



EGLS ATHLETICS POLICY

Statement of Philosophy

Eric G. Lambert School recognizes that extracurricular athletics promote sportsmanship, team building, good citizenship, high academic standards, and community responsibility.

It is a privilege for students to participate in extracurricular athletics. Participation is voluntary and is not a requirement, nor an entitlement. Therefore extra time and effort are required of those who participate. Since its extracurricular programs often impact the reputation of the school, high standards must be maintained. Those who earn the privilege of representing Eric G Lambert School in extracurricular athletics are expected to accept greater responsibilities as school citizens.

Participation in extracurricular athletics is open to all students provided they meet the general and contract requirements as outlined in this handbook, and any requirements specific to the activity of their choice.

The Athletic Director is responsible for the implementation of this policy and is the first-line of consultation on all of the policies contained within. At his/her discretion, the Athletic Director may seek clarification and assistance from School Administration as necessary.

Coaching

Coach selection is based on experience, qualifications, suitability and formal coaching Levels. If a suitable coach(es) is not available from within the school, coaches may be sought from outside the school.

We will attempt to provide the best possible coaching staff for our varsity athletes. Coaches will be selected by the Athletic Committee. The Athletic Committee consists of the Athletic Director and the administration. Selections will be made based on

credentials, experience, references, suitability and upon past contributions to the school.

The following guidelines apply to all potential coaches:

- Coaching Application must be completed and submitted to the Athletic Director.
- Certificate of Conduct and Vulnerable Sector Check must be obtained from RCMP/RNC and submitted to the Athletic Director.

Philosophy of Coaching

Eric G Lambert's philosophy of coaching will emphasize the following:

- Respecting the rules of the game.
- Respecting the officials and accepting their decisions.
- Respecting the opponent.
- Maintaining dignity under all circumstances.

Coaches

All coaching must take place in accordance with the various applicable policies of the School, SSNL, and the governing body of the sport. Any questions can be clarified by the Athletic Director.

Coaches are expected to provide due care and control of students as would any prudent parent or guardian. In this respect coaches shall:

- Display, in victory or in loss, the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Encourage students to balance their time and effort to maximize academic achievement.
- Set expectations of students that are in line with school policies and regulations.
- Arrange for distribution and collection of all school property (uniforms, equipment, etc.)

Conduct

The Athletic Director will be responsible for assigning, monitoring, and providing direction to coaches. Administration may intervene when necessary to do so, where non-compliance of policy or questionable conduct occurs. It is the coach's responsibility to:

- Provide instruction so that players perform to their maximum ability within the rules of the sport and good sportsmanship.
- Know the rules of the game and to instruct these rules to players.
- Teach techniques consistent with standards of the game and good sportsmanship.
- Inform players of conduct expected in the locker room, in other school facilities, on the floor, on the field, and during travel.
- Insure players do not respond to remarks from the spectators or opponents that may be designed to provoke them.
- Prepare the team mentally and emotionally for a contest. Coach's remarks at practice and prior to a game should be consistent with good sportsmanship and ethical conduct.
- Abide by limitations imposed on their sport by School Sports Newfoundland & Labrador (SSNL).
- Set a tone of respect and appropriate behaviours at practices and games.
- Even though there is no fair play in High School Sports, coaches will make every effort to make sure all players see some playing time.
- Adhere to school financial and Athletic policies.

Please note, a coach's tenure with any team will be reviewed each year by the Athletic Committee and may be reviewed at any time, should circumstances dictate. If circumstances dictate, a coach or volunteer can be removed from any team at any time.

Team Selection

All activities are open to all students who meet the SSNL requirements and guidelines regarding grade, gender, and general eligibility.

Coaches must conduct a minimum of two open tryouts. To be considered for the team a player must attend all tryouts. If a player cannot attend a tryout they must make contact with the coach, prior to the tryout, and provide a valid reason to still be considered for the team. If deemed appropriate the coach could award additional tryouts.

Selection is based on attitude and skill. In order to pick the best team possible, Eric G Lambert follows SSNL guidelines. Please note, a younger player can displace an older player from the team, if they are more skilled or display better qualities/attitude.

