Rough Rider Basketball
Handbook for Parents and Students
Guidelines and Code of Conduct

“No Substitute for Hard Work”
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son has expressed a desire to participate in the Rough Rider Basketball Program at Saginaw High School. It is the belief of the Rough Rider Basketball coaching staff that athletics can do more for your son than teach him to play the sport he has chosen.

We believe athletics instills the desire to win, attain personal goals ensuring maximum team effort, builds strength of body and strength of character. The latter of these determines the success of the first three.

It is our belief that strength of character is the foundation upon which to build the well-developed, well-polished individual. Athletes, as people in any specialized field, have a unique role to play. Athletes are constantly monitored by their peers, teachers and the community. By constantly being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and be constantly aware of the role they have assumed. They must be certain they present to their peers, teachers, and community respect, sincerity and honesty expected of a young gentleman.

We believe very strongly that our athletes should possess these qualities. Because of this belief, we have established the following set of guidelines to be followed by the athletes in the Rough Rider Basketball Program.

ALL ATHLETES IN THE ROUGH RIDER BASKETBALL PROGRAM MUST:

1. Abide by all University Interscholastic League (UIL) rule specifications, and abide by local policy.
2. Attend every practice and athletic contest unless ill or emergency situations. (Parents or athlete must call in if the athlete is not attending a practice session.)
3. At all times, respond to every situation as a gentleman.
4. Maintain academic intensity to achieve success in the classroom.

Violation of these policies will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken against the student and could result in his removal from the program. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in motivating your son to observe these rules so that he will receive the maximum benefit from the basketball program.

Sincerely,

Brent A. Craft

Head Basketball Coach
Mission of the Rough Rider Basketball Program

To provide a caring and creative environment that promotes excellence, fosters integrity and encourages each student to reach his academic, extracurricular and social potential.

Philosophy of the Rough Rider Basketball Program

The Rough Rider Basketball Program believes that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the student.

The Rough Rider Basketball Program should provide a variety of experiences to enhance the development of positive student habits and attitudes that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society.

Athletics should function as an integral part of the total curriculum. It should offer opportunities to serve the institution, to assist in the development of positive relationships and good will, to promote self-realization, all-around growth, and good citizenship qualities.

The Rough Rider Basketball Program is based on the premise that athletes are students first and that athletic participation is a privilege rather than a right. Students learn teamwork and group responsibility. They also learn to deal with success and to overcome adversity.

The athletic program is structured very intentionally, with specific goals in mind for athletes at each level. All athletes are required to properly represent Saginaw High School on and off the field, or they will not be afforded the privilege of representing EMSISD in interscholastic competition.

At the middle school level our primary goal is to make the athletic experience for the students enjoyable. It is a time to focus on participation and camaraderie among team members. This allows the students to have fun while learning the fundamentals of the sport. All athletes who try out and make a middle school team, are in attendance daily at practice, and are eligible academically, will participate in every single game. Winning is a secondary issue for our program at this level. We believe that if middle school students have great experiences with their friends, and learn the fundamentals of their respective sport, we have accomplished the most important foundational goals in building the total athletic program.

As the students move up through our program into high school, we begin shaping them toward the day they will begin competing at the varsity level. Similar to middle school, our freshmen and junior varsity teams are centered on player development. While the
playing time percentage may vary, we attempt to ensure each student has an opportunity to participate in all games. Again, the final score is less important than facilitating player growth.

At the varsity level we play to win championships. Playing time is at the varsity coach’s discretion, driven by the intent to win. Varsity players are mature both athletically and mentally and their dedication and commitment to their team must supersede their personal desires. One of life’s greatest lessons and gifts is the privilege of living for a purpose bigger than self. We firmly believe a team can, and should compete at the highest level, giving maximum effort, in a way that honors Saginaw High School.

What We Value

- We are about scholarship in middle school and high school more than athletic scholarships to college.
- While we value championships, we value developing championship people more.
- We value graduation rates more than winning percentages.
- We are about the education of students more than the entertainment of the public.
- We focus on the team, not the individual.
- We focus on developing character, not characters.
- We are about the process.
ACADEMICS
Each student athlete is expected to put academics first.

Off-Season Guidelines on Player’s Grades:
- If a player fails a class during off season, the player will be required to sit out for the next three weeks – studying.
- If that player refuses to study he will go to the In-Class Suspension room until removed from the off-season period.
- The player that fails a class may not attend open gym or enter the basketball locker room during the three week period.
- When the three week grade deficiencies have been posted, if that player has not improved his grades to passing, he is dismissed from the program when the semester is over.
- If the player is passing after the three week period, he will receive his practice gear back and may begin to practice with the team.

Season Guidelines on Player’s Grades:
- If a player fails during the basketball season, he is automatically dismissed from the program.
- Players will be required to turn in a grade sheet before try-outs. If that player is failing at that time, he will not be considered for a team.
- Players in off-season will be expected to make the A honor roll or the A/B honor role.
- There will be consequences for making anything under an 80 percentile. We call these consequences “Do Betters.” Refusal to do the “Do Betters” will result in removal from the program.
CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

All teachers will be provided a list of the student/athletes who represent the basketball program.

