

Etna High School Athletic Policy



Scott Valley Board of Trustees Commitments

WHEREAS, the Scott Valley School District Board of Trustees represents the public's interest in creating knowledgeable, healthy, socially responsible citizens in the global community; and

WHEREAS, the Scott Valley School District Board of Trustees and administration promote a healthy learning environment by defining a student athletic code of conduct which outlines positive expectations for coaches, parents, and student-athletes based on common values, shared goals, and agreed upon principles; and

WHEREAS, members of the Scott Valley School District Board of Trustees and administration have spent one year dialoguing with and collecting information from students, parents, community members, coaches, and local and national health education experts on the role and substance of an effective student athletic code of conduct; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these conversations, the following priorities and opportunities for strengthening the current Scott Valley Unified School District Student Athletic Code of Conduct were identified:

- Focus on student and parent education,
- Provide opportunities for students to be responsible and learn from their mistakes,
- Create a multifaceted approach that will impact the largest number of students,
- Empower community members and parents to help support efforts; and

WHEREAS, the American Athletic Institute philosophy for the review and revisions of a student code of conduct speaks to each of these priorities, advocating policies that are proactive rather than punitive in approach and include education, social responsibility, parental involvement, community involvement, and evaluation as critical components for a successful student athletic code of conduct;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the intent and direction of the Scott Valley School District Board of Trustees to support site administration to review, revise, communicate, and implement the District's Student Athletic Code of Conduct.

Etna High School Athletic Policy

We expect all EHS Athletes to be a Student in Good Standing

At Etna High School, a **Student in Good Standing** is a student:

- Without an outstanding school bills/fines and athletic uniforms
- Who has served no more than one day suspension in a quarter
- Without excessive tardies (more than 10 in a quarter)
- With no more than one truancy (or more than three unexcused or unverified absences) [See Truancy and Procedures for Leaving...", student handbook, page 16]

In order to attend and participate in extracurricular activities such as games, dances, and Senior Trip, a student must be in "Good Standing." The period of ineligibility is one quarter from the point of the disqualifying infraction. A student may earn back "student in good standing status".

Interscholastic Athletic Policy

The term "athlete" in this document shall be defined as any student participating as an individual, or group member, under staff supervision of an interscholastic athletic team.

Success depends upon the attitude and behavior of those who hope to achieve it. Hard work, self-discipline, dedication, loyalty, teamwork, fair-play, sacrifice, and a belief in oneself all factors to achieving success as an athlete. Because of the public nature of the interscholastic athletic program, it can be a forceful and effective way to develop school and community pride. We trust that our athletic programs strive to instill these qualities in our student athletes.

Since each athlete represents Etna High and the Scott Valley Community, interscholastic participation is a privilege and an honor. Therefore, we expect athletes to follow the rules established by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), and the North Section California Interscholastic Federation (NSCIF), the Etna High School Athletic Board of Control, and each of their athletic teams.

There are expectations for the parents of athletes as well. If a parent feels a need to talk to a coach about a problem, the parent should let the coach choose the appropriate time and place. In addition, some issues are up for discussion while others are not. It is expected that the parent will follow the chain of command, beginning first with the coach, then to the AD, then to the Site Administration.

Appropriate concerns for parents to discuss with their child's coach include:

- Their child's mental and physical treatment
- Ways to help their child improve
- Concerns about their child's behavior

Inappropriate areas of concern that parents **should not** discuss with their child's coach include:

- Playing time
- Team strategy or play-calling
- Other team members

EXPECTATIONS FOR COACHES

Coaches are educators and therefore are to be dedicated to more than the X's and O's of

competition. As less than 2% of high school athletes go on to play sports at the college level, coaches must understand that high school athletics provide student-athletes a unique opportunity for the development of not only physical conditioning and athletic skill but also character traits essential for success in life. Recognizing his or her role as an educator, coaches are expected to:

- Exemplify the highest moral character as a role model for young people, behaving ethically at all times.
- Recognize the individual worth and reinforce the self-image of each team member.
- Establish a realistic team goal or vision for each season and communicate that to the athletes and parents.
- Strive for excellence in coaching skills and techniques through professional improvement.
- Gain an awareness of the importance of prevention, care, and treatment of athletic injuries.
- Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and spirit.
- Support and reinforce the expectations set out in the Athletic Code of Conduct.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- Provide a safe, challenging, and encouraging environment for practice and competition.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

- Encourage and assist team members in setting personal goals to achieve their highest academic potential.
- Strive to develop the qualities of competence, character, civility, and citizenship.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- Build and maintain ethical relationships with coaches and administrators.
- Promote personal fitness and good nutrition.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS

Parents play a vital role in the development of their child's character and decision making skills as well as the development of his or her athletic ability. A student-athlete's success, his or her team's success, and ultimately the athletic program's success, is a partnership between the student-athlete, his or her parent(s), the coach, and the athletic administration. Recognizing parents' important role in the success of their student-athletes, it is expected parents will:

- Be a positive role model so that, through their actions, they can help make sure their student-athlete(s) has the best athletic experience possible.
- Be a "team" fan, not a "my kid" fan.
- Weigh what their student-athlete(s) says in any controversy, rather than rushing to judgment.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, and fans.

