** **

**EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

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**Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234**

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ATHLETIC HANDBOOK STUDENTS AND PARENTS

**EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**DR. TERRY CHARLTON, PRINCIPAL**

**FERNWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**JIM BATTERSBY, PRINCIPAL**

**ALDER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**JOE MARINELLI, PRINCIPAL**

**INTRODUCTION**

Participation in a sound and wholesome athletic program contributes to health, physical skill, social competencies and moral values. Cooperation and competition are both important components of American life; furthermore, the experience of participating in interscholastic athletic competition is a vital part of the education offered by the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education.

Therefore, we have prepared this handbook as a guide, and it is intended to assist parents and students in participation in the athletic program in the Egg Harbor Township School District. All athletes and parents should be familiar with our athletic policies and procedures.

I encourage parents and students to take time to familiarize themselves with the information and guidelines in this handbook.

Michael J. Pellegrino

Supervisor of Athletics and Activities

**EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP PHILOSOPHY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

The Egg Harbor Township School District interscholastic athletic program is congruent with the school’s Mission Statement and Beliefs and is designed to complement and contribute to the total educational program of the students. It facilitates the process through which student/athletes strive toward their potential, allowing them to become aware of the talents they possess, and nurtures them en-route to a more productive adult life. Our athletic program is one window through which the community views the Egg Harbor Township School District. The community should see a program of professionalism, safety consciousness, dedication, and a true concern for the over-all development of the student/athletes.

We believe…

1. Participation in varied, sound, and wholesome athletic programs contributes to health, physical skill, social competency, and moral values.

2. Cooperation and competition are learned through athletics and are important components of life.

3. That success can be achieved through effective communication, mutual respect and trust between coaches, athletes, parents, officials, and administrators.

4. Our athletes should know how to deal with defeat in a sportsmanlike manner, but should also know the feeling of winning and how it develops self-esteem and motivation for life’s challenging tasks.

5. It is important to offer a wide range of interscholastic sports and levels for student/athletes so that their unique talents and interests can be valued and nurtured.

6. All athletes are accepted and valued as individuals, but learn to integrate and function as a team.

7. Egg Harbor Township nurtures a wholesome respect for competition and competitors and emphasizes sportsmanship and fair play within the rules and guidelines.

8. Athletes will learn and perform best in an environment that respects and values athletes, teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents.

9. That after selection to a team, each athlete has the right to participate at a level compatible with his/her maturity and ability.

10. Team concept should be emphasized over individual laurels.

11. In an environment which allows for individual development through freshmen, junior varsity, and varsity competition, where applicable.

12. That student’s benefit from an athletic environment in which coaches serve as role models, facilitators, and mentors.

13. Athletes learn and improve in an environment that is both demanding and encouraging.

14. In helping our athletes develop physically by learning sport skills, improving physical conditioning, developing good health habits and avoiding / caring for injuries.

15. That in challenging each athlete to strive toward their potential, we provide them with a safe and healthy environment, while building self-esteem.

16. Coaches help our athletes develop mentally by learning to control their emotions and nurturing a positive feeling of self-worth.

17. That coaches help our athletes develop socially by learning cooperation and appropriate standards of behavior in a competitive and team context.

**ATHLETIC TEAMS**

* The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) regulates the Egg Harbor Township athletic program. Egg Harbor Township High School and Middle Schools are members of the Cape Atlantic League and Atlantic – Cape – Cumberland Middle School League.
* Egg Harbor Township High School offers 27 sports at 55 levels throughout the school year, including cheerleading. In the fall, teams are fielded in boys’ and girls’ cross country, girls’ field hockey, football, boys’ and girls’ soccer, and girls’ tennis. In most of these sports, we provide teams at the freshman, junior varsity, and varsity levels.
* During the winter, Egg Harbor Township supports teams on all levels in wrestling and girls’ and boys’ basketball, while the girls’ and boys’ swimming and diving, girls’ and boys’ winter track, girls’ and boys’ bowling compete only at the varsity level.
* Spring sports include baseball, softball, girls’ crew, boys’ crew, girls’ lacrosse, and boys’ lacrosse at the freshman, junior varsity, and varsity levels; varsity and junior varsity boys’ tennis, golf, and varsity boys’ and girls’ track.

**EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES**

**Each Egg Harbor Township School District athlete shall:**

1. Recognize his/her obligation to abide by all the rules of the NJSIAA, the Cape Atlantic League, Atlantic – Cape – Cumberland League, and Egg Harbor Township Board of Education.

2. Understand the privilege of being a team member and\assume the responsibilities that go with it.

3. Abide by correct health and training rules.

4. Be a team player and avoid actions that are detrimental to the unity of the team.

5. Represent the school in a positive manner in appearance, conduct, and performance.

6. Respect the role of spectators, coaches, officials, and teammates in his/her specific sport.

7. Understand that “studies’ come first. Athletics, as important as they may be, are but a part of the education process. An athlete must pass 30 credits – the equivalent of 6 academic classes - at the conclusion of each semester to be scholastically eligible to participate during each season.

8. Players and parents will read and sign the athletic contract.

**ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

The board of education recognizes that the primary responsibility of the school system is to provide all students with a thorough and efficient education. Although the academic program has first priority, student activities are an important part of the total learning experience. The Board of Education, therefore, provides an opportunity for students to participate in a full range of activities, while ensuring that the student’s academic progress is sufficient to support this participation. Students are reminded that interscholastic competition is co-curricular and should not be undertaken if it will impact negatively on their regular educational progress.

Athletes in grades nine through twelve come under the jurisdiction of the NJSIAA and must follow its eligibility requirements as explained below:

1. ELIGIBLE if student has not reached the age of 19 prior to September 1.

1. ELIGIBLE for Fall Sports/Activities during the first MARKING PERIOD (September 1 - November) if a student has passed 30 credits required by the state of New Jersey for graduation during the preceding academic year.
2. ELIGIBLE for Winter Sports if a student has passed 30 credits during the preceding year and 30 credits in the first marking period.
3. ELIGIBLE for Spring Sports/Activities if a student has passed 30 credits during the FIRST Semester and 30 credits in the second MARKING PERIOD.
4. All incoming Freshman are ELIGIBLE for the Fall Season to begin competition.
5. To maintain eligibility, the students must pass 30 credits each MARKING PERIOD during the season.
6. ELIGIBLE immediately if transfer because of a change of residence to another public secondary school district by parents or as approved by the NJSIAA.
7. ELIGIBLE after 30 days from first game/meet of a sport at present school, if student participated at previous school, and transferring from one school to another when parents have not moved from one public school district to another public school district and only after transfer waiver form has been completed and processed by both schools.
8. ELIGIBLE if no influence used to retain or recruit the student.
9. ELIGIBLE to represent his/her present school, if a student’s parents move to another public school district maintaining a secondary school of equal grade or higher provided he/she remains properly enrolled, any subsequent transfer will be subject to the transfer provisions.
10. NOT ELIGIBLE after the completion of 8 semesters following a student’s entrance into the 9th grade.
11. NOT ELIGIBLE after the class in which a student originally enrolled graduates, regardless of transfer from any school during the 3 or 4 year period.

In addition, any member of an NJSIAA team who competes in any adult league or non-school competition (at any time of the year) and accepts prize money or merchandise as a prize shall immediately become ineligible for one year for further participation in any interscholastic sports activity conducted by the NJSIAA, and any games in any sport in which he/she has competed are forfeited.

**PERMISSION SLIPS, MEDICAL HISTORY, AND EMERGENCY CARD PACKET**

In addition to NJSIAA rules, Egg Harbor Township School District requires that the parent and student for each sport in which the student participates complete a permission slip. The permission slip, along with a medical history form and an emergency card, are contained in a packet available in the Health Office. Students should take the time to fill these forms out accurately, as the coaches and trainer will use this information to contact the parents in case of an accident. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain these forms, get them properly signed, and return them on time. Students must obtain a private physical at their own expense. The state mandates that these physicals must take place no longer than 1 year from the end of that particular sport season. Parents may choose to use their own doctor, and there are special forms available in the Health Office, which can be presented to family doctors at the time of the examination. After the initial physical examination of the year, and if the student has not had any injuries, the nurses will simply review the athlete’s health record and not require another physical examination. When the nurses have completed the physical examinations for a sport, they will prepare a list of students who are medically eligible to participate.

NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL CLEARED BY THE NURSES, TRAINER, AND SUPERVISOR OF ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES.

**IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS**

1. A certified trainer is on staff to assist coaches and athletes in preventing, caring for, and rehabilitating injuries. Because of the number of sport teams, fields, and games, the trainer may not be immediately available. We will do our best to ensure that an athletic trainer is on site for all home contests, except in the fall when he / she will travel with football.

2. In case of an accident, the trainer or a school nurse will be notified. If the accident is serious, the first aid squad will be called. Before the student is transported, the parents will be notified to meet the ambulance at the hospital.

(For this reason. it is imperative that parents provide accurate and updated information on the emergency card.)

3. In the case of a head injury, which is not serious enough to call for the first aid squad, the parents will be notified so that they may continue to keep the student under observation.

4. After the athlete has been cared for, the coaches and/or the trainer are expected to follow up with a phone call home.

5. All accidents/injuries must be reported to the Health Office that morning after they occur. Injured athletes should check in with the Health Office before reporting to homeroom. The athletic trainer must also be notified.

6. Accident report forms will be completed by the coach the day after the accident and turned in to the athletic trainer, who will give them to the nurse for processing.

7. An athlete excused by a doctor from a sport due to an injury will not be allowed to return to his/her sport without a release from the doctor and subsequently from the Health Office. If an athlete does not participate in physical education class for medical reasons, he/she may not participate in practices, or games that day or evening. Any questions or concerns regarding an athlete’s physical condition or well-being should be directed to the athletic trainer.

**SCHEDULING OF PRACTICES AND CONTESTS**

1. Our school district athletic schedules are now on the internet. Current schedules and daily updates are located at www.capeatlanticleague.org or our own School District website.

2. Regular scheduled games are arranged by the Cape Atlantic League Athletic Directors in accordance with the NJSIAA regulations concerning number of contests in a week and season.

3. Outside or independent games are set up to fill the schedule and provide competition with schools similar to Egg Harbor Township.

4. Officials are assigned by the specific sport chapter.

5. Practice dates and times will be explained at a player/parent meeting with the coach prior to the season.

6. Practices are set up based on the availability of facilities, number of teams using a facility, and the proper number of practices to provide a well-conditioned and trained team.

7. There will be no MANDATORY practices or games on religious holidays such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and the first day of Passover. If students must miss a practice or game for religious reasons, they will be excused by their coach.

**TRAINING/PARTICIPATION RULES**

Participation in the interscholastic athletic program at Egg Harbor Township High School and Middle Schools has traditionally been a privilege that requires dedication and discipline by its participants. The Board of Education, administration, and coaches have established the following regulations, rules and disciplinary procedures for athletes and coaches in the Egg Harbor Township athletic programs.

**General Regulations:**

l. If it is necessary to limit participation (provide try-outs and then make team selections) in a given sport, it will be done after a sufficient time has passed to assess abilities of the candidates. Cutting shall be the responsibility of the coach. He/she will hold a conference with each student who is cut from a squad (at no time will a coach post a list of those being cut or retained).

2. Any student dropping out of a sport has an obligation to confer with the coach involved.

3. An athlete may switch sports in season prior to the first scheduled game with no penalty.

4. An athlete who has been asked to leave or who elects to leave a sport after the first scheduled game may not join another sport until his/her original season is over, unless he/she has the permission of the previous head coach.

5. Since there will be overlapping of sports seasons for some students who participate in more than one activity, the policy at Egg Harbor Township is to allow the student to finish the sport started before beginning the second sport. It is strongly recommended that three days be allowed for rest of the athletes between seasons. If athletes desire to visit colleges, coaches should urge that this time be utilized for that purpose.

