



Elkmont High School

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Elkmont High School Athletic Code of Conduct

I. Philosophy

The Elkmont High School Athletic Department believes that athletics are an integral part of the school's educational program since it provides experiences that will help young people to grow physically, mentally, and emotionally. Emphasis is placed on educating students through athletics as well as teaching athletic skills. All of us are committed to having a first-class quality academic and athletic program. Our coaches spend a lot of time, energy, and effort providing the Elkmont community the quality program it deserves.

Our "Code of Conduct" is designed to guide both the student and parents to a successful experience in our athletic program. Parents and school personnel must join forces to promote a common value system that develops the character in young athletes our society so desperately seeks. Respect for authority, respect for the rights of others and developing high ideals of fairness in interpersonal relationships are desirable learning outcomes to be achieved through athletics. Winning, involving the spirit of competition, is an immediate objective in all athletic contests, but is not an end in itself. The desire to win can and should be used to stimulate the achievement of ultimate objectives.

We are asking both students and parents to take the time to read and understand the commitment we are asking you to exhibit in order to participate in the athletic program at Elkmont High School. **Individual coaches may certainly have team rules that exceed this Code of Conduct, but all athletes will be held to at least the standard set forth in this document.** It is a privilege to participate in athletics and this privilege is extended to all, provided that students are willing to assume certain responsibilities.

II. Eligibility

The eligibility guidelines are set by the Alabama High School Athletic Association and the Limestone County Board of Education. We firmly believe in abiding by all rules and regulations and the eligibility guidelines will be followed in their entirety.

III. Chemical Free Rules:

1. There will be no use or possession of any tobacco products.
 - a. First Offense: Parental notification, warning, and probation for one calendar year. Also discretionary punishment by the coach to include but not limited to extra running, work detail, community service, etc.
 - b. Second Offense: Parental notification, the student will be suspended from 10% of the games of the sport in which he/she is presently participating. If the offense occurs in the “off season,” he/she will be suspended 10% of the games in the next sport of season he/she plays. The student will be allowed to practice and will not lose membership from the team. Also, discretionary punishment by the coach to include but not limited to extra running, work detail, community service, etc.
 - c. Third Offense: Parental notification, the student will be suspended from 50% of the games of the sport in which he/she presently participating. If more than half of the season is over the suspension will carry over to the next sport in which they participate. If the offense occurs in the “off season,” he/she will be suspended 10% of the games in the next sport or season he/she plays. Also, discretionary punishment by the coach to include but not limited to extra running, work detail, community service, etc.
2. There will be no use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
 - a. First Offense: Parental notification, the student will be suspended from 20% of the games of the sport in which he/she is presently participating. If the offense occurs towards the end of the season the suspension will carry over to any play-off games or the next sport he/she plays. If the offense occurs in the “off season,” he/she will be suspended 20% of the games in the next sport of season he/she plays. The student will be allowed to practice and will not lose membership from the team. Also, discretionary punishment by the coach to include but not limited to extra running, work detail, community service, etc.
 - b. Second Offense: Parental notification, the student will be suspended from athletic participation for the remainder of the school year.
 - c. Third Offense: Parental notification and the student will be suspended from athletic participation for one calendar year from the date of the violation.
3. There will be no use or possession of drugs (except by physician's prescription).

*The rules are the same as for alcohol.

Note: In order to be in violation of the rules for tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, the student must be seen in possession or use by a coach, administrator or law enforcement officer.

IV. Leaving the Team Once the coach announces the official team, those athletes remaining are expected to continue on the team for the rest of the season. If a student decides not to continue participating in that sport it will be left to the discretion of the coach and administration as to whether the player will be allowed back on the team. If a student athlete decides not to continue, he/she will not be able to begin practicing with another sports team at Elkmont High School until the season of the team he/she left is completed.

V. Financial Obligations

If a student has any financial obligations from a sport that student will not be allowed to participate in a contest of another sport until the financial obligations are met. This also applies to any uniforms or clothing that should be returned to the coach.

VI. School Discipline

We expect our athletes to be positive role models for other students at Elkmont High School. Proper respect for the teachers and rules of Elkmont High School are expected at all times.

- a. Students who have after school detention for disciplinary reasons will not be able to begin practice until the detention dismisses.
- b. Students who are suspended from school aren't allowed to be on campus or attend any school function.
- c. Students in ISS will not be able to practice or participate in games on the days they are in ISS.
- d. Numerous disciplinary referrals from the school are grounds for dismissal from the team. This will be a decision made by the coach and administration.

Disciplinary action taken by the school is taken seriously and further consequences will be left to the discretion of the coach to include but not limited to extra running, work detail, community service, etc.

VII. Sportsmanship

All athletes and team members will conduct themselves in a mature and sportsmanlike manner at all times, on and off the field, as representatives of the team, athletic program, and school. Taunting players on the opposing team or doing any act which degrades another player or reflects negatively on Elkmont High School will not be tolerated. Students who receive an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, a technical foul, or get ejected from a game may receive sanctions above those stated in the AHSAA Handbook depending on the circumstances of the incident. The AHSAA Handbook states the following:

Coaches and players that are ejected from contests in all sports will receive the following penalties:

- a. First Ejection: Minimum \$300 fine
- b. Second Ejection: Minimum one-game suspension and \$500 fine
- c. Third Ejection: Minimum suspension for the remainder of the season and \$750 fine
NOTE: If an ejection occurs during the final contest of the season, a monetary fine will be placed on the school according to its severity and what number of ejection it is.

VIII. Attendance

- a. Athletes are expected to be present at all team meetings, practices, scrimmages, and games unless they are ill or have been excused, in advance, by their coach. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action taken by the coach.
- b. In order to practice or play in a game on any school day, an athlete must be in school by 11:30 or have a valid excuse (i.e. Dr.'s appt., death in the family etc...)

IX. Hazing

Hazing or initiation by athletes is prohibited by Elkmont High School. All athletes are to be treated with dignity and respect. Violation of this rule may result in suspension or possible removal from the team.

X. Parental Concerns

In the event there is a concern following an athletic contest parents are asked to wait until the next day to confront the coach. Nothing positive typically transpires between a coach and an upset parent immediately following an athletic contest. The parent is asked to call the school the next business day and schedule a meeting with the coach and/or athletic director and principal.

Parents are the most influential people in a child's life and Elkmont High School appreciates the efforts of our parents. We also feel that our coaches have a positive influence on the lives of young people. Making negative comments about a coach in front of your child places that student in an awkward position. Many times this causes problems for the athlete and the team. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have with the coach and then the administration if needed.

I have read a copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct and understand it. I have discussed the program and the importance of following the rules with my son/daughter and we agree to abide by them. I grant permission for my son/daughter to participate in the Interscholastic Sports Program of Elkmont High School.

Signature of Athlete _____ Date: _____

I have read the Athletic Code of Conduct and understand the requirements and its content. I, hereby, agree to follow the Code. I also understand the importance of following the rules.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Athletic Year: _____