- Teachers will contact and report to coaches any misconduct by players.
- The misconduct will result in consequences at the coach’s discretion.
- Consistent misbehavior will result in removal from the program.

IN-CLASS SUSPENSION

- The first time a player is placed in the In-Class Suspension Class, regardless of the offense he will run during the entire basketball period for each day that he served. Example: 3 days served = 3 consecutive days of running. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Players that are placed in the In-Class Suspension Class are not allowed to attend open gym, shoot-outs, or league play until the punishment is complete.
- If a player is placed in the In-Class Suspension Class during the season, he will not be allowed to play in the following game until punishment is complete.
- The second time the player is placed in In-Class Suspension; he is dismissed from the program and may not be allowed to return.

“DON’T DO ANYTHING TO EMBARRASS YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, OR THE PROGRAM - INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.”
PRACTICE AND THE OFF-SEASON PROGRAM

Workout Schedules:
- Freshman – 3:25 pm to 5:25 pm
- JV – 7:30 am to 9:30 am
- Varsity – 7:30 am to 9:30 am

Communication is MANDATORY
Communicate with Coach Craft or Coach Willis if you know you are going to be absent from the off-season period or the regular season practice.
Truancy from the off-season or the regular season practice will result in automatic removal from the basketball program.

Note: You must contact a basketball coach at least 30 minutes prior to the workout.
- Missing one practice with no communication will result in running and no participation in the following game.
- Missing two practices with no communication will result in running and no participation in the following two games.
- Missing three practices with no communication will result in removal from the program.

Tardy Policy
Varsity Players in the off-season program (1st period) will be on the floor prepared to workout at 8:30.
Freshman Players in the off-season program (7th period) will be on the floor prepared to workout at 3:05.
- There will be the following consequences for the player who is late.
  1st Tardy will result in performing 25 push-ups.
  2nd Tardy will result in running 10 minutes in the bleachers during practice.
  3rd Tardy will result in running 25 minutes in the bleachers during practice.
  4th Tardy will result in suspension from practice. The player still has to be on time at practice for suspension to take effect.
  5th Tardy will result in a suspension from the next game.
➢ If Tardiness persists, the player will be removed from the program.
➢ The Tardy policy starts over each six weeks.

“EARLY IS ON TIME, ON TIME IS LATE”

GAMES
Missing a game without communicating with one of the coaches will result in AUTOMATIC dismissal from the program.

HOLIDAYS
➢ The coaching staff expects ALL of the athletes to make practices as well as games during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Players will have some time off, plan your vacation around your responsibilities.
➢ Communication is mandatory. If you know you will be going out of town, you need to let the coaching staff know As Soon As Possible.

“COMMINTMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS”

DRESS CODE
Earrings:
Earrings are not allowed in the gym or locker room at any time.

Haircuts and Facial Hair:
➢ Haircuts will be up to the discretion of the coaches. It would be a good idea to check with the coach before a player does anything extreme. Lines in the hair and Mohawks are not allowed. Anything that draws individual attention to one’s self will not be allowed.
➢ Facial hair will not be allowed. There will be one warning given. The next warning will result in consequences at the coaches’ discretion.
**Game Attire:**

The School District provides all equipment except for sub-varsity players’ shoes.

- **Varsity:** Shoes will be issued.
- **Junior Varsity and Freshmen:**
  
  The players will be responsible for purchasing white or black basketball shoes.
  
  If shoes are available in the program’s inventory in the player’s shoe size, they may be issued.

- **Wear only what is issued. Do not wear what is issued to others.** All items are numbered. *THEFT WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM.*

- **Tights, correct workout uniform, and WHITE or BLACK socks are to be worn daily, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- **Ankle Braces will be issued out to those players who request them.** If a player hurts an ankle at some point during the year, that player has to wear ankle braces any time he is on the floor.

- **Players are responsible for everything issued.** If a player loses an item, he is responsible for paying for that item. Failure to pay will result in being placed on the SHS fine list. If a player has come from another sport, he will not return to that sport or proceed to the next one without turning in all of his equipment or paying for what he has lost.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Laundry:
- Workout uniforms are washed daily.
- A Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman A, Freshman B towel bucket is provided. Players should place each item in the correct bucket daily and use the correct laundry strap. (Freshman-white, Junior Varsity-red, Varsity-black) Do not share with a teammate. Any loose items in the bucket, besides socks, will be thrown away.
- Nothing is to be left on the floor. NOTHING! If this becomes a problem, the team will run for each item left on the floor. Every player needs to take care of his issued equipment.
- NOTE: If you are the last one out of the locker room, check to make sure everything is secured properly.

Lockers and Facilities:
Players are required to keep assigned locker clean.
Personal towels will be washed. Do not leave wet cloth goods in lockers. This is how staph infection spreads. Keep lockers dry and clean.

Facilities, Equipment and Furniture:
Players should be proud of their school. Be mindful of the excellent facilities provided by the EM-S ISD. (Example: Students should not sit on the scorer’s table.)

Know Your Teammates:
Players will be expected to know their teammates and their names.

Unauthorized personnel:
The only people allowed in the locker room are Rough Rider basketball players.

“BE A LEADER, ON AND OFF THE COURT.
Remember: Peers and Teachers are Watching.”
“No Substitute for Hard Work”

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