

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 compete athletically within the Alabama Christian Sports Conference, within non-conference competition (including AISA) and within the National Association of Christian Athletes post-season tournaments, displaying 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 / PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Must be a student currently enrolled in Ezekiel Academy or enrolled in an Approved Athletic Organization (AAO) 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. Conference-eligible athletes must be 12 years of age on August 1st 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 1st of the current school year. Student athletes under the age of 16 by August 1st will be eligible to play on the junior high team and are eligible to "play up" and appear on the Varsity roster by request of the Varsity Coaches. Athletes who are 16 or older as of August 1st are eligible for Varsity Teams only. At times, a Middle School team will be formed for some sports. The ACSC doesn't include Middle School teams so all arrangements for the MS program will be "non-conference." Only students 14 and under as of August 1 are eligible for any MS programs.
3. Possess and maintain Christ-like character and moral integrity. Be aware that Coaches and Athletic Administrators are encouraged to build relationships with students and their families as they partner with parents to hold athletes accountable for the character choices and moral integrity displayed within and outside of the athletic arena.
4. Furnish the required participation and uniform fees.
5. Complete and submit an Athletic Packet to the EA Office which includes Registration forms, Signed Guidelines, various medical releases / forms, Waivers, ACSC Conference forms, Copies of Insurance, and a written testimony of a personal relationship with Jesus.
6. Agree to abide by the EA Athletic Board's Moral Code of Conduct and respond respectfully to Coaches and Athletic Administrators who call attention to any problems related to this Code.
 - Be punctual at practices and game times. A good rule of thumb is "Early is on time and on time is late."
 - Demonstrate respect and cooperation with all coaches, officials, and other team members.
 - Maintain a high standard of personal conduct (i.e. no drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, e-cigarettes, use of profanity, inappropriate behavior/posts/presence on Social Media, bullying.)
 - Commit to the time required to attend and participate in all scheduled practices and games. If 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 practice/game
 - Offer full cooperation to the expectations established by the team's coach.
9. Lead a five-minute devotional at the beginning of one of the practices or other team events.

10. 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.

11. Respectfully accept Coaching decisions regarding Team Membership, Positions, Playing Time, etc. Tryout results and "Playing-up" options will be overseen by one or both of the Athletic Directors. Positions and Playing Time are determined by the Coach and will be supported by the Athletic Administrators. Any disagreement regarding these decisions will fall within the Administration's support of the Coaches. Should players desire to request a conversation with the coach about these situations, a meeting of at least one Coach and One Athletic Administrator is required. Discussions regarding the topic of coaching disagreements (including the ones listed here or any other disagreement) will not occur over telephone, text, or email, and will only be conducted with the attendance of the proper number of Coaches and Administrators. A request for a meeting may be made via text or email if Coach and AA are both included recipients of the communication.

12. Provide all personal equipment required as a member of the team (ex. cleats, shoes, gloves, shin guards, etc.)

13. Commit to a complete season of teamwork. Once teams are determined, all athletes are expected to fulfill their commitment to the team from pre-season conditioning until post-season play is completed. ANY PLAYER WHO IS UNABLE TO FULFILL A SEASON-LONG COMMITMENT and quits a team (with the exception of medical or family emergency) WILL FORFEIT THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY FOR THIS TEAM IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR. COACHES OF OTHER SPORTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE FAILURE TO FULFILL COMMITMENT AND MAY USE THIS INFORMATION IN DETERMINING ACCEPTANCE ONTO OTHER TEAMS.

We, the student and parent, have read the above statements and agree to the Rules listed above.

Read by Student and signed by Student: _____

Date: _____

Read by Parent and signed by Parent: _____

Date: _____

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Accept the responsibility of transporting your student athlete to and from all scheduled practices, games, and athletic events. Our coaches are all volunteers so please respect them by assuming your full responsibility of transportation, including prompt arrival and departure. Gas expenses should be shared by any teammates riding with other families to/from out-of-town games/events.
2. If buses or vans are provided, student athletes will be required to ride on the assigned vehicle and will remain on the same van or bus for the duration of the trip. Any parents wishing to have their child ride home with family after a game MUST get approval from the Coach.
3. Submit to the EA office a copy of the latest grade report.
4. Support your student athlete by being in attendance at the games and encouraging his/her efforts and playing skills. Offer a lot of praise!
5. Volunteer and fulfill the required number of parental jobs necessary for a successful Athletic Program. These jobs include but are not limited to: work in the concession stand, admission gate, clean-up detail, field/court officiating/scorekeeping, etc. Failure to serve your appointed times may result in a suspension for your student athlete. Parental team jobs are required by every athlete's family. This is a vital and appreciated part of the success of our Athletic Program.
6. Honor the EA policy that only uniformed players are allowed on the field of play or gym floor at any time during game nights (with the exception of Athletic Program-sponsored activities.)
7. Parents are responsible for supervision of their other children at all times. Children must remain with their parents and are not permitted to play in/on other parts of the gym or field of play.
8. Agree to not discipline your student athlete by restricting him/her from attendance at a practice or game. The only exception is parental discretion for academic reasons (Example: no pass/no play).
9. Present any known and unchangeable schedule conflicts before Team Tryouts so that a discussion about time commitment and absences can be discussed and agreed upon before team selections are made. Recognize that once team commitments are made, any un-agreed upon conflicts may result in reduced playing time.
10. Recognize that some games and travel times will interfere with some Academic schedules (ie. LIFT program, dual enrollment courses, etc.) Student athletes and families are responsible for handling all missed work and arrangements with their

