

# EVANGEL FAMILY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## *Saints 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 sons and daughters through the highly visible and influential leadership role as an EFCA team member.
6. To recognize, appreciate, and utilize each one's God-given potential and talents.

### **ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Must be a student currently enrolled in Evangel Family Christian Academy.
2. Must be 12 years of age by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. A copy of the Student Athlete's birth certificate will be required.
3. 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. Varsity student athletes are those who are 16 or older on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note that it is possible for Junior High students to be on the Varsity roster and play.
4. Be willing to furnish the required uniform and participation fees.
5. Possess and maintain Christ-like character and moral integrity.
6. Complete and submit a Player Information Form to the EFCA Office.
7. Agree to abide by the moral code established by the EFCA Athletic Committee, defined as follows:
  - a. Be punctual at practices and game times. A printed schedule will be provided by each team's coach.
  - b. Demonstrate respect and cooperation for all coaches, officials, and other team members.
  - c. Maintain a high standard of personal conduct (no drugs, alcohol, tobacco, use of profanity, or any displays of flirtation or affection).
8. 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, it is the responsibility of the player to contact the coach at least 4 hours prior to the scheduled/called practice. EFCA 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 a team sport.
9. To offer full cooperation to all the guidelines established by the team's coach. A written copy will be provided to each player at the first official practice.
10. Willing to lead a five-minute devotional at the beginning of one practice. (Example: read a passage of Scripture, asks for prayer requests, share a personal testimony.)
11. Must maintain an average of 70/C in the core subjects (English, Math, Science, History) for the academic year.
12. Recognize the fact that this is a competitive high school athletic team and that starting position and playing time is up to the coach. Age and grade level of the student athlete has 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 player's chance for playing time.

I, 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 for the transportation of your student athlete to and from all practices, games, or game meeting places according to the announced schedule in regards to the final destination (at Evangel Temple or another assigned meeting place). 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. Sign two waivers of liability forms: (1) ACSC Waiver; (2) EFCA Waiver provided by the EFCA Athletic Committee.
3. Submit current year Physical Checkup Certification for each Athlete, prior to start of practice.
4. Submit all payments for uniforms and participation fees.
5. Sign the Parent/Player Agreement provided by the EFCA Athletic Committee.
6. Be willing to work as a volunteer in the concession stand or admissions gate or cleanup crew.
7. Support your student athlete by being in attendance at the games and encouraging his/her efforts and playing skills. Offer a lot of praise!
8. Serve your assigned time for clean-up detail in the gym following the home games.
9. Provide proper care for your student athlete's uniform (see details under Uniforms).
10. 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).
11. Any parent who wishes to excuse his student athlete from a scheduled practice must make personal contact with the coach prior to the practice to be missed.
12. As a parent 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 supplemental teaching 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.
13. Communicate that all your children remain in the gym during games and practices. No children are permitted to play in other areas of the building. You are responsible for your children during the times of games and practices.
14. Honor the policy that only players in EFCA or visiting team uniforms are allowed on the playing surfaces at any time during game days.
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, players, or opposing team coaches or players) causes detriment to EFCA and the team's testimony.
16. Parents of an EFCA student athlete are encouraged to be careful in how they speak, saying those things that show respect toward all members of the EFCA teams (coaches, officials, student athletes, parents of players). Please speak in a way that helps and brings real harmony to all present. Any EFCA parent who has a misunderstanding, complaint, or a disagreement which could result in any discord or division in the EFCA family is admonished to reconcile that difference in a biblical manner away from the EFCA athletic venue. Any act by a parent to provoke or bring division will result in that parent being suspended from the next EFCA game. A second offense will result in that parent being suspended from all EFCA athletic events for the remainder of the school year. The spirit behind this guideline is to remind us all to be of one mind, unified in purpose (1Corinthians 1:10). Proverbs 14:30 says a heart at peace lengthens a man's life; jealousy rots it away. Above all, guard your heart for it is the well spring of life (Proverbs4:23). Allow forgiveness not grievances to strengthen your heart.
17. Recognize that all coaches affiliated with EFCA are volunteers and are fully supported by the EFCA Athletic Committee to make decisions on playing time and student athlete's role in any game.