6. Once a contest is started, coaches, players, and parents must understand that it is in the control of the officials. The school, CAL, and the state will invoke strong punishments for those coaches who remove a team from play. This punishment may also affect the team itself in league standing or state competition. An athlete(s) or team leaving a game on their own will also face harsh punishment.

**Rules Concerning Substance Abuse:**

Egg Harbor Township Schools have taken a firm stand on the use of controlled substances, alcohol, and tobacco products. Uses of the following substances are **prohibited** and will not be tolerated:

l. Tobacco products (smoking, chewing or dipping)

1. Alcoholic beverages.

1. Controlled substances, which are prohibited by New Jersey Statute - drugs, narcotics, steroids, etc.

**Disciplinary Action:**

* The first offense for the use of tobacco products will result in a one-week suspension from games. The student will be allowed to practice.
* A second offense of the use of tobacco products will result in exclusion from the team for the remainder of the season.
* A third offense will result in exclusion from all sports for the remainder of the school year.
* An athlete involved in a first offense of consuming or possessing alcohol or a controlled substance will receive a one-month suspension from all scrimmages, and games, but must continue to attend all practices during that time.
* The second such offense will result in exclusion from all sports for the remainder of that school year.

These penalties are a minimum and can be extended by disciplinary action from the school administration.

**Attendance:**

* Attendance at practice is important. An athlete missing practice without notifying his/her coach or with a valid excuse (detention or suspension is not a valid excuse) will lose playing time as determined by the coach. A valid excuse would include personal illness or accident; death or illness in the family, approved religious or legal holidays; approved dental or medical appointments; court subpoenas; exceptional reasons as approved by the principal; participation in major academic activity of significant proportion, and major once in a lifetime events. A demerit system for unexcused absences is to be used to assist coaches with determining discipline for unexcused absences. Please see below.
* When school is closed for a religious holiday practices will not be mandatory.
* A student will not be permitted to participate on non-school teams if outside games and practices interfere with school practices, games, or meets.
* An athlete who is excused from physical education or sports for medical reasons will not be permitted to participate in sports activities until approved by the school nurse.
* A student must be in school for four hours (not later than 9:29 a.m.) in order to practice or play that day. Exceptions are only with advance approval from an assistant principal.
* A student-athlete may not sign out early prior to dismissal and return to practice/competition without a note. Excused dismissals include driver’s license, court appearance, or a doctor’s appointment. Documentation must be submitted upon returning to main office and/or coach prior to participating.
* So that a student does not make a commitment to a team that he/she cannot fulfill, athletes and parents should be aware that the fall sports begin during August; winter practices start either November 15th or on the Monday after Thanksgiving (this is a NJSIAA rule) and continue through the December Holiday Vacation with practices and tournaments; spring practice starts on the first Friday in March (NJSIAA rule) and continues through spring vacation with practices and games.
* Players who attend practice and games may be given priority for playing time. This is to reward those in attendance, not to punish those who are missing for legitimate reasons. Student/Athletes planning to attend School Trips, Band/Choir Trip, and/or vacations should speak to coach about his/her playing time upon return.

**Demerit System:**

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| --- | --- |
| **RULE** | **Demerit** |
| **Unexcused Absence from Practice.** Excused absences include sick with Dr. note, death in the family, SAT's, college visitations, doctors visit, and previously approved once in a lifetime events. Unexcused Absences include Detention, parties, and concerts.  | 3 |
| **Late to Practice:** excused lateness includes extra help for academics, extra credit work, school function with prior notice, Detention is not excused | 1 |
| **Discipline infraction** - improper language or gestures, disrespect, defiance, at a game, practice, scrimmage, or team event | 2 |
| ***\*\*\*Unexcused Absence the day prior to a competition will result in a half game suspension and 3 demerits. A student athlete missing a game due to an unexcused absence will sit the next game.*** |   |
| **Consequence** | **points** |
| Half game suspension | 4 |
| Full Game Suspension | 6 |
| 2 game suspension | 8 |
| Dismissal from team | 10 |

**Transportation:**

It is important for team members to travel to and from athletic contests on transportation provided by the school district. Should a student need to ride to or from a contest with a parent, permission must be received from the coach. Parents are asked to provide a note requesting a transportation change to the coach prior to the game. Such a change in transportation should be made only in extenuating circumstances. Transportation for daily practices will not be provided by the district. Parents and student athletes are responsible to secure rides home at the end of practice.

