



ELKHORN

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK 2019-2020



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FORMS:

Activities Department Contract
Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form
Emergency Information Report
EPS Physical Form

INTRODUCTION

The Elkhorn Public Schools are proud of the students and coaches whose contributions make the athletic program a positive experience for our participants. Success in athletics cannot always be measured by the wins and losses of each program, but must also be measured by the satisfaction and educational experiences received by the participants. The athletic program at each high school provides experiences to help boys and girls physically, mentally and emotionally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point that it does not determine the nature of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests.

The coaching staff at each high school believes that participation in athletics, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the student's educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibility to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the students themselves. In their participation and in their conduct, they are representing all these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better people and better citizens.

SPORTS BY SEASONS

SEASON	BOYS	GIRLS
Fall	Cross-Country Football Tennis	Cross-Country Volleyball Golf Softball
WINTER	Basketball Wrestling Swimming	Basketball Swimming
SPRING	Golf Soccer Track Baseball	Tennis Soccer Track
SUMMER	Strength Training	Strength Training

HS ACTIVITIES PHILOSOPHY

The Activities Department will stand united when it comes to supporting each other's programs. This means that we will encourage our athletes to be active participants in all HS activities that are available to them.

The Activities Department will try to guide our student-athletes into our own programs, so that we can help them to make wise decisions. This means communicating with athletes and parents about not being involved with "out of school" programs during an athlete's current "in- season" school sport so there are less distractions and interruptions, allowing the athlete to focus on their EPS activities.

At parent meetings, Head Coaches will voice the Elkhorn Public Schools Activities Philosophy that we will encourage athletes to be multi-sport participants for each High School. There will be no mention of Club, off-season, all-star, or select teams that may be available for them to play either during or after their season.

TIPS FOR ATHLETES – COMPETING WITH CHARACTER!

LISTEN TO YOUR COACHES

- Stop what you are doing – make eye contact
- Make a conscious effort to pay attention to detail

FOLLOW COACH/SPONSOR INSTRUCTIONS

- Listen to your coach the entire time he/she is giving instructions
- Do what your coach says immediately and with energy
- If you don't understand, raise your hand and ask questions

ACCEPT COACHING AS INSTRUCTION/TEAM PHILOSOPHIES

- Understand that coaching is instructional & makes you a better athlete
- Follow the coaches instructions without hesitation
- If you feel frustrated, visit with your coach at appropriate times
- Make only POSITIVE comments to your teammates-SUPPORT EACH OTHER
- Remember that teammates are here for the same common goals!
- Respect your opponents – treat them like you want to be treated (with respect)
- Win with class, lose with dignity

ATTENDANCE

Attendance requirements for all activities have the same basic philosophy. Students may miss practices/contests for one of the following reasons; **Immediate Family, Church or another School Activity (only)**. Missing practices for any other reason would fall into the “unexcused” category. This includes missing practice for another “club” or off-season activity.

TWITTER/FACEBOOK/ELECTRONIC DEVICE WARNING

Activity participants are reminded that anytime you share information electronically, it is no longer private information. Examples may include, but are not limited to: Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook, computers, cell phones (including text messages), personal blogs, and any/all other electronic platforms.

Students are thus notified that the school administration, while not necessarily involved initially in securing information in the sharing process of electronic information, WILL follow normal investigative procedures if a possible school violation and/or activity suspension may be involved.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT FOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

If you want to practice and play your freshman year at an NCAA Division I or Division II college, you must satisfy the requirements of the NCAA Bylaw 14.3, commonly known as Proposition 48.

The NCAA has established many new guidelines, effective August 1st, 1996, which will directly affect participants. These involve information regarding ACT sum scores, Eighth-grade courses, Grade Changes, Duplicate courses, Academic Requirements for an Official Visit prior to the early signing period for the National Letter of Intent, along with Division I and Division II Freshman-Eligibility Standards. **Please consult your high school counselor for the most current information.**

In addition, any freshman wishing to participate in any Division I or II sports must first be certified by an NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR PARENTS—WHAT IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION? (HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Sometimes the need to contact a coach occurs during the school year. The correct sequence we request you take is:

Level 1: Each Head Coach/Sponsor will have a parents meeting during the pre-season to establish guidelines and expectations for their student-athletes, with parents invited to ask questions at this time.

Level 2: During the season, please contact your son/daughter's Head Coach/sponsor if you have questions or concerns. Please wait 24 hours after a contest to contact your son/daughter's coach.

Teachable moment: Have your son/daughter **visit with his or her head Coach first**. If we are preparing students for life's lessons, this is a critical piece of education.

Level 3: If you have contacted the Head Coach, and wish to also have the Activities Director involved, please contact the Head Coach, and request that the A.D. is involved. (The Head Coach may also request that the A.D. sit in on a parent meeting.)

