

Earle School District Athletic Handbook



Home of The Bulldogs

Dear Athlete and Parent(s):

Welcome to the Earle Athletic Program. Hopefully, your decision to take advantage of our extra-curricular program will be educational, rewarding, and challenging. The purpose of this handbook is so that you will be more aware of the programs that are available. The ESD Athletic Department encourages you to take advantage of as many programs as your time and talents will allow.

It is our desire that every student who participates in Earle Athletics has a positive and meaningful experience. The pursuit of excellence is fundamental to athletics and our coaching staffs are encouraged to maintain a high level of expectations for you, the athlete, in your conduct on the field, off the field, and in the classroom.

We strive to build on the tradition that has been at Earle for many years. Our number one goal for our athletic program is to provide student-athletes with the tools that they need to be successful adults. The Earle Athletic Program is one of the best in the state of Arkansas and our programs have numerous state titles in many sports.

We ask that you read this handbook carefully and discuss the contents together. After reading this handbook, both the athlete and the parent(s) are asked to sign the handbook and other required forms and return them to your coach. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your coaches or athletic director. We are excited about the upcoming school year, and the competitions for your student-athlete. GO BULLDOGSS!!!

Thanks,

Earle Coaching Staff

MISSION STATEMENT The mission of the Earle Athletic Department is to help students develop into contributing members of society by developing their work ethic, character, and fitness.

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Earle School District Athletic Department is to maintain a broad-based program that will afford all students with athletic interest an opportunity for safe participation in the sports of their choice. The coaches shall deal with the athletes with firmness and fairness in order to establish the leadership they respect and admire.

GOAL OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The student athlete will develop the skills necessary to become independent problem solving adults and become a positive influence in society, not just a good athlete. Athletics can offer young people the opportunities to develop in ways no other activity can. Many of the valuable characteristics needed in life can be developed in athletics.

Student Eligibility in Earle School District

The Arkansas High School Activities Association, of which Earle School District is a member, is a voluntary, nonprofit, educational association of junior and senior high schools established for the purpose of working cooperatively in adopting standards for the supervision and regulation of interscholastic activities.

One of the primary functions of the Arkansas Activities Association is to establish eligibility standards that must be met by all students to attain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities.

Eligibility is a privilege to be granted by the school to a student, which allows that student to participate in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is not a student's right by law. Precedent setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted only if the student meets all standards adopted by the school which enables the school to grant the student such privilege. These rules are as follows:

1. Eighteen (18) years of age or less on September 13
2. Must pass four (4) academic courses the previous semester.
3. Achieve a 2.0 GPA the previous semester.
4. Below a 2.0 GPA the previous semester- student must attend Supplemental Instruction Program Plan (SIP).
5. All eligibility must meet AAA guidelines. www.ahsaa.org Communication Protocol

Academic eligibility must be verified by the coach for each athlete before the season starts. The high school registrar will then certify each student's grades for eligibility. Athletes must earn two credits toward graduation per semester and have a 2.0 GPA to be eligible. Parents and students alike should monitor grades to ensure that the student athlete does not fall into academic distress.

Communication you should expect from the coach:

- Locations and time of all practices and contests
- Expectations the coach has for the players on the squad
- Team requirements: fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, summer workouts
- Player responsibilities and team guidelines

Communication the coach should expect from the athlete:

- Notification of any scheduling conflicts in advance
- Special concerns in regard to the coach's expectations

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach:

- Treatment of the student-athlete physically and mentally
- Ways to help your child improve his/her ability to compete
- Concerns about your child's behavior

**It is often difficult to accept that your son/daughter is not playing as much as you desire. Our coaches are professionals. They will make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved, including your son/daughter. Issues not appropriate to discuss with the coach:

(The ESD Coaching Staff has been directed not to discuss the following issues):

- **Playing Time**
- **Team Strategy**
- **Play Calling**
- **Other student-athletes**

**There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent, as it is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure will be used to help promote a resolution to the issue.

Procedure to be used for setting a conference:

- Call/Text/Email the Coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached within 24 hours, call the Athletic Director 870-792-8486
- Our coaches have been directed not to hold conferences before or after a contest or practice. Conferences should be held next day if at all possible.

*****If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, set up an appointment with the ESD Athletic Director.**

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Each head coach has the authority to create team rules that are specific to his or her sport; however, there are several rules and policies that are universal. The following is a listing of some important rules and policies of our athletic department that student athletes and their parents should understand.

