

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

The board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience to all students of the district and to the community. The program of interscholastic athletics will include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games or events, or exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this district when such events occur between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district.

The Eastmont Athletics Program seeks to be a community of scholar athletes, coaches and staff whose primary focus is to ensure the safety of our student-athletes, achieve academic excellence, while also striving to produce teams and individuals who are committed to athletic competition and outstanding performance.

The goal of our interscholastic athletics program is to strive for competitive excellence while maintaining the ideals of the District's mission statement while adhering to the Eastmont Athletic Code of Conduct.

Valuable Life Lessons

Participation in our interscholastic athletic program provides unique learning opportunities and is an integral part of the School's mission. The life lessons taught are valuable and cannot effectively be replicated in the other contexts of day-to-day life within our school community. Great emphasis is placed on the physical fitness, safety, and wellness of the student-athletes. The goal of striving for a consistent level of competitive excellence is essential.

A Vital Partnership: Student-Athlete, Teacher-Coach and Parents

The focus is on the student-athlete and the coaches who help them grow. Each program is overseen by head coaches who, as educators, possess passion and expertise in their sport and nurture and foster the important values that will help student athletes succeed in sports and life. Student-athletes partner with their coach to establish team and individual goals. The student-athlete is empowered and encouraged to advocate for themselves when conflicts arise. Parents entrust their children to the coaches and support their children through the successes and setbacks inherent in athletics. Productive communication between all three parties is vital for a successful partnership.

Program Excellence

The athletic department's evaluative criteria includes the emotional, intellectual and physical development of our student-athletes and their success in achieving team goals. We serve young people who aspire to succeed at the highest levels of both academic and athletic performance. Eastmont athletic teams, at all levels, strive for competitive excellence and a consistent high level of performance.

A fundamental component of program excellence is the assignment of playing time to individual student-athletes based on a well-communicated criteria that serves the best interests of the team and the student-athlete. The assignment of playing time is at the sole discretion of the particular sport's head coach (or his/her staff) and is based on a criteria that has been communicated to student-athletes and their parents. Some of the factors inherent in assigning student-athletes playing time include, *but are not limited to*: WIAA practice requirements for participation, compliance with the Eastmont Athletic Code of Conduct, evaluation of student-athletes talent/ability by coaching staff, student-athlete's physical status (wellness), the immediate best interests of the team as a whole, etc. Student-athletes are entitled to a clear explanation regarding playing-time decisions and should be given guidance by coaches as to what the student-athlete can improve upon that will enhance their contributions to the team.

Student Athletes and the College Process

Eastmont values the aspirations of our student-athletes to compete at the collegiate level. Our coaches serve as an important resource in the assessment of an athlete's ability to compete at the next level. College counselors support athletes in identifying institutions which fit the educational goals of the student. The student-athlete must lead this process. Communication among the student, coach, college counselor, and parents is fundamental to the success of this endeavor.

The Role of Intermediate School/Junior High Athletics

Overseen by program head coaches, Intermediate School athletics prepare students for involvement in our Eastmont High School Athletic Program. The goal is to provide a positive experience in a competitive environment, while fostering individual skill and overall program development. Participation for all is encouraged but factors exist which may limit opportunities. Committed membership and participation is expected from the Intermediate School/Junior High student athletes.

The Role of Elementary Physical Education and Community Team Sports

The Elementary Physical Education program emphasizes our student's physical development as well as the growth of responsible personal and social behavior. Team sports at the Elementary level are organized and maintained by parents in conjunction with the particular sports governing association or organization and are inclusive of all children who wish to participate. The goals are age-appropriate and reflect the principles of the Eastmont Athletic Program.

The board expects that:

- A. All interscholastic activities and events will be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). The schools of the district will not participate in any out-of-season athletics that are not sanctioned by the WIAA. The district will not be responsible or liable for nonschool-sponsored programs or for programs that are organized, promoted or

participated in by staff members without school approval. The district will not be responsible for or control and incur liability for summer and/or out-of-season activities unless specifically sponsored by the school district. The superintendent will establish rules defining the circumstances under which school facilities may be used and under which announcements of summer sports leagues and/or clinics may be channeled to students.

- B. An athletic coach must be properly trained and qualified for an assignment as described in the coach's job description.
- C. An Eastmont Athletic Handbook and Coaches Addendum will be provided to all coaches prior to each respective season by the Athletic Director.
- D. Coaching stipends will be provided per Eastmont's SECA language. All other benefits or gifts received by athletic staff will be reported and approved by the Athletic Director and be de minimus in nature.
- E. In-service training opportunities will be afforded each coach so that he/she is trained to attend to the health care needs of participants. Prior to a sports season, the coach will prepare a plan for handling medical emergencies at practice sessions and games (home and away).
- F. Participants will be issued equipment that has been properly maintained and fitted.
- G. All facilities and equipment utilized in the interscholastic athletic program, whether or not the property of the district, will be inspected on a regular basis.
- H. Nonprescribed medications, such as antibiotic ointment may be used by the athletic trainer or school nurse to treat or control sports-related maladies. The coach and/or trainer must secure authorization from the parents and the student's doctor before the medications may be used during the athletic season. If such release is not on file with school nurse, the nonprescribed medications may not be used. This provision does not preclude the coach and/or trainer from using approved first aid items. All injuries or suspicion of communicable disease(s) will be related to the medical trainer or designee in absence of medical staff.

