



Athletic Department Parent & Student-Athlete Handbook

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Excell Academy for Higher Learning's Mission

The mission of Excell Academy for Higher Learning is to equip and prepare its learners for higher levels of education and to be positive productive citizens.

Excell academy will achieve its mission by identifying, nurturing, and developing its learners' academic gifts, talents and creativity. With the belief that every student is capable of pursuing an achievement at a higher level, Excell Academy offers exceptional learning experiences and quality curricula to foster the learners' fullest potential.

Excell Academy Athletic Department Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Strategic Goals

The Excell Academy Department of Athletics recognizes a commitment to serve its student-athletes with honor and integrity. The primary responsibility of the Athletic Department is to provide an environment for our student-athletes to fully develop their academic and athletic potential, through practicing good habits, physical training and character building that comes through competition.

MISSION

In supporting, promoting, and building from the academic success at Excell Academy, the Excell Academy Athletic Department will promote academic excellence, integrity, playing and participating within a team, and character building through competition.

VISION

Excell Academy's Athletic Department has the expectation of reaching the highest level of success by measuring academic and athletic success in each program, not by wins or losses, but by striving to implement Excell Academy Athletic Department core values.

CORE VALUES:

The Athletic Department will strives to instill in each student-athlete:

- *Good sportsmanship and personal integrity.*
- *Loyalty to the group and the ability to function with others as a team.*
- *Appreciation for the benefits of hard work, motivation, and perseverance in both winning and losing situations.*
- *Pride in accomplishments gained through fair and honest means.*

In order to understand where we are and where we want to be, it is vital to define those qualities that we hold paramount. In understanding those values, the goals and path to achieve those goals will be clearly set out before us. Every decision of the department will reflect these defined values.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Academics

Assist and encourage Excell Academy student-athletes to reach their full academic potential.

Student-Athlete Welfare

Provide each student-athlete with the opportunity to grow personally and enjoy a positive experience while participating in chosen sport.

Sportsmanship

On and off the field of competition our staff, student-athletes and fans will respect the sport, themselves, and others.

Winning

Provide the facilities, coaches and resources necessary to start a winning tradition at Excell Academy.

Diversity

Provide opportunities for individuals on the basis of merit in a fair and efficient manner.

Equity

Provide appropriate equipment and resources equitably among all programs.

Excell Academy's Player Code of Conduct

EXCELL ACADEMY EXPECTS THE FOLLOWING FROM ALL PARTICIPANTS:

1. Show respect to players, coaches, and officials

- Swearing/trash talking/name calling will not be tolerated
- Negative attitude towards coaches, players, officials, and guests will not be tolerated
- Encourage teammates to do their best

2. Demonstrate good sportsmanship

- Shake hands with opponent after game
- Assist teammates on and off the court

3. Have fun

- Leave with the same positive attitude you started with

Excell Academy Athletic Department

Rules and Regulations

Conduct

- Conduct yourself in a positive, mature, and respectable manner at all times
 - Remember you are representing Excell Academy
- Give people a reason to talk about you and Excell Academy positively- people are watching you at all times.
- It is an honor to be a student-athlete at Excell Academy.
- Practice proper etiquette at all times. No swearing, fighting, rude behavior, disrespect, or bad attitudes to ANYONE. This also includes your attitude during school hours.
- Take constructive criticism in stride & use it to better yourself and please don't take things personally!
- Listen when others are talking and asking questions from your teammates, Excell Academy staff, and visitors.

Respect

- *As a student-athlete at Excell Academy for Higher Learning, you are expected to uphold the highest amount of respect for yourself, each other, your coaches, the team you play for, the team you play against, your school district, teachers, staff members, director, academic dean, your parents and family, the parents who help with fundraisers or functions and any other member of the community. You are not only representing Excell Academy, but you are representing your coach, director, school, family, and most importantly YOURSELF. You must be respectful at **all** times including but not limited to the way you conduct yourself during school hours, participating at a game, practices, fundraisers, team bonding, community service, etc. Examples of no respect include but are not limited to language, gossip, complaining/whining, tardiness, lying, etc.*
- Respect means a lot of different things. On a practical level, it seems to include taking someone's feelings, needs, thoughts, ideas, wishes, and preferences into consideration. We might also say it means taking all of these seriously and giving them worth and value. In fact, giving someone respect seems similar to valuing their thoughts and their feelings, etc. It also seems to include acknowledging a person, listening to them, being truthful with that person, and accepting their individualities. On a game or representation of the program level, it includes a sense of positive language, manners, facilities, and guests.

If for any reason RESPECT is not shown at any function involving Excell Academy student-athlete, it will be at the coach's and/or the person(s) in charge of the function to decide on how to handle the situation at hand. This can lead up to being sent home from an event, loss of a fundraising opportunity, temporary probation or termination from the team, etc.

Behavior

As a student-athlete you are held to the expectation that your actions have a reaction. If you receive **one** success referral during the week, you will be placed on a temporary probation and sit out for a week's worth of practice/games. If you receive **two** success referrals in the season, this will result in the dismissal from your team.

Team Dismissal

If you are dismissed from your team for any reason, **you are not eligible** to retrieve your non-refundable athletic fee, receive any monies collected on your behalf from fundraising, and receive certification of achievements or trophies at the season ending Athletic Banquet. While you may attend the banquet with an invitation, all honors and recognitions are for student-athletes who completed the season of their respective sport in good standing.

Social Networking

Students who post personal information on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.) should realize that this information is highly public and could be used as evidence in an eligibility hearing, or any matter that could result in school discipline. Furthermore, student-athletes posting messages about teammates, teachers, coaches, officials or opponents of a derogatory hurtful, inflammatory, insulting or unsportsmanlike nature may also face code of conduct consequences resulting in a loss of eligibility.