A. Disciplinary action taken toward students who are involved with controlled substances at school or while participating in a school activity and are involved in extra-curricular activities:

1. First Violation:

a. Determined by administrative recommendation ranging from possible suspension from school, to referral to legal authorities for possible prosecution, etc. (per student handbook).

b. IF allowed to return to school, the athlete may be allowed back in the sports' program if they can show documented proof by a trained chemical dependency professional that they are receiving or have received satisfactory treatment, in which case they will be suspended from 10% of their current sports' scheduled games or, if their sports' are in off-season, suspended for the next sport in which they will be in.

2. Second Violation:

a. Determined by building administrative recommendation ranging from possible suspension from school, referral to the College and Career Academy, referral to legal authorities for possible prosecution, etc. (per student handbook).

b. IF allowed back in school, the student will be automatically removed from ALL extracurricular activities and shall not be allowed to participate in any sport for the remainder of that school year.

** Note: There will be zero tolerance for selling and/or distributing controlled substances. This also includes passing off anything that is not a controlled substance as a controlled substance. For example, selling and/or distributing over the counter pills, imitation drugs, etc. as a controlled substance will not be allowed. Students will be suspended for one calendar year for this offense.

Disciplinary action taken toward students who are involved with (possession/use) controlled substances, but not at school or while participating in a school activity and are involved in extracurricular activities.

1. Alcohol/Drugs

a. First Violation:

i. Suspended from 10% of the games or activities scheduled.

ii. Parents will be notified.

iii. Athlete will complete a drug/alcohol awareness program approved through the AD's office in cooperation with the School Resource Officer.

b. Second Violation:

i. Suspended from 50% of scheduled games or activities.

ii. Required to attend an alcohol/drug abuse awareness program, approved through the A.D.'s office in cooperation with Life Strategies Counseling Services.

iii. Parents will be notified.

c. Third Violation:

i. Dismissed from ALL sports and activities for one calendar year – starting with the date of the incident. ii. Parents will be notified.

d. Fourth Violation:

i. Dismissed indefinitely from ALL sports and activities for the remainder of their enrollment in the Earle School District.

ii. Parents will be notified.

2. Tobacco (including smokeless)

a. First Violation:

i. Suspended from 5% of the games or activities scheduled.

ii. Parents will be notified.

b. Second Violation:

i. Suspended from 20% of the games or activities scheduled.

ii. Required to attend the school-appointed TEG program.

iii. Parents will be notified.

c. Third Violation:

i. Suspended from 30% of the games or activities scheduled.

ii. Required to attend a more in-depth tobacco awareness program as set up through the A.D.'s office.

iii. Parents will be notified.

d. Fourth Violation:

i. Suspended from 40% of the games or activities scheduled.

ii. Required to repeat the tobacco awareness program.

iii. Parents will be notified.

In All Cases of Suspensions

a. If athletes are participating in sports in-season, the suspension will take place immediately.

b. If their sports are not in-season, suspensions will begin at the start of their next sports.

c. If suspended athletes participate in more than one sport or activity, they cannot be penalized twice for one offense.

i. If the athlete is involved in two sports simultaneously (example tennis and Football), the percentage of games suspended is divided between both sports;

ii. However, if the number of games remaining is under the percentage of games suspended, the suspension will carry over to the next sport.

iii. If another violation occurs during the second sport/activity season, this would count as a second violation.

C. Suspension from school

Out of School Suspension:

Student-athlete will not be permitted to participate in practices or games from time of incident through duration of out of school suspension.

In School Suspension:

Student-athlete will not be permitted to participate in games from time of incident through duration of in school suspension. Students will be allowed to practice during this time.

BEHAVIOR AND CITIZENSHIP

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed by many and it is important that an athlete's behavior be above reproach. Appearance, expression and actions always influence people's opinions of the athletes as well as the sport. Once you have volunteered to be a member of a squad, you have made the choice to uphold certain standards expected of all athletes in this community. Be proud to be an athlete, for it is a privilege, not a right. The way an athlete acts and looks is of great importance; thus proper dress, appearance, grooming and personal cleanliness are expected. Athletes should be leaders and fellow students should respect and follow them. Proper dress and appearance will be established by the coach and is a continual process.

You should never use tobacco, alcohol or drugs; it has been proven that athletes that refrain from the use of these substances have a better performance level than those that use them. Besides being illegal, research clearly states that the use of tobacco, alcohol and any type of mood modifying substance produces harmful effects on the human organism. If you wish to be a Bulldog, you must refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs; you have to pay the price to be a fine competitor.