Level 4: If you are interested, the HS Principal/Asst. Principals are also available to sit in on a parent meeting if #1, #2, and #3 do not work out. The administration also has several Parent Communication meetings during the school year, and may be available either during or after one of these meetings.

Level 5: If the above are not satisfactory, please contact the A.D. office, and the Supt. of Schools will be contacted if there are still concerns.

ACTIVITIES CODE (HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL)

The Elkhorn Public Schools activities program is in the public eye throughout the school year. The activities program functions on an extracurricular basis; therefore, student participation is completely voluntary. Starting with the 2001 school year, all activity participants will begin their official seasons with the first practice date of the fall NSAA (Nebraska Schools Activities Association) calendar. All consequences for all activity participants begin with this date each school year.

NOTE: The activity season for the Cheer and Dance Team runs from the try-out date through the summer to the end of the winter sports season for the following school year. Cheer and Dance Team should check with their sponsor/coach and their specific CONSTITUTION for their group as these guidelines, rules and expectations are explained in more detail.

This will place all activity participants into one of two categories; in-season or off-season, and the rules applicable for participants will be enforced accordingly:

- a. **Pre-Season and In-season** students (NSAA fall start date or specific sport date) are actively participating in organized practices with their coaches, or have begun practicing with their extra-curricular group/squad. The NSAA specifically defines when a season starts and ends. Note that there is a pre-season period for each NSAA sport season during this timeframe, with specific sanctions that apply below.

- b. **Off-season** students (NSAA fall start date) are participating in off-season drills, (the time period BEFORE the official NSAA 1st practice date for their sport) are conditioning on their own or with their coaches, and are participating in conditioning or allowable drills according to EPS and/or NSAA policies.

People judge the school system by the way participants in the various activities conduct themselves. It is imperative that quality standards of conduct, dress, grooming and training are established as a part of the activities program.

The administration and coaching staff at each high school feels that it is very important that our teams/groups are portrayed in a positive way, and will work to promote an image that is highly regarded and respected. To produce these ideals, the following guidelines and standards are in effect:

1. **DRESS:** Individual coaches and sponsors may request certain dress on days of events and trips.
2. **GROOMING:** The variations in the physical features of different individuals create a need on the part of the coaches and sponsors to be flexible when evaluating a participant's grooming habits. Essentially, the students should be neat and clean in appearance. Hair should be of such length that it does not create a health or safety problem.
3. **TRAINING:** Participants are to demonstrate acceptable standards of conduct and training at all times. These standards of conduct and training shall be maintained in season as well as throughout the school calendar year. Under activities training rules, the standards of conduct prohibit AT ALL TIMES, the possession, procurement, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, tobacco (smoking or chewing), look-alike drugs, look-alike tobacco, look-alike alcoholic beverages, behavior-affecting substances and/or drug paraphernalia.
4. **ATTENDANCE:** A participant must be in attendance at school for 1/2 (one-half) day (3 full periods) immediately prior to the scheduled event in which he/she is to participate; practice or contests. (*Example: On a normal school day, the student would need to be in attendance at the START of 5th period.*)
NOTE: Exceptions may be made in the case of previously scheduled professional appointments (medical/dental) or other unforeseen circumstances. Violations of these standards of conduct by activities participants shall result in the imposition of the sanctions outlined in the Student Handbook, and/or below. Due Process procedures outlined in the Student Handbook will be followed.
5. **ENFORCEMENT:** Any student who is in violation of the Elkhorn Public Schools Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco standards of conduct will have further sanctions placed against them under the Elkhorn Public Schools Activities Code if they participate in extra-curricular activities, including sports, clubs, contests, performances, Homecoming, Prom, dances, and any other school sponsored events.

CONDUCT: EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES/VIOLATIONS:

As representatives of all EPS schools, participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which exemplifies good sportsmanship and good citizenship at home and away contests, in-season and off season, and while either on or off campus.

Activity participants should note that a Violation of the Activities Code can occur through improper activities related to poor conduct choices. The HS Administration will deal with these violations on an independent basis, weigh the severity and repetitiveness of poor conduct choices, and place sanctions after completing their investigation on all conduct violations. Penalties, consequences and ineligibility timeframes will be enforced at the completion of each violation after all information is investigated and processed.

DRUG/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/STEROID VIOLATIONS:

The use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigs and or nicotine by students is wrong and harmful. The Elkhorn Public School District has established the following standard of conduct for students that clearly prohibits, at a minimum, unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco and/or nicotine products on school premises or property as part of any activities of any school in the Elkhorn Public School District. Compliance with the following standards of conduct is mandatory and sanctions, up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution, will be imposed if the standards of conduct are violated. Further sanctions will follow under Activity Participants' Standards of Conduct and Sanctions. Students should be aware that steroids, a performance-enhancing stimulant, are illegal by law. State law 79-296 specifically addresses students taking, using, or having possession of anabolic steroids, or illegal performance enhancing drugs.