individual programs. If this is a major concern, we ask you to reconsider your student athlete's participation with the Knights' Athletic Program. Ezekiel Academy Athletics require a large time commitment.

11. Demonstrate a Christian attitude in all Ezekiel Academy athletic settings, including practices, games, travel, post-game meals and social gatherings. Negative criticism towards coaches, officials, athletes, or opposing team coaches or athletes can damage the Christian testimony of Ezekiel Academy, your family, and your personal reputation. The perception of others is as powerful as truth. Always be mindful of the name of Christ and His Gospel message we desire to magnify. The Ezekiel Academy name carries the name of Christ. Honor His Holy Name.
12. Provide proper care for student athlete's uniform.

I, the parent, have read the above statements and agree to the Rules listed above.

Read by Parent and signed by Parent: _____

Date: _____

UNIFORMS

1. The EA game uniform will be discussed at the first parents' meeting. EA rental 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 player requirements (forms and fees) have been completed and submitted to the EA office.
3. Game uniforms are to be worn during warm-ups and games only, unless covered by Team Cover-ups. All Game Uniforms MUST BE COVERED FOR STAIN PROTECTION when Athlete is not warming up or during a game. Cover-ups during Games and travel must be, at a minimum, Ezekiel colors, but preferably are EA attire of some kind. Individual team rules regarding Team Attire may be required by Coaches (i.e. practice attire, travel attire, etc.)
4. The EA uniform must be kept clean and well maintained. 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 must not be altered in any way.
6. EA uniform rentals 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. Female athletes are expected to wear properly fitting and properly colored sport undergarments. Coaches will specify and enforce team requirements of all undergarments.
8. Hair must be out of the face during games and practice.
9. National Federation Rules apply to all games, including rules regarding uniforms, equipment, and jewelry. Coaches will inform student athletes what is proper for all games.

We, the student and parent, have read the above statements and agree to the Rules listed above.

Read by Student and signed by Student: _____

Date: _____

Read by Parent and signed by Parent: _____

Date: _____

FEES

1. Student Athlete registration fee is \$200.00 per sport. Coaches of each specific sport will provide parents a written list of any additional fees related to the specific sports at the first parent meeting for that sport. Athlete 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 Athlete 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 fundraiser 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 fundraising events will be expected to pay the cost for that individual student athlete's portion (uniform, tournament, etc).

We, the student and parent, have read the above statements and agree to the Rules listed above.

Read by Student and signed by Student: _____

Date: _____

Read by Parent and signed by Parent: _____

Date: _____

DISCIPLINE

Above all, the desire of Ezekiel Academy is to honor Jesus Christ in all that we do. The weight of carrying the name of Christ on all aspects of our Athletic program is very serious to us and with His name comes great honor and responsibility. All athletes, coaches, and families are expected to pursue genuine Christian behavior at all times. Within the framework of "Christian behavior" comes an expectation of the occurrence of certain actions and the restraint of others.

1. The coach of each sport will provide written expectations of individual athletes and team disciplines at the pre-season meeting. Expectations and disciplines will include but are not limited to attendance and participation of workouts, practices, events, team responsibilities, and games, as well as procedures for excused and unexcused circumstances. These guidelines will vary from sport to sport but will be at the discretion of the Coaches and under the supervision of the Athletic Directors.

2. Honor and respect of ALL PEOPLE is expected by everyone involved in the Ezekiel Academy Athletic Program. Everyone from Administrator to Parent to Student Athlete to Coach to Family Member in the Stands to Friends coming to support to siblings along for the fun, EVERYONE will be expected to represent Ezekiel Academy and ultimately Jesus Christ, in a way that is honoring and glorifying to the salvation we have experienced as Christians. Although it may seem difficult to have such a large, blanket expectation, it's truly within Biblical guidelines that we help hold one another accountable for behavior that is attached to the name of Christ.

Everyone in the Ezekiel Athletic Program will be expected to:

- support one another and encourage proper behavior
- support the discipline and removal of improper behavior

Improper behavior will be addressed from varying levels of discipline from face-to-face discussions with Coaches, ADs, or Administrators, to Parent Meetings, to suspensions to removal from the team. (See section regarding Gametime Technicals and Fouls for game-specific situations.)