We hope your athletic experience will help develop attitudes that must be a part of each individual for success in athletics and life. Some of these attitudes include:

1. Pride in performance.
2. Sacrifice and persevering application.
3. Sportsmanship – the good of the team comes before individual glory and desire.

4. Educational goals – the main reason why you are in school is to receive an education, athletic participation is secondary.
5. Develop an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness. The importance of proper rest, good eating habits, and cleanliness will be stressed at every opportunity.
6. A desire to represent your school and community in a manner that will make school administrators, teachers, parents, and the people in the community proud of you.
7. A realization that athletic competition is a privilege that carries definite responsibilities with it. These include training, loyalty, eligibility, improvement, courage, and perseverance.

CYBER BULLYING

- A. Cyber Bullying is usually defined as sending or posting “cruel, vicious, and sometimes threatening messages” on the internet.
- B. Act 115, 2007: Cyber bullying is an electronic act whether or not the electronic act is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.
- C. Athletes shall not misuse the internet venues, such as Instagram, Snap Chat, Tic Toc, MySpace, Facebook, Cell phones, etc. to reflect in a negative manner on themselves, another player, team, or the school.
- D. Should athletes commit cyber bullying, their coaches will consider situations on individual basis and assign any consequences deemed necessary.

Student/Athlete Use of Social Media:

As a student athlete within the Earle School District, you are required to follow the student handbook guidelines, even though an event may happen off school property or after school hours.

Social network sites, such as, but not limited to, Facebook and other digital platforms and distribution mechanisms facilitate students communicating with other students. Participation in such networks has both positive appeal and potentially negative consequences. It is important the Earle student-athletes be aware of those consequences and exercise appropriate caution if they choose to participate.

Student-athletes are not restricted from using any on-line social network sites and digital platforms. However, users must understand that any content they make public via on-line social networks or digital platforms is expected to follow acceptable social behaviors and also to comply with federal government, state of Arkansas, Earle School District, and AAA rules and regulations. As an Earle student-athlete you must be aware of the Student Handbook regulations. Ignorance of these regulations does not excuse student-athletes from adhering to them.

Guidelines for Student-Athletes:

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for student-athletes to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a student-athlete at Earle, you should:

- Be careful with how much and what kind of identifying information you post on social networking sites. Virtually anyone with an email address can access your personal page. It is unwise to make available information such as full date of birth, social security number, address, phone number, cell phone numbers, class schedules, bank account information, or details about your daily routine. All of these can facilitate identity theft or stalking. Facebook and other sites provide numerous privacy settings for information contained on its pages; use these settings to protect private information. However, once posted, remember that the information becomes property of the website.
- Be aware that potential current and future employers and college admissions offices often access information you place on these on-line social networking sites. You should think about any information you post on Facebook or similar directories as potentially providing an image of you to a prospective employer or school. The information is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of years from now.
- Be careful in responding to unsolicited emails asking for passwords or PIN numbers. Reputable businesses do not ask for this information in emails.
- Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.
- Remember photos once put on the social networking site's server become their property. You may delete the photo from your profile but it still stays on their server. Internet search engines like Google and Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. Think long and hard about what type of photo you want to represent you.
- There should be absolutely no video or photo taken inside of a locker room or restroom. Disciplinary action will result for this infraction.

Things student-athletes should avoid:

- Derogatory language or remarks about teammates or coaches; other Earle student-athletes, teachers, or coaches; student-athletes, coaches, administrators, or representatives of other schools, and parents.
- Demeaning statements about or threats to any third party.
- Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported felony theft or felony criminal damage to property.
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation-regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

****Student-athletes who misuse any form of social media may be subject to disciplinary action up to or including dismissal from the team.**

Ejections (coach or athlete):

- A participant is prohibited from participation (ineligible) from the point of ejection plus:

1. Football - next four consecutive full quarters of comparable events.

2. All other sports - next comparable event

- Second Offense in same season:

1. Football - next eight consecutive full quarters of comparable events.

2. All other sports - next two comparable events.

- Third offense in same season: Prohibited from participation for the remainder of the same sport season and school placed on probation or warning. If there are fewer than 3 comparable games remaining in the season, the prohibition of participation carries over to the next same sport season.

Comparable event is defined as an event that has already been scheduled and is at the same level of competition (Varsity, JV, Girls, Boys). Comparable events may be events for the following same sport season.

Note 1: Ejected student-athletes may attend but may not participate in the next comparable event while serving the ejection penalty.