A team list must be submitted for approval by the Athletic Director prior to finalizing and announcing the team.

Playing Time

Playing time for teams involved in competitive play is at the coach's discretion. There is no fair play rule in varsity sports. Coaches will make every effort to make sure all players see some playing time.

Please make sure you are clear with athletes at the start of the season what your coaching "play time" philosophy is and what athletes can expect during exhibitions, tournaments, regionals, and provincials.

Team Schedule

Priority gym time (slots) will be given to in-season teams whose tournament dates are closest to competition. Teams who are out-of-season will be given secondary priority in recognition that these sports are year-long activities. (i.e.: volleyball and basketball)

Weekly practices schedule and regional/provincial tournament dates will be provided to the players before the team is selected. This is necessary to avoid scheduling conflicts and to ensure players selected are available for practices and tournament play.

Coaches need to be aware of scheduling practices and activities during students' normal participation in family, spiritual, and community activities. Coaches will attempt to schedule practice times that accommodate the majority of the team.

Uniforms

Teams are responsible for their own school uniforms which are property of the school.

Players using school uniforms must ensure that uniforms are returned in good quality. Teams must return uniforms as directed by the Athletic Director.

Facility Expectations

All parties are expected to assist in the enforcement of these rules for the gymnasium.

- No students are allowed in the gym unless supervised by a teacher or coach. This includes before school, lunch hours, and after school. Students are given a warning, and with any repeat offense the student may have the privilege of going into the gym taken away.
- Students are absolutely not allowed to play with equipment of any sort unless supervised.
- Food and beverage containers must be cleaned up before leaving practices/games.
- Athletes are to change in the rooms provided. If there are any issues with the change rooms, please inform the Athletic Director or Administration.

Team Relationship

The coach is to:

- Keep the team seated in the assigned benched area, and restrict all non-players from the bench area.
- Correct any physical and verbal actions of the team members.
- Ensure that if an altercation ensues, athletes remain on the bench.
- Coaches and teacher sponsors should refrain from becoming involved in an altercation.
- Use careful, sound judgment and sensitivity when reprimanding players.
- Inspire and encourage athletes without inciting adverse crowd reaction.
- Honour designated time allotments for pre-game and half-time performances by groups.
- Restrict pre-game warm-up to a predetermined area.
- Set an example for the team with his/her conduct toward opposing players and coaches.
- Monitor disturbances following these general guidelines:
 1. In the event of a disturbance, either on or off the playing field/court, the coach's first responsibility is to his/her players. If asked to intervene by an official to calm the situation, the coach should help if at all possible.
 2. When the disturbance occurs during the game, the coach should:
 - a. Prevent further players from entering the disturbance.
 - b. Calm down those who are involved.

- c. Use foresight in heading off potential difficulties.

After the Contest

The coaches is to:

- Ensure players shake hands with opponents after games.
- Ensure teams leave the floor in an orderly manner.
- Stay out of the official's locker room.
- Actively supervise student's locker rooms and ensure the team leaves the locker room as a group, leaving the facility in good order.

Addressing Parent Concerns

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach, the athlete, and the parent. These are encouraged. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help resolve the concern:

- When appropriate, the student should first talk with the coach.
- If the coach/athlete meeting does not clear the situation, then the parent(s) should call or email the coach.

Times to be avoided:

- Either immediately prior to or right after a contest.
- During an active practice session.
- During a time when other students are present or when the discussion is readily visible by others.
- When it is apparent that there is not sufficient time to allow for a complete discussion.
- If the parent(s) need further discussion on the issue, the Athletic Director is the next contact.
- If a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached, Administration is the next point of contact for the parent.

Please do not approach a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meeting at these times generally does not work well for any of the parties involved.

The following are appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- Advanced notice of schedule conflicts
- The treatment of the student
- Ways to help the player improve
- Concerns about the player's behavior

The following matters should be left to the discretion of the coaches:

- Playing time
- Decisions regarding which athletes make or do not make the team
- Team strategy and play calling
- Other student athletes' conflict issues.

Coaches make the final decision on the amount of playing time an athlete receives. Please remember that this is a competitive program and all athletes do not receive equal playing time. However, coaches are reminded to be fair and consider the development of players as part of the program.

Please understand that participation in the athletic program is a privilege, not a right. We expect parents to support the concept of "being a student first", to represent the school, coaching staff, and team with honour, and to set a good example for your child.

Team Funds

After communication with the Athletic Director and fees determined, coaches will need to collect the fees to cover tournaments, regionals, and provincials. All monies must be submitted to the school office.

Fundraising is encouraged to help cover costs associated with fees and tournaments.

ALL fundraising has to be submitted in writing and approved by the School Travel Committee PRIOR to any events being undertaken.

All expenses must be signed and pre-approved by Administration before any purchases take place.

Students Safety

Coaches and volunteers will ensure that student safety is the priority when students are involved in athletic events:

- Coaches and volunteers are required to follow the School rules regarding: travel, accommodations, safety, and conduct.
- All participants are required to complete the Athletic Contract prior to participation in any extracurricular activities.
- It is the responsibility of players/parents to inform teacher sponsors/coaches/parent volunteers of any relevant medical concerns/issues of student athletes. It is incumbent on the parent/guardian to provide accurate and applicable medical information regarding their child.
- When traveling with student athletes, teacher-sponsors must have contact/medical information in case of emergency. Teacher-sponsors must respect the confidentiality of this information (e.g., Allergies – EpiPen).
- In a situation where a student becomes ill or is injured, every First Aid precaution must be taken, and the parent/guardian contacted at the earliest possible opportunity.
- All schools and traveling teams must have adequate First Aid supplies readily available for athletic competition.

Athletic Injuries

Any injuries an athlete receives while participating on a school team/function needs to be communicated and documented. The Athletic Director or Administrator must be informed within 24 hours of the incident. An Accident Report Form **MUST** be completed and submitted to the office upon your return to Churchill Falls.

Any injured player could be asked by Coaches, Athletic Director, or Administration to provide a medical note from a medical professional before returning to play. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the proper medical clearance is arranged before participation occurs.

Coaches should have a plan in place for when a serious injury occurs. Coaches/players should know venue address, person in charge, emergency call person and participant information.

Person in Charge

1. Reduce the risk of further harm to the injured person by securing the area and sheltering the injured person from the elements.
2. Designate who is in charge of the other athletes. If nobody is available for this task, cease all activities and ensure that athletes are in a safe area.
3. Protect yourself (wear gloves if in contact with body fluids such as blood).
4. Assess ABCs (check that the airway is clear, breathing is present, a pulse is present, and there is no major bleeding).
5. Wait by the injured person until EMS arrives and the injured person is transported.
6. Fill in an accident report form.

Call Person

1. Call for emergency help.
2. Provide all necessary information to dispatch (e.g., facility location, nature of injury, description of first aid that has been done, allergies and other medical problems for that athlete).
3. Clear any traffic from the entrance/access road before ambulance arrives
4. Wait by the driveway entrance to the facility to direct the ambulance when it arrives.
5. Call the emergency contact person listed on the injured person's medical profile.

Any tournaments that a team would like to travel to must be approved by the Athletic Director and the school administration prior to any plans being put into place.

Student

Students are expected to adhere to our code of conduct and SSNL code of ethics at all times. Any member of a team who has an excessive amount of lates or absences will be asked to sit from games and/or practices. If the issue continues, a member of a team could be removed from the team.

No school team shall set up a social media account (ie facebook, twitter, etc) or webpage without permission of the School Administration. If permission is given, a staff member at the school must have administrative access and privileges.

We aim to provide equal opportunity and time for as many students as possible in the extracurricular athletics programs. Access to these activities is available through instructional classes, recreational clubs and varsity sports. All students involved in varsity sports are expected to maintain an overall average in each of their courses that reflects their strongest academic ability. A student can be suspended from the team for practice, games or tournaments at any time, for missing or outstanding work.