**Disqualification\*:**

* Any student athlete or coach disqualified before, during, or after an interscholastic event for un-sportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the minimum of the next two (2) regularly scheduled game/meets, with the exception of football which will carry a one (l) game disqualification at the level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties which the NJSIAA, league, conference, or district may assess.
* A disqualified player or coach may not be physically present at any contest in that sport during the period of disqualification.
* Any player or coach disqualified a second time will have the penalty doubled (i.e., in football - two games; in all other sports - four games).
* Disqualification will count for one (l) calendar year from the date of the first disqualification.
* Third offense players will be suspended and must apply in writing to the NJSIAA through the office of his/her principal for reinstatement for the subsequent year.
* Disqualification in all sports will count toward accumulation of offenses.
* Should a player or coach be disqualified from the final game/meet of the season, this disqualification will carry over to the next year in that sport. In the case of the student athlete, the same degree of penalty shall apply if this athlete retains eligibility in that sport. Seniors who are disqualified from their last game will serve the penalty in a subsequent sports season. When seniors are disqualified from the last game of their high school careers, member schools are required to take proper administrative action to discipline the offending student. In addition, athletes are subject to all school rules and their consequences.

\* NJSIAA Rules and Regulations 1992

**PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO TEAM CUTS, PLAYER PARTICIPATION AND TEAM DISCIPLINE**

When the Board of Education sets policy for the high school and middle school athletic program, the Principal and Athletic Director are responsible for the administration of the school’s athletic programs. The following procedures have been developed to allow for the best program for all students:

**Team Cuts and Player Participation**

l. The number of participants in some athletic programs is limited. This requires that some prospective participants be cut from the squad, based upon the determination of the head coach and his/her staff. The head coach makes the final decision in such cases. Players will be kept on teams based on playing ability, not grade level or program loyalty. The sport and the number of coaches, the number of levels, and the facilities available determine team size.

2. Objective ratings must be done by coaches on players who are trying out for a team. Explanation of criteria will take place at player/parent pre-season meeting.

3. Head coaches must make difficult decisions regarding which athletes play when and how much. We ask parents and students to respect the decisions of the head coach. It would be virtually impossible for an athletic program to function if a coach were unable to make decisions regarding the amount of playing time and which athletes play during the contests. Any student and/or student’s parents may discuss these decisions with the coach. If the student and/or student’s parents are not satisfied at this point, they may contact the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director may, at his discretion, discuss the concern with the coach, student or the student’s parents, but in no case shall the Athletic Director or Principal have the authority to compel the coach to alter these discretionary decisions (see appeals).

4. Freshmen are allowed to participate at the varsity level. In order for this to occur, a meeting must take place with player, coach, and parent to explain expectations, ramifications, and impact.

5. Student athletes will not be allowed to try-out for a team after the final roster is submitted and the first game / scrimmage has been completed. Athletes cut from a team may try-out for another sport if roster spots are available.

**Team Discipline**:

1. The head coach and his staff shall be responsible for maintaining reasonable standards of discipline for the day-to- day on field activities. The Demerit System is provided as a guide to assure consistency across the athletic teams.

2. Hazing - In recent years the issue of hazing of younger athletes by older team members has become an issue. We at Egg Harbor Township will not tolerate any hazing or hazing type behavior by our athletes. Appropriate discipline will be administered to anyone involved in this type of activity.