Medical Disclosure

- Your child must have a current physical on file in order to participate on a team.
- If your child has asthma, or any other health concerns, PLEASE make sure to notify the health office and coach. You must also make sure your child has their appropriate medication prior to practice and games: this means that they should either take it before school hours end or have a spare with them. If for any reason your child takes their medication from the school nurse's office at the end of the school day, YOU and THE CHILD are responsible for returning it back to school or for the replacement. The coach or school shall not be liable for the outcome.

Expenses

- You are required to pay the initial athletic fee of **\$75** to participate on any Excell Academy athletic team. \$50 is non-refundable. The remaining \$25 will be refunded at the end of the season upon the athletic department receiving all pieces of the uniform. This payment is due prior to the first practice for the specific athletic program. Payments cover the cost of renting the uniform, refs, and other expenses related to the department.
- The cost to participate in a second athletic program is \$50 (\$25 is refundable). The cost to participate in a third or more athletic program would be \$35 each (\$25 is refundable).
- To replace a lost/missing uniform, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to pay \$25 per missing piece. There are no other expenses involved with participating on a team, BUT the more fundraising you do, the more things we can get/improve!

Fundraising

- Fundraising will be done to financially support the goals and functions of the cheerleading organization.
- Each fundraiser will be defined as mandatory or optional.
 - Each student-athlete must participate in fundraising activities as determined by the athletic department or coach.
- Each fundraiser will be defined as individual or group.
- Student athletes are not permitted to take part in any fundraiser activities without supervision by coach or parent volunteers

- **All monies raised will go towards the athletic department and be disbursed appropriately. There will be no reimbursements to student-athletes or families. All fundraising revenue, even if a student-athlete is dismissed or quits an athletic program, will be used for the athletic department.**

Parent Volunteering

Although there aren't any additional fees to participate in any athletic program, we are asking that parents offer their time to help with volunteering during the Fall/Winter seasons. Volunteering opportunities may include but are not limited to: selling concessions, volunteer coach's assistance, gymnasium setup and tear down, and chaperones during away games.

****Parents who have a student-athlete participating on a team are required to volunteer at least one game for any sport throughout the Fall and Winter seasons.****

We understand life gets busy and parents may not be able to volunteer time. If you are unable to do so, parents are required to donate concession items based on need. You will be notified through weekly communication.

Parent Communication

It is imperative that we have updated contact information due to emergencies and weekly updates. If a phone number changes, PLEASE notify the respective coach. Weekly updates may be sent via various forms. The primary communication method is the Remind App which needs to be downloaded to your mobile device in order to receive notifications regarding athletics. There may also be the use of text messages and emails unless otherwise specified. Also, please feel free to reach out to a coach with any questions or concerns.

Transportation Policies

Parent Obligation

- If a student-athlete participates in an athletic program at Excell Academy, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up the student-athlete at the assigned time. Practice for all athletic programs will end at 5:30pm. The doors will be locked shortly after with no adult to chaperone.
- Times for games may vary depending on the program. Once the season starts, a more general time will be communicated.
- If the pick up time after a practice or game exceeds 15 minutes the first time, a warning will be given. If the student-athlete is picked up late a second time, the student-athlete will be placed on a temporary probation and miss one practice and one game following the late pick up. **The third late pick-up will cause the student-athlete to be removed from the team.**
- Excell Academy's staff will NOT be responsible for transporting student-athletes home from practices or games or liable if students are not picked up after the conclusion of a practice or game.
- **It is imperative that parents pick up their children at the assigned time.**

Away Games

- When we travel, student-athletes **MUST** ride the bus to and from the school with the coaches and teammates!
- Student-athletes may not ride home with parents, family members, or a friend's

parent/family member unless advance notice has been given to the coach and final decision will be made at the coach's discretion.

- Parents are not permitted to ride the bus to and from away games.
- Any misbehavior on the bus or at the away game will result in disciplinary action or termination.

Awards and All-Team Athletic Banquet

Awards

- To be eligible for an award, the student-athlete must be in good academic standing, good attendance on the team, showed consistent sportsmanship, all payments submitted, and no suspensions.

All-Team Athletic Banquet

- For a student-athlete to attend the banquet held in spring, they must comply with the above expectations.
- The cost is TBD.
- The date and time is Thursday April 16, 2020 at 6:00-7:30pm.

****PLEASE KEEP THIS HANDBOOK FOR YOUR RECORDS!!**
SIGN AND RETURN THE AGREEMENT PAGE ONLY**

Excell Academy Athletic Department Parent and Student-Athlete Agreement

We, (the parent(s)/guardian(s) _____ and student-athlete _____), have reviewed and understand all of the information provided in the Excell Academy Athletic Department Handbook and Player Code of Conduct.

We understand we are responsible for any and all behaviors and outcomes of the student-athlete. This includes positive behaviors as well as negative behaviors such as destruction of property, equipment, or facilities.

We agree to abide by the conduct, rules, and regulations presented. Failure to do so may result in temporary probation, dismissal from a team, and will forfeit any monies fundraised on behalf of myself/student-athlete.

We understand and agree to pay the full amount of \$75 to participate in an athletic program, \$50 is non-refundable and \$25 will be refunded at the end of the season once the uniform has been received by the Athletic Department. Any missing or lost uniform will result in repayment of \$25 per piece.

We understand there are risks involved as the student-athlete participates in a sport. By signing this agreement, we are aware of such risks and consent to the student-athlete's ability to participate in a sport. We agree to not hold Excell Academy liable for any injuries occurred over the 2019-2020 season.

Photo release

_____ I consent to my student-athlete being photographed or videotaped relating to the purposes of participating in a sport at Excell Academy. I understand that the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

_____ I do not consent.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student-Athlete Signature

Date