A sign will be posted that warns students that eligibility to participate may be denied if anabolic steroids are used solely for the purpose of enhancing athletic ability.
- I. The board recognizes that certain risks are associated with participation in interscholastic sports. While the district will strive to prevent injuries and accidents to students, each participant and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to sign a statement which indicates that the parent(s) and the student acknowledge the risks of injuries resulting from such participation and give assurance that the student will follow the instructions of the coach.
- J. Each participant will be required to furnish evidence of physical fitness prior to becoming a member of an interscholastic team. A written report will be completed

when a student is injured while participating in a school-supervised activity. A participant will be free of injury and will have fully recovered from illness before participating in any activity.

- K. Each student participating in interscholastic athletic activities is required to have or obtain medical insurance for expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained while participating in the extracurricular activity. Students will provide evidence of coverage prior to competing. No student will be denied the ability to participate solely because the student's family, by reason of low income, is unable to pay the entire amount of the premium for such insurance. The superintendent or his or her designee may approve partial or full waiver of premiums to permit all students to obtain the required medical insurance.

The superintendent will prepare rules for the conduct of student athletes including, but not limited to, use of alcoholic beverages; use of tobacco; use or possession of illegal chemical substances (including marijuana/cannabis) or opiates not prescribed by a physician; physical appearance; curfew; unsportsmanlike conduct; absence from practice; gambling; or any infraction of civil law. Notice of rules and disciplinary actions related to rule violations will be distributed to each participant and his/her parents prior to the beginning of an athletic season, via Eastmont Athletic Handbook and team meetings.

Nondiscrimination

The district will not exclude any person from participation in the interscholastic program, deny any person the benefits of such a program or otherwise discriminate against any person in any interscholastic program on the basis of the categories identified in the district's Nondiscrimination policy.

The district will provide necessary funds for recreational and athletic activities for both sexes, although the aggregate expenditures are not required to be equal for members of each sex and expenditures for separate male and female teams are not required to be equal.

When individual students with disabilities are unable to participate in existing activities even when offered reasonable modifications and necessary accommodations, aids or services, the district may offer opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in separate or different recreational or athletic activities.

The district may operate or sponsor separate teams for members of each sex where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport. However, when the district operates or sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one sex but not the other, and athletic opportunities for members of the other sex have previously been limited, members of the excluded sex will be allowed to try out for the team offered. For the purposes of this policy, contact sports

include boxing, wrestling, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball and other sports in which the major activity involves bodily contact.

The district will provide equal athletic opportunities for both sexes within each school for interscholastic, club or intramural athletics. In determining whether equal athletic opportunities for both sexes are being provided, the district will consider the following factors:

1. Whether the selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of members of both sexes;
2. Provision of equipment and supplies;
3. Scheduling of games and practice time, including the use of playfields, courts, gyms and pools;
4. Travel and per diem allowances, if any;
5. Opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring;
6. Assignment and compensation of coaches, tutors, and game officials;
7. Provision of locker rooms and practice and competitive facilities;
8. Provision of medical and training facilities and services, including the availability of insurance;
9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and services, if any; and
10. Publicity and awards.

Annual athletic evaluation

The district will evaluate its intramural and interscholastic program in each school at least once each year to ensure that equal opportunities are available to members of both sexes with respect to participation in interscholastic and/or intramural programs. The evaluation will include consideration for the factors listed in the above paragraph under Nondiscrimination.

Student athletic interest survey

Every three years, the district will administer to each school that operates interscholastic, intramural and other athletics the survey developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction to determine male and female student interest in participation in specific sports. The district will consider the survey results when planning and developing recreational and athletic activities offered by the district and when determining whether equal opportunities are available to members of both sexes.

Facilities

The district will provide separate facilities (e.g., showers, toilets, and training rooms) for male and female students or schedule the facilities equitably for separate use.

Cross References:

Board Policy 3210
Board Policy 3413

Board Policy 3414
Board Policy 3416
Board Policy 3418
Board Policy 4260
WIAA Handbook

Nondiscrimination
Student Immunization and Life Threatening
Health Conditions
Infectious Diseases
Medication at School
Emergency Treatment
Use of School Facilities

Legal References:

RCW 28A.400.350

RCW 28A.600.200

RCW 69.41.330

RCW 69.41.340

WAC 392-190-025

Liability, life, health, health care, accident,
disability, and salary insurance authorized —
Health savings accounts — Premiums —
Noncompliance
Interscholar athletic and other extra-curricular
activities for students — Authority to regulate
and impose penalties — Delegation of
authority — Conditions
Public Warnings — School districts
Student athletics — Violations — Penalty
Recreational and athletic activities

Management Resources:

Policy & Legal News, December 2014
Policy News, October 2007

Nondiscrimination Policies Updated
Elimination of Outdated and Obsolete Policies