

CODE OF CONDUCT (as of May 2026)

It is a privilege to participate in East Penn School District (EPSD) athletic programs. While you participate, you represent yourself, the athletic program, your family, and your school district. The purpose of our athletic programs is to add to our students' mental, physical, social, emotional and moral development. Participation is a step toward preparing our students to become productive young adults.

Each student and his/her parent or guardian must read this code of conduct and acknowledge review of this document before representing our district by participating in athletic activities. As a student-athlete you must be willing to accept the rules, regulations and responsibilities of each sport in which you choose to participate. It is also understood that the same standard of behavior and discipline for the regular student shall also apply to the student athlete, and violations of the each schools' Discipline Code may also result in the suspension of participation in EPSD sports programs. When determining status of a student-athlete, prior disciplines may be considered.

A coach may distribute a separate policy of conduct, which must also be acknowledged with your signature. The coach's policies must meet the minimum standards contained here. You will be expected to meet the requirements set forth by the coach, once you have been properly informed.

I. Eligibility:

- A. A student is eligible to participate if the student is passing all subjects and or failing a maximum of 1 subject.
- B. If a student is not passing four (4) full-credit subjects, or the equivalent, he/she will be placed on academic probation for 15 school days, beginning the day after report cards are distributed.
- C. If as of Friday a student is failing 2 or more subjects, he/she shall be ineligible from the following Sunday through Saturday.

II. Attendance:

- A. To participate in any activity, a student must be in attendance at school before 10:00 a.m.
- B. Exceptions to the above rule would be a doctor's appointment, a family or medical emergency, or extenuating circumstances. These exceptions would require a note from the student's parent/guardian and would be reviewed by the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director determines the eligibility of the student.

III. Code of Conduct for Student Athletes:

- A. All participants are subject to this code when involved in athletics.
- B. All participants will show proper decorum and courtesy to all fellow participants, as well as good sportsmanship to coaches, referees, and members of opposing teams.
- C. All participants will abide by the rules of the Discipline Code at their school. Any infraction by the student while participating in an athletic activity will be treated the same as if it occurred during the school day and in the school.
 1. If the violation involves an exclusion from school (suspension), in-school or out, the student will be suspended from athletic activities for the same calendar days. He/she will be allowed to resume participation on the next calendar day immediately following the last day of suspension.
 2. If the student has detention, he/she may report directly to the coach after completing the required time in detention
- D. All students who represent EPSD must be team players and avoid any actions that would be detrimental to the unity of those involved with them in any sports.
- E. All participants will display good sportsmanship at all times. Unsportsmanlike behavior will result in discipline by the coaching staff. Unsportsmanlike behavior that results in a disqualification will result in PIAA sanctions per the PIAA rules and regulations. In addition, the athlete will be required to take a sportsmanship course and pass an exam on sportsmanship prior to returning to play. A second offense of unsportsmanlike behavior resulting in a disqualification that occurs within a two-year time frame will result in further disciplinary action, both at the PIAA and district level.

IV. Unacceptable conduct sanctions:

- A. Profanity is unacceptable at any time. All offenses will be addressed by the coach.
- B. Conduct unbecoming of a student representing EPSD while participating in a team sponsored function, in-season or out-of-season, will be addressed by the coach and or athletic administration that may result in suspension and or removal from the sport for a period of time as determined by the coach and Athletic Director.
- C. Nicotine is a harmful and addictive drug. It is inappropriate for use by anyone representing EPSD or participating in an athletic activity sponsored in conjunction with EPSD.
 1. A first verified offense of using or in possession of vaping, nicotine, or tobacco product, that occurs on or off school property, will be referred to the administration and will result in the following disciplinary action:
 - a. Normal disciplinary action through the school disciplinary code when applicable. (see Board Policy 222)

- b. A written warning and written notification to parents.
 - c. Suspension from participation on all interscholastic teams, in-season or out-of-season, through the 15th calendar day, starting with the 1st day of suspension.
 - d. Revocation of a team leadership role (i.e. captain) when applicable.
 - e. Referral to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) team.
 - f. If the consequence of a verified offense extends beyond the current sport season, the Athletic Director and Head Coach will determine whether the consequence will extend into the student's next participation season.
2. A second verified offense, occurring within one year from the date of first verified offense or using or in possession of vaping, nicotine, or tobacco product that occurs on or off school property will be referred to the administration and will result in the following disciplinary action:
- a. Normal disciplinary action through the school disciplinary code when applicable.
 - b. A written notification to parents.
 - c. Immediate dismissal from participation on all interscholastic teams, in-season or out-of-season for the remainder of the school year or a minimum of 120 calendar days if there are less than 120 calendar days remaining in the current school year.
 - d. Referral to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) team
- D. Alcohol and Other Drugs – these regulations have been developed in order to discourage all our students from using harmful drugs and alcohol and to foster good health and welfare for our student participants and a good example for the entire school community.
- 1. No student shall use, possess or distribute alcohol, drugs, steroids, controlled substances, look a-likes, or possess drug-related paraphernalia on or off school property.
 - 2. Normal disciplinary action through the school disciplinary code when applicable. (see Board Policy 222)
 - 3. Referral to the Student Assistance Program (SAP).
 - 4. A first verified offense will result in immediate dismissal from all athletic programs, in and out of season, for a minimum period of 45 calendar days from the first day of dismissal.
 - 5. Barring any legal action or expulsion, a student participating in-season can return to participate in school sponsored athletic events 15 calendar days prior to the last day of suspension but is not eligible to compete in a contest.
 - 6. A second verified offense, occurring at any point during educational period 9th-12th grade, will result in permanent dismissal from all school sponsored athletic programs for the remainder of school career.
- E. Conduct unbecoming of a Student-Athlete, in or out of season, will be held to a high standard of appropriate behavior.
- 1. If student-athlete commits a level 3,4,5 or 6 discipline infraction, further athletic related consequence could be administered as determined by the Assistant Principal and Athletic Administration.
 - 2. After 1 calendar year, a student who has been permanently suspended may request to have their status as a student-athlete reevaluated by a panel of school district officials.

Policy Guides for Pennsylvania Schools

Section: Pupils
Title: 247 Hazing

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy hazing is defined as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in, any organization. The term shall include, but not be limited to:[1]

1. Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding;
2. Forced calisthenics;
3. Exposure to the elements;
4. Forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance;
5. Any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which is intended to or could result in humiliation, extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual; or
6. Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

For purposes of this policy, any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.[1]

For purposes of this policy, student activity or organization is defined as any organization, team, club, society, or group operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the district.

Authority

The Board prohibits hazing in connection with any student activity or organization regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours.[2][3][4][5]

No student, parent/guardian, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall engage in, condone or ignore any form of hazing.

The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal.

The student and parent must sign the Code of Conduct and Cautionary Statement, prior to participation in any athletic activity. This will help assure that the student, parent and coach are informed as to the expectations set forth for participation in athletic activities at Emmaus High School.