MINIMUM SANCTIONS:

ALL STUDENTS= TWO (2) week activity suspension from attending HS activities as a spectator (First Offense-NSAA Pre-Season and In-Season) Two week suspension and **minimum of one contest missed** from interscholastic contests, performances or activities including dances, Prom and club activities. However, the student may return to competition after a one-week suspension and minimum one contest missed, if a chemical evaluation of the student is completed and verified by school officials.

- a. This reduction in penalty is only available once during a student's four years of eligibility.
- b. If a member of a team or squad, the student must continue to attend and participate in all practices during the suspension period.
- c. While on suspension, the student shall change roles on the team/squad from active participant, to "helper/manager" during contests, and will complete all duties as assigned by the sponsor or coach. The student shall not be in uniform while on suspension during contests.

- d. If the violation occurs during the “pre-season” period of a sport/activity, or during the time that the non-athletic group has officially begun practices, a minimum penalty of 1 contest missed/suspended will be enforced.
- e. Students will not be allowed to miss classroom time (8:10-3:15) for extra-curricular performances/contests while under suspension.

First Offense Off-Season: If the first offense occurs in the off-season, a first offense will be documented, but no activity sanctions will be enforced at that time regarding non-participation on your team. If, however, that student commits a second offense, then sanctions for second offense will be enforced.

Second Offense: Forfeiture of all privileges of activity participation including practices, for the remainder of that season/activity. (Removed from your current team or squad for the current season). In the case of a non-athletic activity, the student will not be allowed to participate in any public performance for the remainder of that performance season.

Third Offense: Forfeiture of all privileges of activity participation including practices for the rest of the school year in all activities.

ADDITIONAL SANCTION INFORMATION:

1. Students are reminded that if you are suspended from activities due to a violation of the school's participation rules, this means you are ineligible for ALL school activities during this time period. This includes being a spectator at contests DURING THE SUSPENSION PERIOD – EXAMPLE - 2 WEEKS – NO ATTENDANCE.
2. Training rules violations are **cumulative** for one school calendar year. (In-season and off-season)
3. Coaches have the right to establish specific rules for their sport by informing their athletes.

INITIATIONS, HAZING, SECRET CLUBS AND OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS (POLICY 504.11)

Initiations—Initiations by classes, clubs or athletic teams are prohibited except with the approval of the administration. Any student who engages in or encourages initiations that have not been approved by the administration is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial of any or all school privileges and expulsion.

The administration may only give consent to initiation activities that are consistent with student conduct expectations and that do not present a risk of physical or mental injury or belittlement.

Hazing—Hazing by classes, clubs, athletic teams or other student organizations are prohibited. Hazing means any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any school organization. Such prohibited hazing activities include but are not limited to whipping, beating, branding, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, sexual conduct, nudity, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any act which endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. Hazing is prohibited even though the person who has been the subject of the hazing consents to the activity. Any student who engages in or encourages hazing is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial of any or all school privileges and expulsion.

Secret Organizations—It is unlawful for students to participate in or be members of any secret fraternity or secret organization that is in any degree a school organization. Any student who violates this restriction is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial of any or all school privileges and expulsion.

Outside Organizations—It is unlawful for any person, whether a student of the District or not, to enter upon the school grounds or any school building for the purpose of rushing or soliciting, while there, any student to join any fraternity, society, or association organized outside of the schools. Any person who violates this restriction is subject to criminal prosecution, removal, and exclusion from school grounds.

SUSPENSIONS

Suspension(s) shall be made only after the administration has made an investigation of the alleged conduct/violation and has determined that the participant is in violation of the Elkhorn Public School’s Activities Code of Conduct. Before a suspension shall take effect, a student shall be given an oral or written notice against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and the sanctions against the student that will be enforced. A student shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administration shall, as soon as is reasonably possible following the suspension, send a written statement to the student and their parents/guardians describing the violation, and procedures that will be followed by the school system.

SELF-REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS

Students are reminded and encouraged to self-report any violation that is applicable to the Activities Handbook. The benefit to the student is immediate onset of their consequence time line. As a learned behavior, this is a positive step by the activity participant. Students will be recognized by both their coaches and school administration for their admittance of an infraction and their acceptance of their consequences.

AWARDS-LETTERS AND CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION

At the conclusion of each season, every athlete who has completed a season will receive a certificate of participation. Those athletes who have achieved the requirements for lettering in their sport will receive a varsity letter. The requirements for each sport are determined by the head coaches of each sport.

