



2019 -2020

East Texas Charter School

Athletic Handbook

“Soaring to New Heights”

East Texas Charter School Contact Information

Superintendent / Principal

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Golf

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Tennis

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Track and Field

Kelly Brown

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Each sport has a remind account maintained by the coach. It is an easy way to communicate throughout the season. Please see the individual coach for information on joining the appropriate remind group.

EAST TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

UIL (UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE) PARTICIPATION

East Texas Charter School offers participation in the following programs under the auspices of the University Interscholastic League – Austin, TX

Fall

None at this time.

Spring

Golf

Tennis

Track and Field

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

The goal of the athletic program is to offer the opportunity of participation to all students. Interscholastic athletics fosters competition and cooperation. It also represents an area of great potential for teaching dedication, perseverance, courage, poise, and practicing the pursuit of excellence. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics. Participation in the East Texas Charter Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. **Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff and the administration have the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules, regulations, or standards of the athletic program are not followed.**

COURSE CREDIT

Student-athletes are eligible to receive ½ credit of electives for participation on an athletic team. In order to obtain this credit, the student must start and finish the season with the team. If a student participates in multiple sports in the spring, only ½ credit will be awarded.

SELECTION OF TEAMS

The head coach of each sport will determine the players on each team. The selection of teams will include, but is not limited to: skill level, knowledge of sport, attitude, and experience in the sport. Coaches will set criteria before the beginning of the season for athletes to be able to compete at the varsity level. **Sport teams are not guaranteed to make. East Texas Charter School has set a requirement of no less than seven athletes regularly attending practice and participating in competitions in order to sponsor the sport. In order to participate at the Varsity level, a student must be able to continue past district and compete in the Championship Season.**

SELECT/CLUB SPORTS

In the case of a non-school athletic event conflicting with a school related athletic event, priority will be given to the school athletic event. **Missing a school related athletic practice or game for a non-school activity is unacceptable** and could result in suspension from participation in the following school athletic contest.

RESPONSIBILITY OF AN EAST TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE

All student-athletes have the responsibility to compete to win, give their best effort, strive for excellence, and always exhibit good conduct in a manner that is a positive example to fellow team members, fellow students, and the community. The fact that an individual has chosen to participate in interscholastic athletics is indicative that the student has taken into consideration the rewards, privileges, and pleasures attained from participation, in addition to the responsibility of following rules, regulations, and meeting the demands of being a student athlete. The privilege of representing the East Texas Charter School Athletic Program coincides with the expectations of the principal, coaches, teachers, parents, community, and most of all, by fellow teammates and classmates. As student-athletes, you are always on display.

The responsibilities of a student-athlete include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The student-athlete will strive for excellence in all activities at all times while being a member of the East Texas Charter School Athletic Program.
- The student-athlete will abide by the practice schedules and complete workouts each day.
- The student-athlete will faithfully abide by all rules set forth in this athletic handbook.
- The student-athlete will personally notify his/her head coach when unable to attend practice and will miss practices only under extreme circumstances.
- The student-athlete will abide by the coaches directions, instructions, and decisions. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
- The student-athlete will be responsible for the proper care of all issued clothing and/or equipment. The student-athlete will be required to pay for any clothing and/or equipment that is lost, damaged or destroyed. **Issued clothing should not be worn outside of athletic participation (practice/competition).** Exceptions may include “game-day” dress.
- Most importantly, the student-athlete will represent East Texas Charter School to the best of his/her ability to set an example to the community of the values and expectations promoted within the school district.

Student-Athletes will be expected to:

- Respect coaches, teammates, teachers, staff, administrators, and classmates.
- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct of any manner.
- Comply with all policies set forth by East Texas Charter School

The East Texas Charter School Athletic Program is an integral part of the total school experience for both boys and girls. It offers a variety of sports and activities to students who have the desire to participate. The athletic program is a vital part of education. The rules, regulations, and standards set forth in this handbook are designed to provide the efficient operation of such a program. ***The student-athlete will be held accountable and responsible for all policies contained within this handbook and for any additional expectations set forth by the Head Coach.***

EAST TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Athletic Director may suspend or place on probation for the duration of the sport season, or the duration of the school year, any student-athlete for a major infraction of the standards set forth in this athletic handbook or school policy.

The Athletic Director empowers the coaching staff to enforce and maintain all policies and standards described in the Athletic Handbook. Communication will be maintained between the coaching staff, the Athletic Director, and the Principal when infractions warrant suspension from athletic activities.

East Texas Charter School does not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, national origin, age, sex, economic status, or handicapping condition in employment, promotion, or educational programming. Student-athletes and parents are expected to follow the chain of command and first confer with the coach in question, then if necessary, The Head Coach of the sport, followed by the Athletic Director, and finally, if necessary, the Superintendent/Principal when an athletic concern exists. All academic concerns should be initiated with the teacher and then the Principal/Superintendent.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES/TARDIES

Student-athletes are expected to be dressed and on time for all practices and competitions and remain for the duration of the practice or competition. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to notify the coach if he/she must miss a practice or competition. By becoming a member of the East Texas Charter School Athletic Program, you are making a commitment to the program. ***An unexcused absence from an athletic competition will result in suspension from the team.**

*An excused absence is that of an illness, emergency, etc... A doctor's note or a note from a parent may be required.

As with any other activity, please be aware that excessive tardiness or absences will result in a loss of practice/instructional time. This loss of time could subject the student-athlete to loss of playing time or even dismissal from the team. Sport-specific drills and conditioning may be required for any tardy or absence at the discretion of the Head Coach.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Student-athletes must maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record by giving respectful attention to classroom activities and by treating teachers, administrators, and fellow student with respect. Tardiness, horseplay, fighting, disrespect, juvenile behavior, etc... are not acceptable and may result in punishment from the coach of the in season sport or the Athletic Director up to and including suspension from the athletic competition.

If a student-athlete must miss class to participate in an athletic event they will need to notify his/her teacher ahead of time about the absence to see what work or assignment he/she will be responsible for.

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

East Texas Charter School has implemented an extreme weather policy to protect the studentathletes and provide benchmarks for coaches to adhere to. The policy has been derived in accordance with UIL Rules.

Wind Chill Factor Below 32 F

- Outdoor practices limited to 45-minute sessions

Wind Chill Factor Below 25 F

- No outdoor practices

Heat Index Below 100 F

- No restrictions
- Access to water at all times

Heat Index 100 F – 105 F

- Frequent Breaks
- Access to water at all times

Heat Index greater than 106 F

- Frequent Breaks
- Access to water at all times
- NO OUTSIDE CONDITIONING

Lightning

- If a lightning strike is reported within a 12 mile radius of an outdoor athletic activity, the activity must be suspended until a 30 minute period has passed.

CRIMINAL CHARGES

Any student-athlete legally charged with, arrested for, or convicted of a felony may be subject to suspension from all athletic competitions, or other disciplinary action may be taken if not an

in-season sport, until the matter has been cleared through the courts or punishment has been served. The student-athlete will be expected to participate in all practices during that time in order to remain in the athletic program. Depending on the severity of the charges (including serious misdemeanors) and the outcome of the case, a student-athlete may be suspended for one or more games, dismissed from the current sport for the remainder of the season, or dismissed from the athletic program for the remainder of the year. If the student-athlete is not found guilty, or all charges are dropped, then the student-athlete will be reinstated into the athletic program.

DRESS CODE

Student-Athletes are to adhere to the dress code set forth in the East Texas Charter School Student Handbook. Student athletes are expected to wear school issued uniforms and accessories at all athletic functions they are competing in. At athletic competitions, students are not allowed to wear dangling jewelry of any kind, studs and athletic watches are permissible. Practice dress is at the discretion of the coach of the current sport.