Note 2: Ejected coaches may not be present at the next comparable event venue or perform any coaching duties during the comparable event while serving the ejection penalty. Parental Conduct at Athletic Events:

Earle School District takes pride in having good sportsmanship. We encourage parent and fan participation at games and events. We believe in the encouragement of our student-athletes, teams and coaches. However, we do not believe in belittling opponents, officials, players, coaches, fans, or parents. In the event someone crosses the line and is ejected from an event at Earle Athletic Facilities the following procedures will be followed.

- 1st-Offense: Certified Letter from Athletic Director
- 2nd-Offense: Meeting with Superintendent, Athletic Director, Building Administrator, and Coach
- 3rd-Offense: Ban from Earle School District Facilities for the remainder of the year.

Quitting a Sport:

A student who chooses to leave a team before the conclusion of the season may not participate in another sport until the dropped sport has completed its season. Exceptions can be made for medical reasons or if the head coaches of the sports involved and the athletic director agree to allow participation in the succeeding sport prior to the end of the dropped sport. If the athlete is unable to complete a sport due to medical reasons, verification from a doctor must be given to the coaches by the athlete in order to participate in another sport. If a student is removed from a team by the head coach for disciplinary reasons, the student will not be allowed to participate in another sport until after the dropped sport has completed its season.

Activity Programs:

Any activity that meets the guidelines of the Arkansas Activities are listed below: Art Club, Beta Club, Choral, FCCLA, Nat'l. Honor Society, Tennis, Band, Book Club, Cross Country, Football, Quiz Bowl, Track, Baseball, Bowling, E-Sports, FBLA, Golf, Softball, Trap Shooting, Basketball, Cheerleading, FCA, Key Club, Student Council, FFA. School Year: From the first day of classes in the fall, unless the activity begins prior to the first day of classes, in which event from the first day of practice through the last day of classes in the spring.

ATHLETIC INJURIES

Any injury, large or small, should be reported to the coach immediately. Any injury not requiring a doctor's care will be assessed by the coach in charge to determine the athlete's ability to play or practice.

INSURANCE

The school provides a secondary insurance policy, which will supplement the athlete's family policy. This becomes the primary policy for those students who do not have health insurance coverage. Additionally, the Arkansas Activities Association provides catastrophic insurance coverage. The secondary insurance policy provided by the school may not cover all expenses incurred from a severe injury. The parent is responsible to file claim forms provided by the school. The supplemental accident claim form may be picked up in the Athletic Director's office or may be provided by the coach. Parents are encouraged to keep a copy of the supplemental insurance claim form and submit the form, along with their own insurance information, each time they visit the doctor and/or emergency room.

TRAVEL

The athletic department desires that players travel to and from competitions as a team. The coach, in some circumstances, may release players to travel with their parents. Coaches with parental consent verbally and through a text message can release a player to be transported with anyone other than the athlete's parents, other parents, or school personnel

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment should be turned in immediately following the end of the season. Athletes are financially responsible for all equipment checked out to them. The cost of destroyed/lost equipment will be at the athlete's expense. Athletes should treat school equipment as though it were their personal property. It should never be abused. If an athlete is involved in the theft of school equipment, he/she could be dismissed from the team.

SUMMER WORKOUTS

All athletes are expected to maintain their physical conditioning throughout the summer. Coaches should inform athletes of any special workout programs to be followed. Weight rooms and gyms will be open as scheduled throughout the summer.

AWARDS & LETTERING POLICIES

A. The following policies have been established for determining lettering in each individual sport in the Earle School District: (All games refer to varsity only).

1. Football – An athlete must participate in 50% of the quarters played or have started two (2) games.
2. Basketball – An athlete must participate in 50% of the quarters played or have started four (4) games.
3. Track – Must average one point in each ribbon meet or score in the District Meet.
4. Tennis – Must be one of the individuals who is selected to participate in District Tournament or must have played in half the varsity matches.
5. Cheer/Dance – Must have performed pep rallies and games.

B. School Awards & Lettering Policy

Students will begin the lettering process in 9th grade and shall receive their letters upon completion of the desired requirements. *Only athletes who complete the season are eligible to letter; if athletes qualify for state but fail to compete in state competition - which could affect the overall team score - they are not eligible to letter. If a player quits or is dismissed and does not complete the season, he/she forfeits his/her right to letter and will not receive any awards for that sport.

