

ED WILLKIE BADGERS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



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Purpose

The handbook is designed to communicate to athletes, parents and coaches the philosophy, policies, goals, and expectations applicable to EWMS Athletic Program participants.

Mission Statement

To provide positive and productive school experiences while teaching life lessons, including the importance of hard work, dedication, ethics, and teamwork.

Philosophy

The EWMS Athletic Program will maintain a prominent level of integrity, discipline, loyalty, and commitment while promoting academics, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Developing these principles will lead to athletic and academic success in school and promote character development that supports personal, social, and career success later in life.

Goals

Students who participate in EWMS Athletics will:

1. Demonstrate a winning attitude in the classroom and Athletics
2. Demonstrate and model attributes of self-discipline, self-esteem, pride, and good character.
3. Be committed to the Athletic Program
4. Demonstrate unity in Athletics to build a positive culture

Expectations

Ed Willkie Badgers will:

- Get an education
- Always display good sportsmanship
- Be respectful
- Give a 110%
- Be coachable
- Be prompt
- Participate in multiple sports (no specialization)
- Always compete

Website Information

[Ed Willkie Middle School Athletic Program Information](#) is online.

This information includes the athletic handbook, uniform orders, schedules (practice and game), locations, directions, and district policy. Coaches will post game results and summaries. The link is a great source of information for all families.

How to use the Website:

1. Type in the address bar www.emsisd.com
2. Click on the select a school drop down menu
3. Click on Ed Willkie Middle School
4. Click on Athletics
5. Click on the sport
6. Click on options of schedules, game results, coaches' information, camps, or leagues.

Badger Athletics Communication Procedures

This document is to help facilitate a clear understanding of expectations regarding the policies and procedures for parent/athlete/coach communications.

COMMUNICATION TO EXPECT FROM THE COACH:

1. Expectations the coach will have for an athlete as well as all the players on the team.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements for participants (practices, code of conduct, equipment, discipline, conditioning, etc.).
4. Conduct that may result in the removal of athletics.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM ATHLETES:

1. Athletes should communicate any questions or concerns directly with their coach and work together to find a solution.
2. Absences, early dismissals, and academic or behavioral issues communicated directly to their coach.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS:

1. Please do not confront a coach after practice or a game. Follow the 24-hour rule.
2. Any questions or concerns regarding their son/daughter should be expressed directly to the player's coach, first. If you are unable to find a resolution, follow the order of the communication tree.
3. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
4. Notification if your child is absent from practice or games.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. The success of your child.
4. The behavior of your child.

INAPPROPRIATE ISSUES TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH:

1. **Playing time**
2. **Team strategy**
3. **Other student-athletes**

If you feel that a conference needs to be set up to discuss a concern, the following steps should be followed to help promote a peaceful and timely resolution.

1. Encourage your child to speak directly with the coach first as this will often take care of the problem.
2. Please do not try to meet with the coach after a game or practice regarding a specific problem/issue. (24 Rule)
3. Set up a parent conference with the coach.
4. Please communicate the concern by following the communication tree.
 - a. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the head coach of that sport.
 - b. If the meeting with the coach does not resolve the problem to your satisfaction. Contact the Boys/Girls Coordinator.
 - c. If the meeting with the **EWMS** Coordinator does not resolve the problem to your satisfaction, contact the Chisholm Trail High School Coordinator, **Byron Bode 817-232-7112 or Janine Smith 817-232-7112.**
 - d. Final step would be to contact our campus Principal, Dan Russell 817-237-9631.

Sports Workout and Game Schedules

A. Football

1. 7th grade practices from 7:00am-8:45 am.
2. 8th grade practices from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm.
3. Practice will start the second day of school.
4. See the schedule for games.

B. Cross Country

1. 7th and 8th grade practice begin at 6:45 am.
2. Practices will begin the third day of school.
3. Practice will start the second day of school.
4. See the schedule for games.

C. Basketball

1. Try-outs will start after football season.
2. 7th grade practices from 7:15am-8:45 am.
3. 8th grade practices from 2:40pm-4:45 pm.
4. See the schedule for games.