AWARDS NIGHT

At the end of each sports season an Awards Night will be held. Letters and certificates of participation will be given to participants. Each athlete should attend these events. Parents, friends and fans are invited to these nights to honor the athletes.

CLEARANCE TO PARTICIPATE

In order to participate, students will need to complete all online registration documents found at <https://elkhornps-ar.schooltoday.com/>. Your son/daughter will not be able to participate in conditioning or practice until this entire process is complete and all documentation has been uploaded as required.

CUTTING FROM SQUADS

Cutting an athlete from a squad is a difficult task for any coach. However, with the increasing number of participants at our schools, and the availability of playing positions of each sport, some athletes must be cut, and this will be done at the coaches' discretion. Any athlete that gets cut from a team may, if he/she desires, try out for another sport during the same season or try out again next year. Athletes who are cut are **strongly encouraged** to visit with their head coach so that communication occurs, and adjustments can be made for the following season if applicable.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

In order to represent a high school in interscholastic athletic competition, a student must abide by the eligibility rules of the Nebraska School Activities Association and Elkhorn Public Schools. A summary of the major rules follows. Contact the Principal or Activities Director for an explanation of the complete rule.

It should be noted that EPS has long-standing policy related to student's eligibility and academic requirements. **PLEASE NOTE:** If a student is ineligible due to academic deficiencies, he/she is most likely ineligible (9th-12th) from ALL levels of participation, including Frosh-Soph JV levels. EPS has always had the philosophy of "academics first". You will need to get your grades sufficient before participation may occur.

EQUIPMENT

The athletic department will furnish equipment needed for each program, except for shoes, or any equipment needed of a personal nature. All equipment checked out to a participant is his/her responsibility. Upon completion of the season, the equipment will be checked in. If there is an item missing or damaged, it must be paid for by the athlete.

FACILITY USE

No one is allowed to be in the building or use the athletic facilities without a coach/sponsor present. In-season programs have first priority; off-season programs have second priority. There should be no interruption of ongoing practices by other groups waiting to use the facility.

INSURANCE

Elkhorn Public Schools provides no insurance coverage for its activities participants. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide adequate insurance to cover any medical expenses, which may be incurred while the student is participating in athletics.

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

Letter requirements are established by each sport's individual coach.

LOCKS AND LOCKER ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Those students involved in the athletic program or Physical Education classes will be assigned a locker at the beginning of the activity. A school owned lock will be issued to the student with the requirement of a \$5 deposit. The full amount of the deposit will be refunded to the student upon the return of the lock in working condition. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE THEIR OWN LOCK ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION LOCKERS OR ATHLETIC LOCKERS/ALL LOCKS MUST BE ISSUED THROUGH THE SCHOOL.** Athletes should locker in the varsity locker room only. No athlete should dress or store equipment in the physical education locker rooms.

OFF-SEASON SPORT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

Off-season programs are activities that the high school provides for the purpose of conditioning during a different sport season. Participants should be aware of the NSAA rules regarding off-season programs so they do not lose eligibility.

There must be adherence to the following rules:

1. All NSAA guidelines for practices/athletes must be followed.
2. No off-season sports specific program may begin until approved by the Athletic Director. Recommended—the Monday after the first week of competition for the sports in season (NSAA Calendar).

3. Off-season programs must be supervised by the coaching staff.
4. Athletes in off-season programs should not interrupt practice for in-season sports.

GENERAL CONDITIONING PROGRAM/GENERAL USE OF WEIGHTROOM

A general conditioning program is available via the coaching staff at each high school. Currently, general conditioning is open to all students, and is not specific in nature by sport. Students are required to take one week off between their seasons prior to beginning this general conditioning program in the HS weight room. Supervision in the weight room is required.

QUITTING OR BEING REMOVED FROM A SPORT

Any athlete who quits a sport or who is removed from a team (kicked-off) automatically forfeits any letter he/she has earned during that season for that sport. Any athlete who quits a sport or who is removed from a team may not begin conditioning for their next sport without written consent from their outgoing and incoming coaches, along with permission from the Activities Director.

Any athlete that quits a team after the "mid-season" point may not begin any conditioning program for their next sport until their current team begins District play, AND, the athlete must have permission from both Head Coaches before beginning.

SPORTS PHYSICALS

Physicals must be completed **AFTER May 1st** each school year.

TIME-OFF BETWEEN SEASONS

Multi-sport athletes, whose seasons run together, will not be required to attend practice for 7 calendar days from the date of the last contest (in the preceding season). An athlete may begin practice before the 7-day rest concludes if he/she obtains the approval of his/her parents, coach, and the Activities Director.

OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS & OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

Participants within the Elkhorn Public Schools must follow all NSAA guidelines regarding outside participation. The NSAA does allow participation in Olympic Development programs that ensure that the participants only attend these practices for training purposes (no contests or scrimmages). Athletes should be sure they are aware of the NSAA guidelines, so they do not jeopardize their eligibility.

While playing for outside teams/clubs allows a player to gain valuable experience outside the school athletic program, neither participant nor parents should count on this type of participation as a guarantee that the participant will be selected for their high school team/squad.

Students should be aware of the NSAA policies regarding outside participation to ensure that there is no loss of eligibility for participation in these activities. **Please contact the Head Coach and visit with them regarding outside participation BEFORE signing up to practice/play in any groups outside the Elkhorn Public Schools.**

ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM

Basic training room hours are 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. by appointment with the Athletic Trainer, and 3:15 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. These hours are subject to change. Weekend use is by appointment only. Athletes must make an appointment with the athletic trainer.

If any injury occurs, it should be reported to the athletic trainer at once. If an athlete is being treated by the athletic trainer, or a physician, he/she must be cleared by the athletic trainer or a physician before returning to practice or games. The athletic trainer will personally contact the parent/guardian when a serious injury occurs. Elkhorn Public Schools acts in accordance with Nebraska Legislation's "Concussion Awareness Act." Further information is available on the district website.

TRANSPORTATION

The school district will provide transportation to all contests. Team members will be expected to travel to away contests as a unit/team under the coach/sponsors direction, unless special provisions are made.

Students are not to drive personal cars without the consent of the Activities Director, the coach, and parents. Students must provide a written note to the Activities Director and Head Coach stating the need to take personal transportation. Athletes may travel home with parents/guardians if the student provides a written note to the coach AND a parent/guardian makes personal contact with the coach prior to leaving.

WEIGHT ROOM

The weight room will be opened and supervised by the coach in charge of that specific sport. Availability will be prioritized by in-season sports receiving first choice of times available. Off-season sports will be given second choice of times available. Any athlete using the weight room must be supervised by a member of the coaching staff. The equipment is not to be handled roughly or removed from the weight room.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS

Sponsors/Coaches of EPS activity groups may feel it is necessary to ensure the safety of participants by checking a student's luggage and bags before or during an activity trip. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that there is nothing illegal in their possession while representing

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL/TEAMS

Students who are immediate members of the team or identified as part of your **official traveling party** will be dismissed from the school day with the team and will travel on provided school transportation with the coaching staff as their sponsors. Any members out for that sport, but not a member of the **official traveling party** would be going simply to watch the contest, and would be considered spectators. These students can still be excused via a parent release/call (permission), as one of their 8 days allowed, but they would not travel with the team.

- This allows coaches some flexibility to take statisticians, student managers, trainers, helpers, etc. that are going to actively help upon arrival at the site.
- All students in the official traveling party will be placed on the release list in the daily bulletin so teachers are notified.
- Students that are INELIGIBLE according to NSAA or EPS guidelines, will not be allowed to miss school time for extra- curricular events.

STUDENT & PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Over the past few years, it has come to our attention that some parents and students have been misinformed regarding the high school competitive athletic program. Please take a few moments to read the following philosophical expectations of the activities department. Hopefully, this will help you understand how a competitive program should be conducted, and what comprises our expectations and philosophy.

1. In each program, a coach and/or coaches are hired by the school district to be responsible for the team selection. Criteria for selection are established by the head coach; possibly with input from the entire coaching staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Team selection, practices, and decisions regarding game situations are the responsibility of the coaching staff. If you have questions regarding the process, please feel free to address these questions directly to your head coach. Please call the coach to make an appointment outside of school, practice, or game times. If you have further questions the coach is not able to answer, please contact the activities director.
2. The Elkhorn Public Schools activities program has become highly competitive. Due to our growing school size and limited opportunities in some sports, we are not always able to place every athlete who wishes to participate on a team. While this is not our desire, it is reality. The hardest thing our coaches have to do is to tell an athlete who is trying their best that they will not be on the team.

As an athlete and parent, please be advised that there is a very real possibility that an individual may not be selected to a team. If selected, both parent and child should be prepared to be placed at the level which is then determined by the coaching staff (i.e. 9th, reserve, junior varsity, varsity). It is disturbing to coaches when a player is selected, then chooses to quit because "they think" they belong at a higher level than where the coaching staff places them. By doing this, they have taken away a potential spot that another athlete could have filled.

Normally, coaches have a very short amount of time to make team selections. Coaches try to do the very best they can in keeping the most talented athletes, filling positions for play, and appropriately placing them on the proper teams. They are under a good deal of pressure to assemble the most competitive team possible. It will be the responsibility of the head coach and coaching staff to make said selections.

