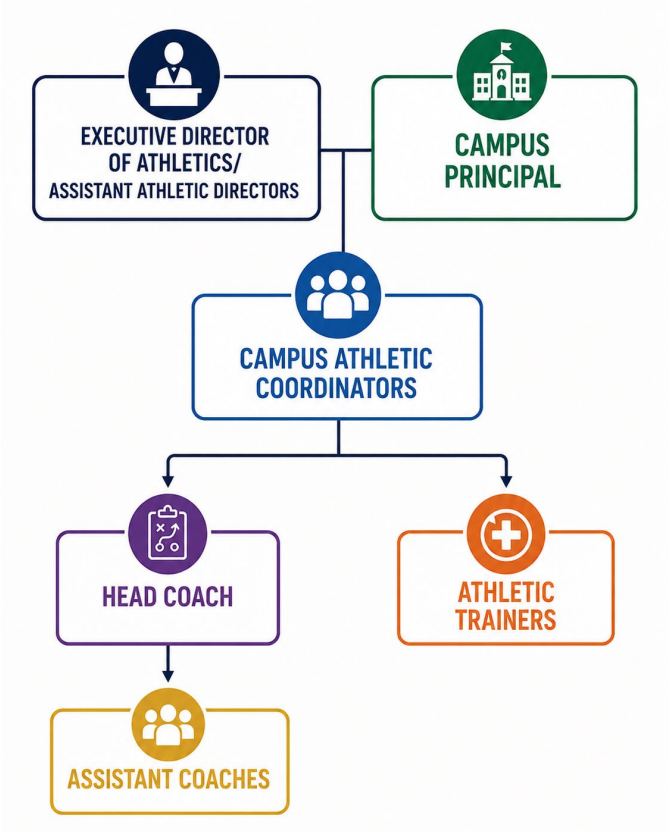
If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

- Call the coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached within 24 hours, call the Campus Athletic Coordinator and ask him or her to set up a meeting with the coach for you.
- Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
- Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.
- Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation but often escalate it. Wait 24 hours before contacting the coach.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach didn't provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Schedule a meeting with the Campus Athletic Coordinator, coach, and parent.
- At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CHAIN OF COMMAND



BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR SPECTATORS

Remember that you are at the contest to support and cheer for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition – not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.

Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.

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.

Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.

Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.

Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.

The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules