

# **EZEKIEL ACADEMY KNIGHTS**

## ***Athletic Guidelines***

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 3:14  
"Bring every man up to his full potential in Jesus Christ." - Colossians 1:28

### **PURPOSE:**

1. To glorify God our Father and exemplify the Body of Christ in every word and deed.
2. To fellowship with other Christians in a spirit of encouragement and unity.
3. To learn athletic competition according to Biblical disciplines and accountability.
4. To develop the skills and attitudes of godliness through teamwork and sportsmanship.
5. To enhance the Christ-like character of our student athletes through the highly visible and influential leadership role as an Ezekiel Academy (EA) team member.
6. To recognize, appreciate, and utilize each one's God-given potential and talents.

### **ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Must be a student currently enrolled in Ezekiel Academy or enrolled in a Declared Organization affiliated with Ezekiel Academy through the Alabama Christian Sports Conference (ACSC). If not enrolled with Ezekiel Academy a student athlete must have a completed Athletic Association Application on file in the Ezekiel office.
2. Must be 12 years of age on August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. A copy of the student athlete's birth certificate must be on file in the EA office. A student athlete's age is defined as the age of the student athlete on August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. Student athletes under the age of 16 by August 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible to play on the junior high team, if one is formed. Varsity student athletes are those who are 16 or older on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note that in certain circumstances Junior High students will be permitted on the Varsity roster to play.
3. Possess and maintain Christ-like character and moral integrity.
4. Be willing to furnish the required participation fee.
5. Complete and submit an Athlete Information Form to the EA Office.
6. Provide a Physical Fitness Medical Release Form signed by a physician.
7. Provide the EA office a written testimony of the student athlete's personal relationship with Jesus.
8. Agree to abide by the moral code established by the EA Athletic Board, defined as follows:
  - a. Be punctual at practices and game times. A printed schedule will be provided by each team's coach. (c.f. Discipline # 1)
  - b. Demonstrate respect and cooperation for all coaches, officials, and other team members. (c.f. Discipline #2)
  - c. Maintain a high standard of personal conduct (no drugs, alcohol, tobacco, use of profanity, or any displays of flirtation or affection). (c.f. Discipline # 3)
9. Make the commitment to devote the required time to be at all the scheduled practices and the games specified by the coaches and the availability of practice facilities. In the event that a student athlete is unable to attend a practice / game, it is the responsibility of the student athlete to contact the coach at least 4 hours prior to the scheduled/called practice/game. EA sports are designed to help the student athlete learn responsibility in a safe place. If a student athlete cannot follow directions and listen to the coach's directives, then that student athlete is not ready to be a part of an Ezekiel Academy team sport. (c.f. Discipline # 1; Parental responsibility # 14)
10. Offer full cooperation to all the expectations established by the team's coach. A written copy for each sport will be provided to each athlete at the first official parent meeting for that sport.
11. Lead a five-minute devotional at the beginning of one of the practices. (Example: read a passage of Scripture, asks for prayer requests, share a personal testimony.)
12. Must maintain an average of 70/C in the core subjects (English, Math, Science, History) for the academic year. A copy of the student athlete's grades from the latest grading period must be on file in the EA Office. The grades issued for any course taken as a tutorial class (ex: LIFT, dual-enrollment, etc.) will be the grade used to determine eligibility.
13. Recognize that this is a competitive homeschool team and that starting positions and playing time are coach's decisions. Age and grade level of the student athlete have nothing to do with how much playing time is received; it is the work ethic in practice that makes the difference. The more effort a student athlete puts into practice improves that student athlete's chance for playing time.
14. Will provide all personal equipment required as a member of the team (ex. cleats, shoes, gloves, shin guards).

## **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Accept the responsibility for the transportation of your student athlete to and from all practices, games, or game meeting places according to the announced schedule and final destination. Please be attentive to meeting your student athlete PROMPTLY at the end of each practice or when the student athletes are returning from a game. No student athlete of any age will be left to wait for a ride. Our coaches are all volunteers so please respect them by assuming your full responsibility and not infringing upon the coach to provide transportation to and from games/practices or by keeping them late because of your tardiness.
2. Must sign the Ezekiel Academy Waiver of Liability provided by the EA Athletic Board.
3. Must sign the Alabama Christian Sports Conference (ACSC) Waiver of Liability
4. Must sign the ACSC concussion form.
5. Sign the Parent/Athlete Agreement provided by the Ezekiel Athletic Board.
6. Provide a copy of your current insurance card (front and back)
7. Submit to the EA office a copy of the latest grade report.
8. Make all payments for player participation and uniform fees to the Ezekiel Academy office by the date given at the sport's parent meeting.
9. Support your student athlete by being in attendance at the games and encouraging his/her efforts and playing skills. Offer a lot of praise!
10. Be present to work as a volunteer in the concession stand, admission gate or clean-up detail for those times assigned for you to work at the home games. Failure to serve your appointed times may result in limited playing time for your student athlete.
11. Honor the policy that only players in EA uniforms or those in visiting team uniforms are allowed on the field of play or gym floor at any time during game nights. Parents are responsible for supervision of their other children during practices or games. Children must remain with the parents at all times and are not permitted to play in/on other parts of the gym or field of play.
12. Agree to not discipline your student athlete by restricting him/her from attendance at a practice or game. Team membership means teamwork and dedication of the whole team. The only exception is parental discretion for academic reasons (Example: no pass/no play).
13. Recognize that you are committing to the team as well as the student athlete. We understand that academics are important; however, when you register your student athlete please remember that there will be some games and travel times that will interfere with the LIFT program. Student athletes will need to make arrangements for their class work. If this is a major concern then we ask you to reconsider your student athlete's participation. Failure by a student athlete to compete hurts the team and the teamwork that is needed for a team to compete.
14. Must make personal contact with the coach prior to the practice or game to be missed if the parent wishes to excuse his/her student athlete from attendance at a practice or game.
15. Demonstrate a Christian attitude at all practices, in traveling with the team, and at attendance of all games. Negative criticism towards other (coaches, officials, athletes, or opposing team coaches or athletes) causes detriment to EA and the team's testimony.
16. Recognize that all coaches affiliated with EA are volunteers and are fully supported by the EA Athletic Board to make decisions on playing time and student athlete's role in any game.
17. Agree to speak with a coach about matters relating to the game or a player ONLY when two coaches or the EA athletic director are present.
18. Provide proper care for student athlete's uniform (c.f. details under uniforms).

## **UNIFORMS**

1. The EA game uniform will be discussed at the first parents' meeting. EA uniforms remain the property of EA and must be returned after the final game of each sport.
2. Uniforms will be given out to student athletes ONLY when ALL the player requirements (forms and fees) have been completed and submitted to the EA office.
3. The EA game uniforms are to be worn during an EA game only. They are NOT to be worn at any other time (before the game, after the game, while eating food as food stains, or as articles of clothing for outside events). Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.
4. The EA uniform must be kept clean and well maintained for use at the game. The uniform should be laundered according to the following instructions:
  - a. Wash in COLD WATER ONLY. The colors will fade or bleed otherwise.
  - b. Hang the uniform to dry. DO NOT PLACE IN THE DRYER. They will shrink!
5. The EA uniform should not be altered in any way.
6. The EA uniform must be returned after the final game. The uniform must be in excellent condition at the time of the return. Any loss of, or damage to, the EA uniform will be the financial responsibility of the student athlete and his/her parents.

7. The teams may adopt their own style of warm ups to be worn to games. The EA coach will inform the student athletes of what is allowable. Please remember that clothing that is appropriate and honoring to Christ will be worn at all times.
8. Any clothing worn at practices must be God honoring and allow the student athlete the ability to play/practice without hindrance.
9. Practice shorts may be any type but are to be no shorter than three (3) inches above the knee. Bikers are expected to be worn under these shorts for modesty purposes.
10. Female athletes are expected to wear sport undergarments. No straps should be visible.
11. Hair must be out of the face during games and practice.
12. National Federation Rules apply to all games so being properly equipped is very important and the coaches will inform the student athlete what is proper for all games.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

1. There will be times when parents will be asked to assist with transportation, especially for the away games. Only parents will be permitted to drive other student athletes. If a parent volunteers to drive student athletes to a game, that same parent is expected to return those same student athletes.
2. All student athletes will be required to travel with the assigned adult (coach or parent). Each student athlete must remain in the assigned vehicle for the duration of the trip.
3. If buses or vans are provided, student athletes assigned to a van or bus will remain on the same van or bus for the duration of the trip.
4. Assignments for travel purposes will provide for separate vehicles for males and females. If it is necessary for males and females to travel together on a provided van or bus, they will sit on opposite sides of the van or bus from one another. NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. The use of cell phones, iPod's, MP3 players, CD's, DVD's or etc. will be permitted in the vehicle(s) transporting student athletes ONLY if the coach agrees to allow it. Please remember that all music must be played through ear phones and must be consistent with a Christian testimony. (See Discipline outline below.)
6. All student athletes who leave with the team must return with the team. Any exception to this policy requires a **written** permission from the student athlete's parent to be given to that student athlete's coach with the parental approval detailing all changes in transportation **prior** to the initial departure of the team.