D. Track

1. Try-outs will start after basketball season.
2. Track practice times will vary due to weather conditions but primarily practices will be held after school.
3. See the schedule for games.

E. Tennis

1. Try-outs will start on the second day of school.
2. 7th/8th grade basic practices from 7:15am-8:45 am.
3. 7th/8th grade advance practices from 2:45 pm-4:45 pm.
4. See the schedule for games.

F. Soccer

1. Try-outs will start after track season.
2. Practice will be before or after school.
3. See the schedule for games.

All practice and game schedules are subject to change.

Ed Willkie Middle School Athletic Handbook Contract

As an **Ed Willkie Middle School Athlete**, it is an honor and a privilege to be a part of the **Ed Willkie Middle School Athletic Program**; a privilege which can only be earned when one abides by the rules.

Expectations in the Classroom:

Ed Willkie Badgers will demonstrate great behavior by:

1. Saying yes ma'am and yes sir.
2. Following all classroom directions without question.
3. Showing respect and listening attentively when a coach is giving instructions.
4. Being a leader. Being a representative of Ed Willkie's teachers, administrators, teammates, coaches, the school, and the community.
5. Being respectful to teachers, administration, and fellow students.

Expectations for Classwork and Homework:

Ed Willkie Badgers will:

1. Put academics first. Athletes will strive to make an 85 or higher in all classes.
2. Take ownership of academics. It is your responsibility to stay on top of your grades.
3. Communicate with teachers weekly about grade status.
4. Attend tutorials if average grade is below 80 and/or a failing grade on an assignment/test.
* Consequences may be implemented until the grade has been brought to the expected standards.

Expectations for Dressing Out in Athletics:

Ed Willkie Badgers will:

1. Wear the **correct** athletic uniform, socks and athletic shoes during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, sports games, athletics/school activities/events, and/or sport related activities (Non-UIL Events). Students are expected to dress out and participate every day in this course. Athletes will participate in all activities and work at a high athletic level during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, and sports games. Grades will be based on dressing out with the correct athletic attire and daily participation. Points will be deducted from the athlete's grade when they do not dress out and/or participate. If an athlete refuses to dress and participate, then points will be deducted from the athlete's grade when they do not dress out and/or participate. An athlete can make up the not dressing out/participation day with a makeup work out for each day of the not dressing

out/participation. The make up workout is a “**Badger**”. “**Badger**” is a set of circuit training and conditioning exercises.

2. Cannot wear the following attire/accessories during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, sports games, athletics/school activities/events, and/or sport related activities (Non-UIL Events): rubber bracelets, headbands, sleeves, bandanas, shades, bonnets, crocs, flip flops/slides, pajamas, skull/wave caps, earrings, rings, etc.
3. Remove all jewelry prior to the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, sports games, athletics/school activities/events, and/or sport related activities (Non-UIL Events). Jewelry includes earrings, rubber wristbands, watches, bracelets, and necklaces. UIL RULE.
4. Tuck in shirt and put hair up.
5. Be required to maintain a hairstyle suitable for athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, and sports games. Suitable may be defined as (1) not impairing vision (2) suitable in length as to not create a safety hazard (3) not promoting disunity (shaved insignias, symbols, **alternative colors**). This policy applies to the off-season period as well as during the sports season.
6. Not sag or roll up shorts during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, and sports games.
7. Wear white/black socks (**calf level only for boys**). No “no show socks” (boys only except during track season).
8. Appropriate athletic shoes for athletic activity during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, and sports games.
9. Leave workout clothes in bin for coaches to wash. Workout clothes are not to go home.
10. Be responsible for any equipment/uniform issued by coaches. Lost and/or damaged items will result in a monetary fine.

***Piercings: Athletes** are not allowed to wear earrings while participating during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, sports games, athletics/school activities/events, and/or sport related activities (Non-UIL Events). If an athlete gets a new piercing, they can wear spacers. If the athlete refuses to wear spacers and refuses to take out the earrings, then the athlete will not be able to participate during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices and sports games and will be subject of reduction of grade points due to non-participation and not dressing out. Portions of this policy are part of the following: UIL, EMSISD Athletics, and Chisholm Trail High School.