DROPPING/QUITTING A SPORT

It is the philosophy of the East Texas Charter School Athletic Department that student-athletes should finish what they begin. **An athlete may not quit one sport to play another sport.** The following procedures should be followed in order to drop/quit a sport:

- Examine the situation before a decision is made.
- Talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached. (A parent conference may be required)
- If the decision to quit is made by a student-athlete, the student-athlete must check out of the sport through the Athletic Director. All clothing/equipment issued to the student athlete must be returned in the same shape as it was issued to the student-athlete. Payment for any lost or damaged clothing and equipment will be required. This matter must be resolved before the student-athlete begins participating in his/her next sport.
- A student-athlete that decides to quit one sport to join another must wait until the first sport has completed its season before they are allowed to participate in competition.
- Exception: Athletes who choose to quit a sport during the two-week “tryout window” will not be subject to the consequence in the previous bullet. The “tryout window” is defined as the 14 calendar day period of time beginning with the first official practice of the particular sports season.
- A student-athlete who quits in a manner inconsistent with the above scenarios will not be allowed to compete for one calendar year.

- **Student – in the fall, athletes will not be allowed to join Cross Country after the first meet of the season, this does not apply to student-athletes who start school at East Texas Charter School after this date.**
- **Student – in the spring, athletes will not be allowed to join Golf, Tennis, or Track after the first meet of the season, this does not apply to student-athletes who start school at East Texas Charter School after this date.**

Coaches in conjunction with the Athletic Director, reserve the right to prohibit any athlete from joining a team or sport if that athlete has routinely failed to complete seasons in other sports that have started, whether due to conduct, attitude, or poor academic performances. Routinely quitting sports may result in permanent dismissal from the athletic program.

PRACTICE TIMES/SCHEDULES

All sports that East Texas Charter School participates in may be practiced year round. Coaches will ensure that coach monitored practices are held at a minimum of three days per week during season. In addition to this time, coaches may conduct off-season practices to help with student conditioning. **During the Spring Semester, students may only participate in two sports.** Attempts will be made to ensure that practice times for one sport will not interfere with practice times for a coinciding sport. Student-athletes competing in multiple sports may at times be subject to overlapping practice schedules. The sport in competition season has priority. **Conflicts between two sports in competition season will be handled by the head coaches of those sports.** If there is a conflict between an extra-curricular activity and a sport, the coaches/sponsors will work together to reach an agreement.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Any information posted on social media sites need to be of a positive nature. Information deemed inappropriate by the head coach/administrator may result in loss of playing time and/or suspension from the team.

TEAM TRAVEL

All regular school transportation rules and regulations apply when on an athletic trip. Student athletes are expected to ride the transportation provided by East Texas Charter School to all competitions. Student-athletes are also encouraged to ride the same transportation back to the school. The approval of the head coach must be obtained for a student-athlete to return home with his/her parent/guardian, and this will only occur after the parent/guardian has talked with the head coach and signed the student-athlete out. Student-athletes may only be signed out by a parent/guardian. Friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, etc. may not sign student athletes out.

Meals will be provided by the school when the duration of travel and event combined exceed eight hours. If the duration is shorter than eight hours, the student-athlete is expected to purchase any meals he/she wants.

Student-Athletes will follow the dress code for all bus trips, if not dressed in the team uniform before leaving the school. Team shirts may be issued for some sports, and student-athletes will be expected to dress in them for each trip. All other clothing will be in good condition (no holes, ragged, or sagging pants/shorts) and follow East Texas Charter School dress code. **Head coaches reserve the right to set the expectations for travel dress code to competitions. The coaching staff retains the right to ban any radios, electronic games, cell phones, etc... on bus trips.**

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

It is the philosophy of East Texas Charter School that our interscholastic and extracurricular programs shall be drug and alcohol free. The basis for this is founded by the following:

- Use of drugs and alcohol is illegal for school age students.
- Abuse of these products has been shown to create short and long term health and safety risks.
- Students using these products may not be capable of fulfilling commitments and responsibilities toward themselves, teammates, and school.
- Use of these products can diminish the student's mental and/or physical performance.
- Student-athletes should be positive role models who demonstrate pride and honor to their school, community, and family.
- Student-athletes will be held responsible and accountable for their behavior and choices they make.
- Education regarding drug, alcohol, and steroid abuse may be provided throughout the course of a student-athlete's involvement in the athletic program by members of the coaching staff. The NCAA, UIL and National Federation of High Schools publish and distribute to coaching staffs, information regarding the dangers of substance abuse.