## **FEES**

1. The player registration fee is \$200.00. The coach of each specific sport will provide the parents a written list of any additional fees related to the specific sports at the first parent meeting for that sport. The player registration fee will be used for facilities' rentals, travel expenses, miscellaneous expenses for equipment, and coaches' honorarium. Any student athlete who wishes to find business sponsorships to help with these fees is encouraged to do so. Payment should be made to Ezekiel Academy for any sponsorship monies.
2. The \$200.00 player registration fee is due in the EA office by the date given at the first parent meeting for each sport. A late fee of \$25.00 will be applied after the due date.
3. All monies raised by an EA student athlete in an EA sponsored fund-raiser will be used entirely/solely for the purposes designated by the team sport and are non-transferable. A record will be kept to account for those student athletes / parents who have worked / served to raise funds for the team. Student athletes / parents who have not participated in fund-raising events will be expected to pay the cost for that individual student athlete's portion (uniform, tournament, etc).

## **INSURANCE**

1. A copy (front and back) of the family's health insurance card is required for each student athlete.
2. This insurance verification must be submitted with the Athlete Information Form.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Any act by an individual team member that harms or destroys the Christian witness of the EA homeschool ministry or jeopardizes the safety of another person will result in immediate dismissal. The EA Athletic Board will review any questions raised with respect to the breach of the conduct code regarding the behavior or character of any individual person's actions. The decision by the EA Athletic Board in these matters will be final and not subject to reconsideration. Much prayer and effort has been made to define the conduct and responsibilities and believe that as each one follows these guidelines there should be no concern for such disciplinary action. Above all, our desire is to honor Jesus Christ in all that we do.

The coach of each sport will provide written disciplines at the first official practice. All student athletes and parents will be required to follow these disciplines.

Excused absences are those that are given to the coach that express the reason why a student athlete is unable to attend a practice or a game. EA coaches understand that family issues, church activities, sickness, work schedules, vacations, and other special events take place in all of our lives. Whatever the reason, please just inform the coach so that he / she may properly plan for practices or games.

1. Failure by a student athlete or the parent of the student athlete to personally contact the coach about missing a practice or game will result in the following:
  - a. First offense will result in a non-starting role or sitting out a portion of the game (defined by the sport)
  - b. Second offense will result in not playing in the next game.
  - c. Third offense will result in an indefinite suspension until the problem is resolved.
  - d. In the event of an emergency, any notice is helpful and expected.
2. Failure by a student athlete to show respect for a coach or coaches, EA, officials, or fellow athletes by actions and/or words will be disciplined immediately. This also includes the use of Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, or any other electronic device to post comments, narratives, and/or pictures that fail to hold others in the highest regard will be cause for disciplinary action. All student athletes who represent EA are expected to govern themselves by these disciplines when attending any EA event or game.
  - a. Any offense of those listed above will result in an automatic, indefinite suspension until the problem is resolved. The EA Athletic Board will collect all information to make an informed decision regarding the student athlete. The Board will make every effort to reach a decision in a reasonable time.
  - b. A second offense of those listed above will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
3. Failure of a student athlete to maintain integrity of personal conduct reflecting a true testimony of our Lord by participating in the following activities will result in:
  - a. Use of alcohol, non-prescribed drugs, or any tobacco product will result in an immediate/indefinite suspension from the team.
  - b. Use of profanity will result in the student athlete offering an open, verbal apology to the coach, team, athletic director, and officials. A second offense of this nature will result in an immediate/indefinite suspension until the EA Athletic Board deems the student athlete has corrected his/her problem.
  - c. Attendance of a girlfriend/boyfriend at practices is not permitted. Student athletes are here to practice athletic skills and learn team play without outside distractions. Non-compliance with this guideline will result in both students being asked to call their parents to come and get them. A second offense will result in an indefinite suspension from the team pending the EA Athletic Board's decision for the resolution of the problem.
4. Failure of a student athlete to comply with the coach's instructions regarding cell phones, iPods, MP3 Athletes, cameras, etc. will result in the following:
  - a. First offense will result in the coaching staff collecting the electronic devices and holding them for the duration of the trip.
  - b. Second offense will result in no electronic devices being allowed with the exception of a cell phone. The coach will keep the cell phones in his / her possession only to allow the student athlete to call parents.
  - c. The coach has the authority to require that all electronic devices be put away if in the coach's opinion those devices are interfering with the team's ability to focus or causes distraction for the student athlete's participation with the team.
5. Any student athlete who is disqualified or receives a personal technical foul in a game will not be allowed to play in the remainder of that game and will automatically be suspended from playing in the next game. That student athlete will be expected to remain a member of the team and to sit on the bench with the team but will not be allowed to dress out for that game.
6. In the EA Coaches' Manual, all coaches agree to the policy of the company of two. If the student athlete or parent needs to discuss a challenging situation with any coach, that coach is required to have a second coach or athletic director present for the conversation. The EA Coaches' Manual also specifies that if a student athlete and / or a parent has a matter that needs to be clarified by the coach both the student athlete and the parent must be present for the discussion. This discussion will take place at the first available time that all parties involved can meet together but never after the immediate conclusion of a game.
7. Any student athlete who verbally or physically assaults any coach will result in an automatic, indefinite suspension. It will be the responsibility of the EA Athletic Board to review all information in the given situation and to make a final decision regarding the student athlete with respect to EA athletics.
8. Any parent who verbally or physically assaults any coach, student athlete, official, or spectator will result in an automatic, indefinite suspension of the parent from the EA athletic program / events. It will be the responsibility of the EA Athletic Board to review all information in the given situation and to make a final decision regarding the parent with respect to EA athletics. There is no time structure set for the EA Athletic Board to rule.