1. Beginning with an athlete's freshman year, if freshmen are moved up after completion of their 9th grade season to participate on high school teams, they may letter as long as they meet the lettering criteria for the remaining high school games.
2. Athletes may receive letter patches in only one sport, in other words; only one letter patch may be earned. Sport inserts will be given to the athlete if they letter in a second sport.
3. Athletes who have participated for three consecutive years (10-12) and have not lettered, will letter their senior year and be eligible for a letter patch.
4. Second, third, and fourth-year letter winners will receive plaques and additional bars for their letter patches.
5. Three-year letter winners (grades 10-12) will be eligible to receive letter blankets.
6. Managers in all sports are entitled the same awards as athletes, provided they participate and fulfill their manager obligations the entire season.
7. Athletes, who lettered in the previous year but, due to injury or illness are unable to participate the next year and remain with the team, will letter.
8. Athletes who make All-District, All-State, or participate on a state championship team, will receive sleeve patches for these achievements.
9. Any team that wins a conference championship will be honored with a banner that will be displayed in the gym.
10. Any team that wins a state championship will be honored with a giant photo in the gymnasium.

11. Any team that wins a state championship can fundraise for the purchase of Championship Rings or Pendants

Earle School District Athletic Department Consent Form

I hereby give my consent for _____ to compete in interscholastic sports; participate in related practice sessions and to travel with the team/coach for such functions. I acknowledge that even with proper instructions and supervision, poor use of equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries and accidents are still a possibility. I understand that the Earle School District or its employees will not be liable if an injury or accident occurs.

I give permission for my son/daughter to be evaluated as necessary by medical personnel for Earle School District. I give them permission to share any information pertaining to the athlete's injury and treatment with the athletic director, the coaching staff, and proper emergency medical professional. I understand that I am required to have Primary Insurance Coverage. I understand that the Earle School District will not be responsible for payment of any medical bills that the family's personal insurance policy does not pay.

I also agree to be responsible for the care and return of any athletic equipment issued to the above named student in quality condition.

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the AAA medical criteria and the concussion in sports fact sheet for athletes and parents. I acknowledge and understand the risks of brain related injuries associated with participation in athletic activity.

I acknowledge and understand the risks of heat related illness associated with participation in athletic activity.

I have read the Earle Athletic Handbook and do hereby agree to comply and follow the guidelines set forth in order to participate in Earle Athletics.

** I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statements.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date _____

Signature of Athlete Date _____

Note: This form must be signed and returned to the Coach before an athlete may participate in any athletic activity. Please sign, detach, and return to your coach.

Arkansas Athletics Association Medical Criteria Preventing and Managing MRSA:

As part of its official statement on MRSA, the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) suggests the following prevention and management recommendations on MRSA.

Signs and Symptoms- appears as a bump or infected area, red, swollen, painful, warm to touch, full of pus or other drainage, accompanied by fever

1. Care for and cover skin lesions appropriately before participation. 2. Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and warm water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer routinely. 3. Avoid whirlpools or common tubs when an athlete has open wounds, scrapes, or scratches. 4. Encourage immediate showering after activity. 5. Avoid sharing towels, razors, or daily athletic gear. 6. Properly wash athletic gear and towels after each use. 7. Maintain clean facilities and equipment. 8. Administer or seek proper first aid. 9. Refer to appropriate health care personnel all active skin lesions and lesions that do not respond to initial therapy.

Exertional Heat Stroke:

What is Exertional Heat Stroke? Heat Stroke is a severe heat illness that occurs when a child's body creates more heat than it can release, due to the strain of exercising. This results in a rapid increase in core body temperature, which can lead to permanent disability or even death if left untreated.

What are the signs and symptoms of heat stroke:

- Increase in core body temperature, usually above 104 degrees Fahrenheit (rectal temperature)
- Central nervous system dysfunction, such as altered consciousness, seizures, confusion, emotional instability, irrational behavior or decreased mental acuity.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Headache, dizziness, or weakness
- Hot and wet or dry skin
- Increased heart rate, decreased blood pressure or fast breathing
- Dehydration
- Combativeness

When should I play again?

No one who has suffered heat stroke should be allowed to return until appropriate healthcare personnel approves and gives specific return to play instructions. Parents should work with medical professionals to rule out or treat any other condition or illnesses that may cause continued problems with heat stroke. Return to physical activity should be done slowly, under supervision of appropriate healthcare professionals.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs.

Signs and Symptoms

- Fainting or seizures during exercise
- Unexplained shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Dizziness
- Racing heart beat
- Extreme fatigue

Every coach and registered volunteer must receive training every three years on prevention of sudden cardiac death.

Any athlete experiencing syncope (fainting), chest pains, shortness of breath that is out of proportion to their level of activity or an irregular heart rate should not return to practice or play until evaluated by an appropriate healthcare professional. They must be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to return to play/practice.