****Jewelry/Accessories: Athletes** are not allowed to wear any type of jewelry/accessories while participating during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, sports games athletics/school activities/events, and/or sport related activities (Non-UIL Events). Jewelry/Accessories are considered the following: watches, necklaces, bracelets, rubber bracelets, shades, headbands, sleeves, shades, bandanas, bonnets, crocs, flip flops/slides, pajamas, skull/wave caps, earrings, rings, etc. If the athlete refuses to take off the earrings, then the athlete will not be able to participate during the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, sports games,

athletics/school activities/events, and/or sport related activities (Non-UIL Events). and will be subject to non-participation, reduction of grade points due to non-participation by not dressing out correctly. Portions of this policy are part of the following: UIL, EMSISD Athletics, and Chisholm Trail High School.

Expectations for equipment use:

Ed Willkie Badgers will

1. Be issued equipment. Every item that is issued will be signed by the athlete. All items must be returned in the condition they were received. Any items lost or damaged must be paid for. Any athlete with an outstanding balance may be prohibited from trying out for the following season until the balance is paid.
2. Turn in all jerseys and travel equipment once the season is over. Athletes moving to another sport must turn in all issued equipment before moving to another.
3. Turn in uniforms after the completion of each competition. Coaches will wash and return the uniforms to the athletes. Uniforms must never be taken home.

Expectations for locker room:

Ed Willkie Badgers will

1. Be assigned a locker in the locker room.
2. Lock up all valuable items and school issued items. **EWMS** will not be responsible for items stolen or lost in the locker room.
3. Keep the locker room clean at all times. Athletes will be assigned extra physical activity for the locker room not being clean.
4. Earn back any school issued items left in the locker room with extra physical activity.
5. Keep all personal belongings and equipment locked in your own locker. **Do not share lockers.** This may cause the loss or damage of equipment and personal items. **School/Faculty is not responsible for lost or damaged personal items.**
6. Keep all electronic devices off and away while in locker room.

**Cell Phones-Per code of conduct, cell phones/electronic device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school related/sponsored function.

➤ **Consequences for cell phones/electronic device are as follows:**

- a. 1st Violation=verbal warning
- b. 2nd Violation=take up phone/parent contact
- c. 3rd Violation= take up phone/parent contact and “**Badger**”.
- d. 4th Violation= take up phone/parent contact/ reduced playing time and “**Badger**”.

Expectations for Practice and Games:

Ed Willkie Badgers will

1. Attend all practices.

2. Notify the coach via email or phone message if you plan to miss practice. **We plan our practices and games with all players in mind, so knowing in advance allows us to make any necessary adjustments.**
 3. Make up all missed practices before eligible to participate in the upcoming game. Excessive absences will affect playing time. All missed practices require make up practice. The make up practice is a “**Badger**”.
- **Absences With No Communication of Absence:**
1. 1st time with no call= Verbal warning and “**Badger**”.
 2. 2nd time with no call= Reduced playing time and “**Badger**”.
 3. 3rd time with no call=One game suspension and “**Badger**”.
- **Tardiness will not be tolerated. Consequences for tardiness is as follows:**
1. 1st Tardy=conditioning/verbal warning
 2. 2nd tardy=conditioning/parent contact
 3. 3rd tardy=reduced playing time and “**Badger**”.
 4. 4th tardy= one game suspension and “**Badger**”.

“Badger” is a set of circuit training and conditioning exercises.

Missed Games. Athletes/Parents are required to notify the coaching staff prior to the athlete missing the game. Any athlete who misses a game for a non-school related activity and/or no communication of missing the game would result in reduced playing time. Exceptions to this rule will be made for illness, family emergencies, or official school related functions. School-related functions must be discussed with a coach prior to the absence.