3. Our experience in athletics reveals there are many "select teams" sponsored by many, many different organizations. Each coach looks for something different in his or her players. Participation on a "select team" DOES NOT guarantee any player a spot on another "select team", nor does it guarantee the athlete a spot on a high school team. While we believe players can gain valuable experience outside of the school athletic program, neither parents nor students should count on this type of participation to guarantee or assist them to gain an advantage, or to secure them a spot on a high school team.
4. Selection of teams is usually based on talent and how the player fits into the overall scheme of the team. See your son(s)/daughter(s) head coach for a more accurate description of this philosophy.
5. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to seniors or anyone else making a team. Each member of the team is a valuable asset to the team's overall progress. Some members may play a great deal of time in a contest, while others may not see what a parent would consider to be significant or equal playing time. Each student should have personal improvement as one of his or her goals.

Being a member of a team, regardless of time spent in actual competition, will teach athletes valuable lessons to be applied later in life. Among them would be citizenship, sportsmanship, appreciation of a good play by a teammate or opponent, working together to meet team goals, responsibility, commitment to their team and school, loyalty, placing the team above their personal goals, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, self-control, and responsibility for their actions.

Both students and parents should be aware of the above information to ensure they have done all they can to make participation in one of our activity programs a worthwhile and positive experience.

SCOUTING SERVICES/ATHLETE PROMOTIONS

Students and parents should be advised that there are numerous private companies that are in the business of providing services to families seeking potential college scholarships. EPS does not get involved with the solicitation of athletes. These services are up to parents to decide if they want

to pursue them.

FIELD TRIP/ACTIVITY TRIP PROTOCOL

Staff/Sponsors will use the following guidelines to ensure that student supervision and accountability occurs for all trips leaving Elkhorn Public School facilities.

- a) Staff/Sponsor will submit a list of students that will be gone from school to the building secretary in charge of attendance. This list is placed in the school bulletin, allowing teachers to know who is excused from classes.
- b) Staff/Sponsor should have with them a list of students that are riding on each bus, for each bus trip. If parents are asked to chaperone a bus, an applicable list should be supplied to the person supervising. (Coaches/sponsors who take the same students for away games, or have the same students for multiple events, can submit one list for their season).
- c) Staff/Sponsor should submit this same list to a school secretary for safekeeping. An additional list should also be on file with the A.D. office and/or building Principal.
- d) In emergency situations, high school students may be extended the opportunity to drive themselves due to unforeseen circumstances. These situations will be handled **by permission only**; athletes must provide a parental permission note from home, and must be cleared through the school administration **AT LEAST 24 HRS PRIOR TO LEAVING**.
- e) Staff/Sponsors will be responsible for the possible search of personal luggage, bags, book bags, and belongings, etc. to ensure the safety of all students on the field trip/activity trip.

Roger Ortmeier
Activities Director
Elkhorn South High School

Mark King
Activities Director
Elkhorn High School

It is the policy of Elkhorn Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age or national origin in its education programs, administration, policies, employment or other district programs.



ARTICLE A

NSAA & HIGH SCHOOL - ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

IN ORDER TO REPRESENT A NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES COMPETITION, A STUDENT MUST ABIDE BY ELIGIBILITY RULES OF THE NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION. A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR RULES IS GIVEN BELOW. CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL OR ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE COMPLETE RULE.

- 2.2.1 Student must be an undergraduate.
- 2.2.2 After a student's initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she shall be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership beginning with his/her enrollment in grade nine.
- 2.3 Student is ineligible if nineteen years of age before August 1 of current school year. (Student in grades 7 or 8 may participate on a high school team if he/she was 15 years of age prior to August 1 of current school year.)
- 2.4.1 Student must be enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh school day of the current semester.
- 2.5.1 Student must be enrolled in at least twenty hours per week and regular in attendance, in accordance with the school's attendance policy at the school he/she wishes to represent in interscholastic competition.
- 2.5.2 Student must have been enrolled and received twenty hours in school the immediate preceding semester.
- 2.6.2.1 **Guardianship does not fulfill the definition of a parent.** If a guardian has been appointed for a student, the student is eligible in the school district where his/her natural parent(s) have their domicile. Individual situations involving guardianship may be submitted to the Executive Director for his review and a ruling.
- 2.6.3 A student entering grade nine for the first time after being promoted from grade eight of a two-year junior high, or a three-year middle school, or entering a high school for the first time after being promoted to grade ten from a three-year junior high school is eligible. After a student makes an initial choice of high schools, any subsequent transfer, unless there has been a change of domicile by his/her parents, shall render the student ineligible for ninety school days.

If a student has participated on a high school team at any level as a seventh, eight, or ninth grade student, he/she has established his/her eligibility at the high school where he/she participated. If the student elects to attend another high school upon entering ninth or tenth grade, he/she shall be ineligible for ninety school days.