**COMMUNICATION**

* At times, students and parents have concerns about our athletic program. When this occurs, students are required to speak to the coach first. In general, problems can be resolved more quickly when students approach their coaches with concerns. Students and parents will next speak with the Athletic Director when they cannot reach satisfaction. The Principal will only participate in the resolution of the problem, when these steps have been followed.
* The success of the athletic programs at Egg Harbor Township Schools relies on effective communication between coaches, athletes, and parents. Each program will be conducting an individual “Meet the Coaches” pre-season meeting so coaches can explain their sport, their expectations on any special requirements, practices and schedules. This meeting also enables parents to ask questions and make comments. This booklet is another attempt to explain what the responsibilities are for the coach, student, and parent. Coaches are expected to conduct an evening meeting with prospective players and parents.
* All students and parents are required to read and sign a contract about training rules, attendance, transportation, and disqualifications before they are allowed to participate in any games/contests. In addition, some sports are now requiring athletes and parents to read and sign a contract, which explains what is required for that particular sport. Each of these steps is an attempt to improve communication and will help, but it is still important for the student or parent to talk directly to the coach when problems arise.
* When communication occurs among the people who are directly involved -- the student and the coach -- concerns are generally resolved to the satisfaction of all participants. Individuals who bypass any or all of these steps and who go directly to the Superintendent or Board of Education will be directed back to the appropriate person.

**AWARDS**

**Standard athletic awards are as follows:**

A. **Varsity Letter**: first award - varsity (7 inch EHT) letter, certificate, and emblematic pin; subsequent awards in same sport will be certificate and pin only. Below are guidelines established by the Board of Education pertaining to eligibility for a varsity letter.

**Sport-** Minimum participation for award eligibility:

* **Cross-Country-** One-half of the matches played or a score of 15 points earned in events among team members. (With 5 points earned for first place down to 1 point for fifth place)
* **Baseball-** One-half of all games played or one-third of all innings played, whichever is first reached. Pitchers must have pitched in at least 5 games or 10 percent of all innings played.
* **Basketball**- One-half of the number of quarters played during the season. Any official appearance in a quarter will count as a full quarter.
* **Cheerleading**- One-half of the varsity games assigned
* **Crew*-*** Must row in 75% of Varsity Races
* **Drill team-** One-half of the varsity games assigned, (color guard)
* **Field hockey**- One-half of the total number of halves played. Any official appearance in a half will count as a full half.
* **Football-** One-half of the number of quarters played. Any official appearance in a quarter will count as a full quarter.
* **Golf**- One-half of the matches played.
* **Lacrosse-** One-half of the number of quarters played.
* **Soccer-** One-half of the number of quarters played. Any official appearance in a quarter will count as a full quarter.
* **Softball-** One-half of all games played or one-third of all innings played. (Whichever is first reached) Pitchers must have pitched in at least 5 games or 10 percent of all innings played.
* **Spring track-** One-half of the events scheduled or a score of 15 points earned in events among team members. (With 5 points earned for first place down to 1 point for fifth place)
* **Swimming**- 15 points earned in events among team members.
* **Tennis-** One-half of the matches played.
* **Winter track**- One-half of the events scheduled or a score of 15 points earned in events among team members. (With 5 points earned for first place down to 1 point for fifth place)
* **Wrestling-** One-half of the matches played or a score of 15 team points.

Any official appearance in a quarter will count as a full quarter.

To receive a team award, an athlete must be a member in good standing at the close of the season. a. An athlete who is dismissed from the team for disciplinary or academic reasons is ineligible for an award. b. An athlete who leaves the team voluntarily is ineligible for an award, except that this rule may be waived, at the discretion of the coach, for an athlete required to leave by: (1) Illness or injury, (2) Transfer to another school district, or (3) Other good cause.

All athletes are expected to attend practice sessions regularly and demonstrate sportsmanlike conduct. Awards in grades 7 and 8 will consist of Coaches Award, Most Improved Player, and Sportsmanship.

B. **Junior varsity awards**: all members on a junior varsity team who participate in good standing are eligible for a Junior Varsity Certificate.