Expectations when Athlete is injured:

Ed Willkie Badgers will

1. Be required to provide a parent note for injury or illness. The parent note is good for that injury or illness for 3 consecutive days for not participating in Athletics. After the 3 days, the athlete must have a doctor’s note or a note from the athletic trainer to not participate in practice or games.
2. Notify a coach or athletic trainer if an injury occurs during practice and/or a game. Athletes should see the athletic trainer before seeing the doctor. If further medical assistance is needed, the athletic trainers will put the athletes in contact with the sport’s doctor who work with our athletes.
3. Bring a detailed note from the doctor stating the illness or injury, no practice status, game status, and limitations of practice.
4. Bring a release from the doctor or trainer prior to participating again in athletic workouts.

Expectations for Game Day:

1. As a member of athletic program, athletes are held to a higher standard than the regular student body. All athletes must be respectful and behave in a positive manner while waiting in the stands for their time to play. If either issue becomes a problem, conditioning will be given the following day.
2. Athletes must sit together in the designated area as a team until the end of all home and away games and behave in a manner that is positive and respectful.
3. Parents may bring food. Food needs to be in the front office by 2:45. After 2:45 it will not be delivered to your child.
4. Athletes have an opportunity **(optional)** to purchase a game day lunch provided by a restaurant company.
5. If an early dismissal from class is necessary, athletes will be responsible for getting any missing assignments from the early dismissal.
6. The athlete is responsible for being on the bus, dressed in uniform at the designated time, and making sure they have everything for the game.
7. All athletes must travel to games on school transportation. The required written documentation is required for an athlete to not to travel to games on school's transportation.
8. Behave appropriately and safely on the bus. No standing or changing seats on the bus. On the way to games, all athletes should remain quiet on the bus and will be used as a study hall period or concentrating on the game. All trash needs to be picked up and placed in a trash can when getting off the bus. There will be consequences for any trash left on the bus. Do not throw trash out the window.
9. Immediately following the game all athletes will meet in one designated area before leaving. This is a safety procedure.
10. Parents may sign out athletes on the sign out sheet after the completion of a game. **(Exception-Girl Athletes will stay to support ALL teams (A, B, C) and then may sign out after the completion of the last schedule game).**
11. If an athlete is going home with someone other than a parent/guardian, a written document for permission needs to be given 24 hours in advance via email or written note. Once the athlete has been signed out, **EWMS** will no longer be responsible for that athlete's safety.
12. Parents be prompt when picking up athletes after all games. The designated pick-up point is in the back of the school by the locker room door. Please call if there is a problem.
13. **Game Set Up-** Athletes (with the help of coaches) are responsible for setting up and taking down all equipment before and after the games. This includes poles, nets, antennas, pads, referee stands, chairs, score table, balls, and water jugs.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

1. Any athlete reasonably determined to have been involved in illegal activity is subject to dismissal from the program.
2. Any athlete having knowledge of such illegal activity is encouraged to come forward and speak to the coaching staff.
3. Zero tolerance for bullying, fighting, drugs, alcohol, and illegal activity. These activities may lead to the removal of Athletics.

BEHAVIOR OFF THE COURT

1. Any athlete receiving a negative behavior report from a teacher may receive reduced playing time and/or additional conditioning. If the player consistently receives negative reports, this may result in additional conditioning, loss of game time, or privileges, and/or a parent conference will be required. The player will also be placed on a behavioral contract.
2. Any player receiving **multiple** detentions or placement in ISS/OSS is subject to additional conditioning, reduced playing time, and or possible removal from the team/athletics.
3. Any player receiving an out of school suspension will be suspended from competing in the next two games and will complete their make-up practices and conditioning before returning to play.
4. Any player assigned to Alternative School will be immediately removed from any team they are currently playing with and could potentially be removed from athletics all together.
 - ISS (In House Suspensions)-If an athlete is in ISS, then that athlete cannot attend any of the following during that day of ISS:
 - Practices
 - Games
 - Athletics/School Activities/Events and/or Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events)
 - OSS (Out of School Suspensions) (Out of School Suspensions) (Out of School Suspensions)-If an athlete is in OSS, it will reflect, practice time, playing time and/or suspension. It will be at the discretion of the head coach or the athletic coordinator.

AAU/Club/Out of School Activities

1. School sports take priority over any outside organizations or activities.
2. If an athlete misses a school activity for an out of school activity (AAU/Club/etc.), it may result in reduced playing time or being suspended from the next game. All starting positions will be at the coach's discretion.