Student eligibility related to domicile can be attained in the following manners:

- 2.6.9.1 If the change in domicile by the parents occurs during a school year, the student may remain at the school he/she is attending and be eligible until the end of the school year or transfer to a high school located in the school district where the parents established their domicile and be eligible.
- 2.6.9.2 If the parents moved during the summer months and the student is in grade twelve and the student has attended the high school for two or more years, the student may remain at the high school he/she has been attending and retain eligibility.
- 2.6.9.3 If a student has been attending the same high school since initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she may remain at that high school and retain eligibility, or he/she is eligible at a high school located in the school district where his/her parents established their domicile.
- 2.6.10 If the parents of a student change their domicile from one school district that has a high school to another school district that has a high school, the student shall be eligible immediately in the school district where the parents established their domicile.
- 2.7.1 Transfer students who have their Enrollment Option applications signed and filed prior to May 1 shall be eligible immediately in the fall. Those students who do not have their Enrollment Option applications signed and filed prior to March 15 shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.

- 2.7.8** Other non-enrollment option transfer students must have signed and delivered all forms necessary to make such transfer to the school in which he/she intends to enroll for the **NEXT** school year prior to May 1; for the student to be eligible, the school to which the transfer is being made must have notified the NSAA office via an NSAA online entry form, no later than May 1. The student would, however, become ineligible for ninety school days the next fall if the student were to change his/her mind and decide not to transfer. If such student were to transfer to the new school, but later decides to return to his/her former district before 90 school days have elapsed, such student will be ineligible in the former district for 90 school days, with the ineligibility period commencing at the start of the fall semester. Those students, who did not have their enrollment forms signed, delivered and accepted prior to May 1, shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.
- 3.5 / 3.1** Once the season of a sport begins, a student shall participate in practices and compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport, which are scheduled by his/her school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for a portion of, or all of, the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules.
- 3.5.1** During the season of a particular sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend, but may not physically take part, either as an individual or as a member of a team, in the sport activity in which instruction is being offered in the clinic, camp or school.
- 3.6** A student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
- 3.7** A student must maintain his/her amateur status.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES WILL PREVENT YOUR TEAM, SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY FROM BEING PENALIZED

ARTICLE B

ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS—ACADEMIC INFORMATION (HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES ONLY)

At different times of the year, the Elkhorn Public Schools are asked to release various academic and athletic information to the news media. This information will include: students G.P.A., Class Rank, Credentials/Grades, National Honor Society, Honor Roll, academic teams, or specific athletic statistics.

The Elkhorn Public Schools WILL NOT release private or confidential information that would be included in the students guidance department school file.

With your signature on the rSchool online document "ACTIVITIES CONTRACT", you the parent/guardian grant permission for the Elkhorn Public Schools to release this information to the media. (Example: Academic All-Conference or Academic All-State Awards).

ARTICLE C

STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM (HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETES)

This application to compete in interscholastic athletics for your HIGH SCHOOL is entirely voluntary on my part and is made with the understanding that I have not violated any of the eligibility rules and regulations of the State Association.

With my signature on the rSchool online document "ACTIVITIES CONTRACT", I hereby give my consent for my son/daughter (1) to represent his/her school in athletic activities that are listed on the physical form by the examining health care provider, provided that such athletic activities are approved by the State Association; (2) to accompany any school team of which he/she is a member on any of its local or out-of-town trips. I acknowledge that I have selected the health care provider who has examined the student and assume full responsibility for the selection of such examiner. I authorize the school to obtain, through a physician of its choice, any emergency medical care that may become reasonably necessary for the student in the course of such athletic activities or travel. I also agree not to hold the school or anyone acting in its behalf responsible for any injury occurring to the above-named student in the course of such athletic activities or such travel.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT & WARNING

The purpose of this WARNING is to bring to your attention the existence of potential dangers associated with your son's/daughter's athletic participation. Participation in any activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains, and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries of the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, or death.

Even with the best coaching, the use of the best protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility.

I have read this WARNING and understand the potential risk of injury.

Knowing the risk, I hereby give my permission for my son/daughter to practice and compete for Elkhorn Public Schools and will indicate this by signing the final page of this booklet called the ACTIVITIES CONTRACT.

ARTICLE D

ATHLETIC PASS FEE

(HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETES)

Beginning with the 1998-99 school year, any student who participates in the district's athletic programs (grades 7-12) will be required to purchase an activity ticket. **The fee is \$35.00, payable to your child's school. The fee must be paid prior to the first practice and submitted along with the Activities Department Contract.** A student will be required to pay this fee only once per year even though a student may participate in two or more sports. A student who qualifies for free/reduced lunch will need to fill out a fee waiver form which may be picked up in your school office. The sports fee will be charged to all participants of the district's 7-12 football, softball, volleyball, golf, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, track, tennis, soccer and baseball programs (all sports).