C. **Freshman award**: all freshmen who have been a member of a freshman team and who finish the season are eligible for a Freshman Certificate

D. **Special Awards**: the school provides a plaque for Most Valuable Player and one for Most Improved Player. These awards are given at the varsity level only. A Sportsmanship Plaque is given on all levels (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) to that individual who practices hard, abides by rules, and is a true sportsperson to fellow players, opponents, and officials

**THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPORTSMANSHIP**

(From the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association)

**The Coach**

1. Treats own players, and opponents, with respect.
2. Inspires in the athletes a love for the game and the desire to compete fairly.
3. Is the type of person he/she wants the athletes to be.
4. Disciplines those on the team who display un-sportsmanlike behavior.
5. Respects the judgment and interpretation of the rules of the officials.
6. Knows he/she is a teacher, and understands the athletic area is a classroom.

**The Player**

1. Treats opponents with respect.
2. Plays hard, but plays within the rules.
3. Exercises self-control at all times, setting the example for others to follow.
4. Respects officials and accepts their decisions without gesture or argument.
5. Wins without boasting, loses without excuses, and never quits.

1. Always remembers that it is a privilege to represent the school and community.

**The Spectator**

1. Attempts to understand and be informed of the playing rules.

1. Appreciates a good play no matter who makes it.

1. Cooperates with and responds enthusiastically to cheerleaders.

4. Shows compassion for an injured player, applauds positive performances; does not

heckle, jeer or distract players; and avoids use of profane and obnoxious language

and behavior.

5. Respects the judgment and strategy of the coach, and does not criticize players or

coaches for the loss of a game.

6. Respects property of others and authority of those who administer the competition.

**GUIDELINES FOR PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS AND FUNDRAISING**

In order to start a parent support group, the parent must meet with the Director of Athletics to review the ground rules. The Athletic Director will then notify the coach, who will then meet with a group of representative parents. From this meeting, a proposal, stating the group’s goals and philosophy is presented to the high school administration. The objectives should be in agreement with the Board of Education policy for these types of organizations. These objectives are as follows: a) to promote sportsmanship, understanding, and goodwill between the community, the parents, the athletes, and the staff: b) to sponsor and support end of season banquets: c) to seek funds to finance the proposed projects (does not include items that should be provided by the school budget).

The head coach will be the school representative with the parents; the coach must provide coordination with the director of athletics. Parents will meet with the head coach to assess the needs of that sport and to draw up a plan of action for fundraising. The coach must communicate with the Director of Athletics and receive written approval from the high school administration before any fundraising is initiated. If there are any problems or questions concerning approval, the principal will meet with the Director of Athletics, the head coach, and a parent representative to resolve the situation. The parents with the guidance of the head coach will handle all funds. Students may not participate in door-to-door sales.

**Booster clubs will not, under any circumstances, be involved in personnel matters.**

**A SCHOOL AND LEAGUE MESSAGE TO EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SPECTATORS**

Our Athletic program meets the basic needs of many students and is of great value to them. The success of the program is due to a large extent to the work of the coaches and students involved. The spectator also has a role in the program. If the program is going to continue to be successful, spectators must encourage good sportsmanship, courteous treatment of visitors, and absolute fairness under all conditions.

Egg Harbor Township Schools asks all fans to remember that “Athletics are Fun” and to do your part to keep them fun by following these personal rules:

* *Be Courteous* - to the teams, officials, and other spectators
* *Be Enthusiastic* - By rooting for your team and not booing opponents or officials.
* *Be Fair* - Have confidence in the honesty and integrity of the officials. Remember, they are neutral. YOU ARE PARTISAN.
* *Be Cooperative* – Don’t walk on the court or field; stay back from the sidelines; don’t yell during free throws or introductions.
* *Be a Good Sport* - By positive support of your team before, during, and after the game.
* *Be a Good Fan* - This is a game with a respected opponent; not a fight with a bitter enemy.
* *Enjoy the Game* - Let the athletes play the game, the coaches coach, and the officials officiate.

GO EAGLES!!!