Improper behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- a) verbal aggression/profanity or physical aggression towards any player or coach of a home or visiting team, or towards any official or towards any fan;
- b) inappropriate social media presence – This is not a policing issue that will be done by Ezekiel Academy but it is under the umbrella of "accountability" and will be addressed whenever questions of inappropriate social media behavior arise;
- c) involvement in activities out of line with a Christian lifestyle, including any illegal activity;
- d) romantic, public displays of affection or provocative clothing

- **Gametime Technicals and Fouls**

- A student athlete or coach who is disqualified or receives a personal technical foul will not be allowed to play or coach for the remainder of that game in which the technical is called and will be automatically suspended from play for that game and will be benched for the equivalent of one complete game.
- The “complete” game bench discipline will commence with the very next game measure of that sport in which the offense occurred. Game measures are defined as follows:
 Baseball / softball: Innings (9) Basketball: periods (4)
 Football: quarters (4) Volleyball: sets (2 for JV, 3 for Varsity)
- “Benching” means that the student athlete is sitting on the bench, in uniform, with the other players, and his/her name is listed on the game roster.
- APPEALS TO ANY OFFICIAL CALL can be made if video evidence from the game can be shown to defend the player’s actions. Any player who wants to appeal the Technical *will still be removed from current game* but can get the video to the AAs for a 3-person Administration appeals process. Like the procedures familiar to film review on television, the video must show enough evidence to overturn the call made by the official. If the appeal is successful, the player will be reinstated for the very next game. If video evidence does not show where an official made an incorrect call, the “ruling on the field stands” and the player’s next-game suspension will be fulfilled.

3. Unless otherwise permitted by Coaches for family conveniences, practices are closed to parents, and siblings. If an understanding is made with a Coach regarding family conveniences, family members may remain on the campus where the practices are occurring but shall not be within direct contact or distracting proximity. Coaches have the authority in this situation and their decisions will be supported by Athletic Administration. Friends/boyfriends/girlfriends are not permitted at practices.

4. Coaches will provide team guidelines regarding phones and other technological devices. Coaches have the authority to require that all devices be put away if the Coach believes devices are distracting in any way.

We, the student and parent, have read the above statements and agree to the Rules listed above.

Read by Student and signed by Student: _____

Date: _____

Read by Parent and signed by Parent: _____

Date: _____

BULLYING:

EA’s Athletic Program adheres to a strict “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 person. 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 in such a way that any and all cases of bullying will be addressed immediately and properly, and notifying Athletic Administration’s involvement for the protection of Student Athletes.

We, the student and parent, have read the above statement and agree to the Rules listed above.

Read by Student and signed by Student: _____

Date: _____

Read by Parent and signed by Parent: _____

Date: _____

POST-CONFERENCE SEASON TOURNAMENT PLAY

The only Ezekiel Academy approved post-season tournament play is with the National Association of Christian Athletics (NACA.) This is a reputable Sports program in Dayton, Tennessee and centers its competition around nightly worship services and Gospel presentation, and Ezekiel Academy has had several years of excellent experience with them.

If a Coach/Team decides to pursue tournament play after the Conference season ends, NACA will be considered an inclusion to the season and is a required commitment by any player agreeing to play on the EA team. Coaches must indicate PRE-SEASON if they plan to include NACA in their season’s schedule. A Coach may decide to withdraw NACA plans as the season progresses but MAY NOT ADD PLANS to attend NACA if it were not already announced in the pre-season.

Any player who agrees to play on a team must consider any NACA plans as part of the team requirements. If NACA commitments are not fulfilled after agreeing to be on a team, the athlete will be considered to have quit the team and will not be eligible to play on team the following year. PLEASE CONSIDER SCHEDULING FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON WHEN DECIDING ABOUT COMMITTING TO A TEAM.

Any Coach or Team who desires to play a non-NACA, post-season tournament must get approval from the Athletic Administration. Attendance of any approved, non-NACA, post-season play will be completely optional for players.

Fundraising

All Athletic Program fundraisers must follow the EA Policy for fundraisers. All fundraisers require prior approval by an Athletic Administrator.

All fundraisers will be made available to all student athletes, however a student athlete has the option to NOT participate in the fundraiser, understanding that the expenses are still the responsibility of the Student Athlete.

All fundraisers will be declared as either "team fundraisers," where funds support the team's general account, or as "individual fundraisers" where funds earned will directly benefit the athlete who raised the money. In some circumstances, a combination of these two types of fundraisers might be arranged but it will be clearly explained by the Coach beforehand.

We, the student and parent, have read the above statements and agree to the Rules listed above.

Read by Student and signed by Student: _____

Date: _____

Read by Parent and signed by Parent: _____

Date: _____