PLEASE NOTE: These passes are NOT good at Invitational Events, Conference Tournaments, District, or State level contests.

ARTICLE E

ATHLETIC INSURANCE COVERAGE

(HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETES)

TO ATHLETES AND PARENTS:

The Elkhorn middle and high school Athletic Departments provide no insurance coverage. It's the responsibility of the parents to provide adequate insurance to cover any medical expenses which may be incurred while the student is participating in athletics.

The Elkhorn school system annually provides information on a generic basis. The purpose is to assist in the cost of treatment of accidental injury. The cost of athletic insurance will be borne totally by the parent. Information is available at the school. This insurance must be purchased before practice starts or at the beginning of school, whichever occurs first.

Whether you wish to participate or not, please complete the information on the **final page and return it to the Activities Office. No athlete may participate as a member of any team until this form has been returned.**

ARTICLE F

ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS—ATHLETE INJURY INFORMATION

(HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETES)

In the event an injury would occur to your son/daughter, Elkhorn Public Schools requests your permission to grant us the right to administer care by the athletic trainer, coaches or certified personnel.

By signing the rSchool online document ("ACTIVITIES CONTRACT"), you, the parent/guardian, grant permission for the Elkhorn Public Schools to provide care for the injured person. This would also include any care deemed necessary at a hospital, assuming the parents cannot be contacted for immediate permission.

ARTICLE G

PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM AND STUDENT DRIVING RELEASE (HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETES)

PARENT—I give my permission for my son/daughter to drive to and from athletic practices or contests as determined by the Head Coach's **off-campus schedule**. Due to some practice and game facilities being located "off campus", parents/guardians need to be aware that students may be allowed to drive themselves. These dates/times will be determined by the Head Coach of your son/daughter's team. Parents should be advised that the Catastrophic Insurance coverage **does not** cover students driving themselves to practices/games. As a parent, I understand that I assume all liability when my son/daughter is driving to practices or contests on their own.

STUDENT—I am aware that I have my parent/guardian's permission to drive myself "off-campus" to attend either practices or contests for your high school. This means that I also realize that I am responsible for my actions while driving, and will do my best to follow the traffic laws of the State of Nebraska. I understand the inherent risks, and will assume, with my parents, all liability involved with myself driving.

By signing the rSchool online document ("ACTIVITIES CONTRACT"), both student and parent/guardian indicated that they understand the expectations of this Article.

ARTICLE H

NSAA NOTIFICATION AND PARENTAL INFORMATION (STUDENT AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORM INFORMATION)

The undersigned(s) on the next page indicated on the **ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT CONTRACT**, are the Student and the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of the named Student and are collectively referred to as "Parent".

The Parent and Student hereby:

1. Understand and agree that participation in NSAA sponsored activities is voluntary on the part of the Student and is a privilege;
2. Understand and agree that (a) by this Consent Form/Information, the NSAA and Elkhorn Public Schools, have provided to the Parent and Student adequate information regarding the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic participation; (b) participation in any athletic activity may involve injury of some type; (c) the severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains, and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord, and on rare occasions, injuries so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis and death; and, (d) even with the best coaching, the use of the best protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility;
3. Consent and agree to participation of the Student in NSAA activities subject to all NSAA by-laws and rules interpretations for participation in NSAA sponsored activities, and the activities rules of the NSAA member school for which the Student is participating; and,
4. Consent and agree to (a) the disclosure by the Member School at which the Student is enrolled to the NSAA, and subsequent disclosure by the NSAA, of information regarding the Student, including the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of as a member of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, statistics regarding performance, records or documentation related to eligibility for NSAA sponsored activities, medical records, and any other information related to the Student's participation in NSAA sponsored activities; and, (b) the Student being photographed, videotaped, audio taped, or recorded by any other means while participating in NSAA activities and contests, consent to and waive any privacy rights with regard to the display of such recordings, and waive any claims of ownership or other rights with regard to such photographs or recordings or to the broadcast, sale or display of such photographs or recordings.

I acknowledge that I have read paragraphs (1) through (4) above, understand and agree to the terms thereof, including the warning of potential risk of injury inherent in participation in athletic activities, and will indicate my acceptance and approval by completing the rSchool online form called the **ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT CONTRACT**. (Next Page)

In summary - This application to compete in interscholastic athletics for your HIGH SCHOOL is entirely voluntary on my part and is made with the understanding that I have read the eligibility rules and regulations of the Nebraska State Activities Association and I am not in violation of such rules. Your signature on the rSchool online document, called the "ACTIVITIES CONTRACT", indicates your cooperation/participation.