## **BULLYING:**

EA's Athletic Program is a Christian ministry to young people and thus positions itself toward a "no bullying" policy. By definition, "bullying" is any repeated, unwanted, aggressive, intimidating, or threatening behavior that is directed toward another person, on or off school grounds, that adversely impacts the spiritual, educational, or physical environment for any student and/or staff. This may include, but is not limited to, pushing, shoving, name-calling with profanity, purposeful exclusion, slander, and verbal cruelty. Cyber bullying is anything that would include use of social media to harm, slander, intimidate or lie (rumors) about another individual. In our non-Christian culture there are "trends" and "role models" that exemplify a behavior inconsistent with the standards of conduct for EA student athletes (for example, the philosophical excuse that "boys will be boys"). EA's commitment is that **"bullying" will not be tolerated in any form.**

It is the responsibility of the EA coaching staff to position themselves such that each and every student athlete understands any actions of bullying will be addressed immediately with the consequence being dismissal from the team. Coaches are to communicate by word and deed the Christian value that EA will stand up for and protect the weaker brother (Luke 10:25 ff) This Biblical responsibility is expected for the coaches as well as the student athletes. Every EA student athlete must be assured that there will be no repercussions or retribution for acting responsibly on this principle. When an issue(s) remains unknown to leadership because the student athlete is afraid to tell, or the issue(s) is not addressed, then the "bully spirit" is emboldened.

EA addresses the bullying issue also by declaring that the ratio of adult supervision must be explained in full detail to the parents and the EA Athletic Board prior to any overnight trip. In making room assignments, it is imperative that the more mature leaders of the team be placed among the other team members, not just altogether in the same room.

## **POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT PLAY**

The following criteria have been established to assist in the planning for any tournament participation at the conclusion of the regular season play. The purpose for these guidelines is to create oneness of heart and team spirit in the decision making process thereby dispelling any misunderstood expectations among the EA families and Athletes.

1. Any team that desires to pursue post season play must consist of student athletes who were actually members of the team during the regular season play. A student athlete is defined as a person who has fulfilled all the requirements as detailed for an EA student athlete's eligibility as stated in the EA Athletic Guidelines.
2. The coach that coaches the team during the regular season must remain as the coach of that team for all post season play.
3. All post season play will be approved by the EA Athletic Board.
4. Student athletes, coaches, and parents will be responsible for attending the seminars, workshops, or worship services that are offered while in attendance at any Christian tournament. In addition, morning and / or evening devotionals must be led by student athletes and coaches participating in post season play.
5. Plans for post-season play must be announced in written form to the parents and student athletes at least six weeks prior to the final game.
6. The responsibility for organizing and making arrangements for travel, accommodations, tournament fees, registration, student athletes' expenses, and other details lies solely with the parents and the coaches working together. The EA administration will serve only to enforce the established guidelines.
7. All fundraisers must follow the EA Policy for fundraisers. All fundraisers require prior approval by the EA administrator.
8. Any and all fundraisers must be made available to all student athletes who will be participating in post season play. However, a student athlete has the choice not to participate understanding that all funds raised will go only to those student athletes who participate in the fundraiser. Fundraisers should be those that can be done by the student athletes themselves. All fundraisers must have prior approval from the EA Administrator.
9. All guidelines for the regular season play will also apply to post season games and travel.

### **Members of the EA Athletic Board:**

EA Administrator / Assistant Administrator  
EA Athletic Director / EA Assistant AD  
EA Athletic Club President

Head Coaches: Baseball                      Cheerleading                      Softball  
Basketball - Boys                      Football                      Track  
Basketball - Girls                      Soccer                      Volleyball