Athletics/School Activities and Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events)

An athlete may participate in Athletics/School Activities/Events and/or Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events). The athlete will abide by the Ed Willkie Handbook to participate in Athletics/School Activities/Events and Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events). If the athlete does not abide by the Ed Willkie Handbook, then the athlete will not be able to participate in Athletics/School Activities/Events and/or Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events) with also the following conditions:

1. If an athlete does NOT dress out for athletics (athletic period) on the day of the event, then the athlete will not be able to participate in the Athletics/School Activities/Events and/or Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events)
2. If an athlete does NOT dress out for athletics (athletic period) any two days the week of the event, then the athlete will not be able to participate in the Athletics/School Activities/Events and/or

Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events). NOTE: IF THE EVENT OCCURS AFTER THE TWO DAYS THEN THE ATHLETE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN NEXT WEEK'S EVENT/ACTIVITY.

3. If an athlete has a behavior issue during the school day where it is reported to an administrator during the day of the event, then the athlete will not be able to participate in the Athletics/School Activities/Events and/or Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events).
4. During the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, sports games, athletics/school activities/events, and/or sport related activities (Non-UIL Events), athletes are not allowed to wear jewelry/accessories. Jewelry/Accessories are considered the following: watches, necklaces, bracelets, rubber bracelets, shades, headbands, sleeves, bandanas, bonnets, crocs, flip flops/slides, pajamas, skull/wave caps, earrings, rings, and so on. If an athlete does NOT remove any of the items prior to the event, then the athlete will not be able to participate in the athletic period, off-season programs/workouts, strength and conditioning programs/workouts, sports practices, sports games, Athletics/School Activities/Events and/or Sport Related Activities (Non-UIL Events).

ATHLETE QUITTING A SPORT

Quitting a sport is highly discouraged. Once a student commits to a team, they are expected to finish the season; however, if they quit after a season has started, they will not be allowed to try out for another sport during the school year. It will be at the discretion of the boys'/girls' coordinator if the athlete can try out for any other sport.

Expectations for parent communication:

Ed Willkie parents understand that

1. Playing time will be handled on a player/coach level. Coaches will not discuss playing time with parents. All starting positions will be at the coach's discretion.
2. If there is an issue that needs to be discussed, they must refer to the communications page and chain of command procedures in order to resolve the issue. Please wait 24 hours before contacting the coaching staff with an issue.
3. Being supportive and respectful of the athletic program is the expectation of all parents.

Below is the Behavior Expectations of Spectators set forth by the University Interscholastic League and followed by the EMS ISD Athletic Department.

XVII. OVERALL BEHAVIOR-REMOVAL OF ATHLETICS

If an athlete is consistently having behavioral problems, consistently failing class(es), consistently not following all EMSISD policies, handbooks, and all of ED Willkie Middle School policies and handbooks may result in removal of athletics.

UIL Behavior Expectations of Spectators

Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.

Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.

Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.

Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.

Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.

There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct himself or herself accordingly.

Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.

The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

ED WILLKIE MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC CONTRACT AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the athletic handbook. I understand that it is a privilege to be a part of the **Ed Willkie Middle School** Athletic Program and that not following the rules, expectations, and guidelines of the athletic program may result in removal of a sport or athletic program. By signing this contract, I agree to abide by the Rules and Expectations set forth by the **Ed Willkie Middle School** Athletic Handbook and Program during the school year that I am participating in athletics. I also understand that with participation in athletics, injury is possible.

Athlete's Name (Print Name): _____

Grade: _____

Signature of Athlete

Date

I have read and understand the athletic handbook. I understand that it is a privilege for my child to be apart of the **Ed Willkie Middle School** Athletic Program and that not following the rules, expectations, and guidelines of the athletic program may result in the removal of my child in a sport or athletic program. By signing this contract, I agree that my child and I will abide by the Rules and Expectations set forth by the **Ed Willkie Middle School** Athletic Handbook and Program during the school year that my child is participating in athletics. I also understand that my child participation in athletics may result in a possibility of injury.

Parent's Name (Print Name): _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

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