ELIGIBILITY/GRADES/TUTORIALS

East Texas Charter School coaches and administration shall determine each student's eligibility according to UIL rules and regulations as specified in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. East Texas Charter School strictly adheres to these rules and regulations. UIL, the State Board of Education, and the Texas Education Agency rules are strictly enforced. In addition, East Texas Charter School expects student-athletes to be top academic students. Each student athlete must realize he/she is a "student" first and an "athlete" second. The student-athlete must give sufficient time and energy to his/her academic courses to ensure acceptable grades to meet UIL requirements for participation. **Student-athletes that do not maintain passing grades or who are missing assignments may be subject to suspension from athletic competition at any time.**

Coaches may check student-athlete averages at any time within a grading period. In addition, coaches may require student-athletes to attend tutorials if their grades are not acceptable.

FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT

Student-athletes are always expected to take care of all facilities and equipment . Normal wear and tear is expected, misuse and vandalism is not. In addition, when we are visiting another facility, we will leave that facility in better shape than we found it.

GAME CONDUCT/SPORTSMANSHIP

The East Texas Charter School Athletic Program stresses exemplary behavior and attitude during practice and competitions. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Student athletes should be positive role models for students and the community. Student-athletes will be respectful to other contestants, fans and to all coaches and officials.

PARTICIPATION WHEN ILL OR INJURED

Any student-athlete that is injured during the course of the season or has an illness of a minor nature and is unable to participate due to this injury or illness must continue to follow all expectations, rules, and regulations, if the student-athlete wishes to remain a part of the team. The student-athlete will not participate, but will be required to attend all practice sessions and sit with the team during competitions. Failure to attend practices and competitions can result in dismissal from the team. ***Athletes learn from each practice session, whether they are actually working out or simply observing.***

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Student-athletes should not leave personal items, especially jewelry or money, in areas unsupervised. **East Texas Charter School and the East Texas Charter School Athletic Department are not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

UNIFORMS

Student-athletes may be issued a set of practice clothes that may include, but is not limited to shirt, shorts, and/or sweats. **These clothes will be worn during participation in athletic practice or competition only.** At the end of the season/year, the issued clothes will be returned. Student-athletes will pay a replacement fee for all clothing or equipment not returned at the end of the season. Consequences for not being dressed out in the proper attire will be at the discretion of the head coach.

NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION

In order to participate in athletics, East Texas Charter School, along with the University Interscholastic League (UIL) require certain forms to be filled out. The forms are included in the

appendix of this handbook. You will be consulted on which forms need to be filled out. Prior to participation, a student-athlete must have the following on file:

- Pre-Participation Medical History and Examination form (UIL form only)
- Parent/Student Acknowledgement of Rules form (UIL form only)
- Illegal Steroid Use form (UIL form only)
- UIL Previous Athletic Participation Form (if applicable)
- UIL Foreign Exchange Student forms (if applicable)
- East Texas Charter School Handbook acknowledgement form
- Emergency Contact Information
- Consent to Treat Form
- Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form
- Concussion Form

The school district cares about the well-being of student-athletes; **however, the school district does not assume liability for injuries incurred in athletics.**

Thank you for taking the time to review the policies of the East Texas Charter School Athletic Department. Please contact the Athletic Director or any member of the coaching staff with additional questions or concerns regarding contents within the Athletic Handbook. Please signing the acknowledgement form attached below and return it to a member of the coaching staff.

EAST TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I understand the policies and procedures of the East Texas Charter School Athletic Department, I am also aware of the consequences for violating these policies. If at any time I have questions regarding the handbook, I will address these questions to the Head Coach/Athletic Director. I understand that the Athletic Director and coaching staff will enforce these policies, procedures, and consequences.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I understand the policies and procedures of the East Texas Charter School Athletic Department, I am also aware of the consequences for violating these policies. If at any time I have questions regarding the handbook, I will address these questions to the Head Coach or Athletic Director. I understand that the Athletic Director and coaching staff will enforce these policies, procedures and consequences.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Appendix