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

Read by Parent and signed by Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## FEES

1. The registration fee will vary by sport. Sport fees may include any of the following: EFCA uniforms, gas money for travel expenses, miscellaneous expenses for equipment usage, coaches' honorarium, and a student athlete award. Any student athlete who wishes to find business sponsorships to help with their sport fees is encouraged to do so. Payment should be made to EFCA for any sponsorship monies.
2. All monies raised by an EFCA student athlete in an EFCA 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, post-season play, etc).

I, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 the same rules apply for the duration of the trip. Student athletes assigned to a van or bus will remain on the same van or bus for the duration of the trip.
4. 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 players, DVD players, 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.

I, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 Player Information Form.

I, 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

Any act by an individual team member that harms or destroys the Christian witness of the EFCA home school ministry or jeopardizes the safety of another person will result in immediate dismissal. The EFCA Athletic Committee 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 EFCA Athletic Committee 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 in all that we do.

Excused absences are those that are given to the coach that express the reason why a student athlete can not attend a practice or a game. EFCA 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 loss of playing time.
  - 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.
- \*\*\*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, EFCA, officials, or fellow athletes by actions, words (whether by being vocal at practice or a game) will be disciplined immediately. This also includes the use of Facebook, MySpace, Utube, or any other electronic devise used in today's society. Any misuse of camera and posted pictures will also be cause for disciplinary actions. All student athletes who represent EFCA are expected to govern themselves by these disciplines when attending any EFCA event or game.
  - a. Any offense of those listed above will result in an automatic, indefinite suspension until the problem is resolved. The EFCA Athletic Committee will collect all information to make an informed decision as to when the student athlete can return to the team. The Board will make every effort to restore the student athlete in a reasonable time.
  - b. A second offense of those listed above will result in 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 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 indefinite suspension until the EFCA Athletic Committee 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 the guidelines regarding girlfriends / boyfriends attending practices 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 EFCA Athletic Committee'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 players, cameras, etc. will result in the following:
  - a. First offense will result in the coaching staff collecting the electronic devises 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 with a student athlete's participation with the team.
5. In the EFCA 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 EFCA Coaches' Manual also specifies that if a student athlete and / or a parent have 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.

6. Any student athlete who verbally or physically assaults any coach will result in an automatic, indefinite suspension. It will be the responsibility of the EFCA Athletic Committee to review all information in the given situation and to make a final decision regarding the student athlete with respect to EFCA athletics.
7. Any parent who verbally or physically assaults any coach will result in an automatic, indefinite suspension of the parent from the EFCA athletic program / events. It will be the responsibility of the EFCA Athletic Committee to review all information in the given situation and to make a final decision regarding the parent with respect to EFCA athletics. There is no time structure set for the EFCA Athletic Committee to rule.

I, 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:**

EFCA'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 EFCA student athletes (for example, the philosophical excuse that "boys will be boys"). EFCA's commitment is that **"bullying" will not be tolerated in any form.**

It is the responsibility of the EFCA 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 EFCA 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 EFCA 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.

EFCA addresses the bullying issue also by declaring that the ratio of adult supervision must be explained in full detail to the parents and the EFCA Athletic Committee 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.

I, 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-SEASON PLAY**

The following criteria have been established to assist in the planning for any Post-season participation at the conclusion of the regular season play. The purpose for these guidelines is to help insure unity of heart and spirit among the EFCA families and players. Understanding expectations is a way to dispel disappointments and create oneness in decision making.

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 EFCA student athlete's eligibility as stated in the EFCA 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. Post season play will be reserved for teams who have a regular season winning percentage of 75% or higher. The one exception to this is participation in the Alabama Christian Sports Conference (ACSC) Post-Season Championships.
4. The responsibility for organizing and making arrangements for travel, accommodations, registration fees, student athletes' expenses, and other details lies solely with the parents and the coaches working together. The EFCA administration will serve only to enforce the established guidelines.
5. 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 away from the EFCA gym. All fundraisers must have prior approval from the EFCA Athletic Director.
6. All guidelines for the regular season play will also apply to post-season games and travel.

I, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CHECKLIST of REQUIREMENTS for YOUR CONVENIENCE**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Birth Certificate               | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Insurance Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Player Information                      | <input type="checkbox"/> EFCA Waiver            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Player Agreement                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Player's Physical Checkup Certification | <input type="checkbox"/> Concussion Waiver      |

***No uniforms will be issued until all required forms and fees are turned into the EFCA office.***