Students involved in athletics are expected to work to the best of their ability, be well behaved in all their classes, and be consistent in their attendance. Students who do not meet these expectations may be placed under probation and have their athletic privileges revoked pending a review with Administration. Administration, in consultation with teachers and coaches, will be responsible for monitoring the academic status of students.

Athletes will commit to participate fully in the athletics program. In doing so they commit to:

- Attending all practices, games, and team experiences.
- Staying on the team until the end of the season, unless mutually agreed upon by the coach and athlete.
- Choosing to conduct themselves in a manner that displays respect for coaches, teammates, game officials, the general public, and opponents.

For athletes, any and all equipment and uniforms which have been issued to students from the school must be returned immediately upon the conclusion of each game or sport season. Should students not comply with this, parents will be billed.

Tournament fees are to be paid prior to the day of travel.

Excessive unexcused absenteeism from individual courses will result in removal of a candidate's name for consideration for Athlete of the Year. This is also the case for inappropriate behaviours.

Player Commitment

Players seeking to play on the varsity team should understand that their behavior and conduct inside and outside of school must reflect the highest standard of respect and discipline expected of all students. The team's success will stem from an enthusiastic attitude, combined with technical skill and pride in representing the school.

It is expected that students are willing to make a commitment to the varsity team. Therefore, if you feel that a conflict may arise, please consult the coach immediately. Players who cannot ensure the required commitment may be replaced by players who can. This is intended to bring together a group of motivated players who are prepared to work toward common goals.

If a player participates in more than one school varsity team, he/she must play on the team or sport which is in season as outlined by School Sports Newfoundland & Labrador.

Player Conduct

Students participating in sport shall adhere to the following guidelines:

- Practices are compulsory. If students cannot attend practice, they are to contact the coach and/or teacher sponsor prior to the practices.
- Players are expected to be on time for practices, games and other events.
- Players must show respect to officials, opponents, and teammates at all times.
- Players are not to distract or abuse opponents or officials, and/or use foul language.
- Players on the bench are expected to be supportive and encouraging.
- Players are to demonstrate good sportsmanship in defeat or in victory.
- The team captain should be an exemplary experienced athlete. His/her duties as leader and motivator, both on and off the playing area, are crucially important to the team. Team members should support him/her in their role and be willing to help out.
- Team Captaincy may be revoked at any time based on inappropriate student conduct/behavior, academic concerns, etc.
- Players are to assist coaches with equipment, baggage, fundraising, or any other activities that are planned for the team. These initiatives help to build team spirit and contribute to the quality of our efforts.
- Players need to set specific goals to improve a particular skill or aspect of their game, and to improve their all-round skill level, fitness, and quality of play over the duration of the season.

A student athlete will be subject to disciplinary measures, which may include a suspension from the team, for non-compliance with the Athletic Contract. A player could be suspended from a team for non-compliance at any time; at practice, exhibition games, tournaments, regionals, or provincials.

Player Removal

If a coach is considering removing a player from the team for reasons, including: Practice Attendance, School Attendance or School's Academic Performance, the coach will meet with the player and communicate with home the concerns. If no improvement is shown, the player can be removed from the team.

Please note, a player can be removed from the team at any time, without notice, for: Breach of athletic contract, disrespectful attitude, disrespectful behaviour and any unlawful behaviour.

Teacher Sponsor

Every team is required to have a teacher sponsor. The teacher sponsor is responsible for ensuring the Athletic Policy is followed and adhered to. The teacher sponsor is required to travel and help organize the team. The teacher sponsor is required on all overnight trips, as stated in the SSNL policy. For non overnight trips a teacher sponsor is preferred but when one is not available a lead volunteer may be appointed by the Athletic Director or school administration.

Athletic Contracts:

Once a team has been selected, the coach will distribute the Athletic Contracts to all players and give team members a deadline to return the signed contracts. All Athletic Contracts are to be returned to the school. Athletes will not be permitted to play if an Athletic Contract has not been returned.

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