- Be respectful of all officials' decisions.
- Not instruct their student-athlete(s) before or after a game, because it may conflict with the coach's plans and strategies.
- Praise their student-athlete(s) in his or her attempts to improve as a student, as an athlete, and as a person.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the sport in which their student-athlete(s) competes.
- Don't engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures during practices, sporting events, on team buses, or any other situation where the behavior could reflect badly on the school or the sports program.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Help their student-athlete(s) learn that success is experienced in the development of skills and that an individual can feel positive about his or her skill development during the season regardless of the team's record.
- Take the time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, if they have a concern. This includes showing respect for the coach and following the chain of command by not going first to the athletic director or principal.
- Support the tobacco, alcohol, and other drug-free expectations of the school district by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests.
- Support and reinforce the expectations set out in the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Failure to abide by these agreements will result in a suspension from attending home and/or away athletic events and it will be required for the parent/fan to complete curriculum regarding appropriate behavior provided by Athletic Director.

Coach or Program Complaints: It is imperative parents respect the position of the coach and direct any concerns **TO THE COACH FIRST**. There is a difference between a concern and a complaint. If you wish to discuss a problem or issue concerning your child, begin by contacting his/her coach. Often the problem or issue is resolved at this level. For communication to be productive, please make an appointment to speak with the coach prior to or after game day. Please respect game day as a time where coach and player focus should be 100% on the competition. If you have a valid complaint about the coach, please contact the Athletic Director and a conference will be set up with the parent, coach and Athletic Director. A valid complaint will be required to be brought to our attention within 72 hours in order to properly address it in a timely fashion. Your complaint will be dealt with immediately. However, due to confidentiality issues, you may or may not be made aware of steps taken with our coaching staff.

"Reviewable" complaints/concerns will deal with:

- Violations in the CIF "Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Coaches".
- Complaints/Concerns as they relate to:
 - The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
 - Ways to help your child improve.

- Inappropriate behaviors observed in your child.

“Non-Reviewable” complaints/concerns will deal with:

- Playing time.
- Team Strategy.
- Play Calling.
- Student athletes other than your child.

ATHLETIC TRAINING

1. MISCONDUCT, on or off campus

Any conduct on the part of an athlete at any time (including weekends), which, because of its extreme nature, tends to bring discredit to the Etna High School athletic program and school in general, will be dealt with on an individual basis by the principal, athletic director and coach, with the Athletic Board of Control acting in an advisory capacity.

- A. Smoking, drinking, vaping, and the use cannabis or drugs are definitely detrimental to an athlete. Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, cannabis or drugs is a violation of this standard of behavior and will result in action described below:

An athlete who is found (through verifiable proof utilizing due process) to be directly involved with drug or alcohol use during the season of sport will receive the consequences below:

1. 1st OFFENSE during a school year: The athlete is suspended from game play for 25 percent of the team’s competitive contacts (games). (A tournament equals two contacts.) During this suspension period, the athlete may not travel to away games or suit up for home games. If the offense occurs near the end of a season, the punishment may extend to playoff games and into the season of the student’s next sport. At the end of the suspension time, the coach may reinstate the player if all the coach’s expectations are met. The coach has the option of not reinstating the player. During the suspension, the athlete should attend practice but may not participate in athletic contests any more (in quality or quantity) than any other uninjured player on the team. A coach may also apply a stricter policy, see “awards”
2. A SECOND OFFENSE during the school year will result in the removal of the student from the team and the loss of athletic eligibility for the remainder of the school year.

In addition to the above, if the use or possession occurs while on campus, during a school activity, or under the supervision of a SVUSD employee, penalties that all students face for Education Code 48900 and 48915 violations will ensue. In addition to these penalties, further actions by the Athletic Department may occur.

2. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academic eligibility is framed through CIF rules.

- A. To be eligible to participate in sports, a student athlete must have compiled a 2.0 Total GPA, with no more than one F during the previous grading period—and, be on track to graduate on time. Grading periods include progress report grades, quarter grades, and semester grades. A mid-term probationary period for those falling between 1.75 and 1.99 GPA, with no more than one F, and on track to graduate, will be allowed. The student must then earn a 2.0 Total GPA or higher (with no more than one F—and be on track to graduate) during the next grading period to become eligible again.

- B. **Incoming 9th graders who have not achieved a 2.0 may request a probationary period for initial interscholastic athletic eligibility. The student then must earn a 2.0 Total GPA or higher with no more than one F, and be on track to graduate during the next grading period to remain eligible.**
- C. A student must have taken and be taking a minimum of five, full-credit courses during the previous and current grading periods to maintain extracurricular eligibility. Eligible athletes must attend Etna High School classes regularly and be a "Student in Good Standing."
- D. Coaches will encourage academic achievement. The athletic director will set up a procedure to facilitate communication between teachers and coaches regarding the academic standing of athletes.
- E. Eligibility will take effect on Monday following the issuing of grades.
- F. For transfer students, eligibility will be determined by the student's most recent grading period at their former school.
- G. Ineligible players are not allowed to travel to, suit up for, or play in games. They should practice with the team.

3. ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. **On game days, in order to participate in any athletic contest, student athletes MUST:**
 - **Attend every class until dismissed to go to the game.**
 - **Have no tardies in excess of 10 minutes to any class.**

Any exceptions to the above rules, require advanced clearance approval by the athletic director or principal.

Legitimate reasons that permit exceptions to the above rules are:

- **Doctor appointments, medical, dentists, chiropractor etc. MUST BRING A DOCTOR'S NOTE ON GAME DAY**
- Religious observances
- Bereavement
- Other extraordinary circumstances as approved in advance by the athletic director or principal

4. APPEARANCE OF THE ATHLETE

- A. Our athletes represent their teams, school, and community. This makes it important for them to appear well-groomed on game days, in our community and as they travel.
- B. For all games, home and away, each team's athletes should dress as a team, in a manner prescribed by their coach

5. SOCIAL MEDIA

It is expected that students, parents, and coaches use appropriate and ethical etiquette when utilizing social media. Conduct that is unethical, immoral, or otherwise inappropriate for school will be considered as such on social media. Any issue that would fall under this athletic policy to review with a coach or administrator will not be discussed on social media.

6. TRAVEL

- A. Athletes must travel to and from all away events in vehicles provided by or approved by Etna High School. Exceptions to this policy will be made by the principal only after receiving a written, parent/legal guardian request and a telephone call at least one day prior to the event. A school form, "Permission To Ride With Another Adult," is available. It must be completed properly.

- B. For return trips, at the site of the event, parent/ legal guardians may “sign their own children off the bus, assuming all responsibility for their child’s transportation home. Athletes not signed off the bus at the game, or without a “Permission to Ride With Another Adult” form, must return to Scott Valley in the vehicle in which they arrived. During bus trips to athletic events, male and female students may not sit together.
- C. On game days, or any other time a team will be traveling in district-sponsored vehicles, athletes may drive their own vehicles from EHS to a parking site, appointed by their coach. From this place they will board their school vehicle departing Scott Valley. This is also where they will be dropped off as the school vehicle returns to Scott Valley. These student drivers may not transport other students from EHS to this parking site or to any other location. Exceptions to this policy will be made by the principal only after receiving a written, parent/legal guardian request and a telephone call at least one day prior to the event. A school form, “Permission To Ride With a Student,” is available. It must be completed properly.

7. EQUIPMENT

Athletes are responsible for returning all uniforms and gear issued by the school. Students who do not return all equipment will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic contest until the equipment is returned and/or paid for. During this time of ineligibility, the athlete must attend all practices and contests to remain a team member.

8. AWARDS

- A. After their first varsity season, varsity team members (VB, FB, CC, S, BKB, WR, SB, BB,TR,TEN) will receive a Varsity Block “E” and an emblem representing that sport, provided they complete the season meeting the expectations of their head coach.
- A. After all subsequent varsity seasons, athletes who letter will receive only a sport emblem for each sport in which they qualify.
- B. Every JV athlete on an interscholastic team (VB, FB, BB, WR,TR, SB, BB) will receive a participation award. (An athlete suspended for an athletic training violation will not letter, that season, in the sport during which the violation occurred.
- C. Athletes are expected to attend the team award activity concluding each of their athletic seasons unless permission to be excused is granted by the coach BEFORE the awards activity.
- D. The Athletic Department is responsible for perpetual trophies: Varsity M.V.P. , League Championships, the annual, Outstanding Senior Athlete (Male & Female), and the Don & Emily Duncan and Suzanne Wilkins Trophies.

9. SPORTS TRYOUT POLICY

- A. Athletes trying out for a team must have passed a sports physical administered by a qualified healthcare provider, show proof of medical insurance, and submit a signed Concussion Awareness form prior to participation. Students who have not submitted these completed forms may not participate in any sport, in any way.
- B. A student athlete may petition to compete in dual sports during a single season. To do so, a student will need to meet all of the following criteria:
 - 1. Submit a request to the athletic director before the seasons start.
 - 2. Have and maintain a 3.0 Grade Point Average (unweighted).
 - 3. Gain permission from parents, the academic counselor, both head coaches, and the athletic director.
 - 4. Designate a priority sport, of the two, in case grades or other conflicts make it necessary to drop one. (If one is a team sport, it will always be the priority.)

- C. When players are cut from a team, they may try out for another sport with that coach's consent.
- D. Prospective athletes must tryout within the coach's established tryout period. EXCEPTION: Students on a team still in season (playoffs) will need to let the next sport coach know their intention to play in writing order to tryout when playoffs are complete.

10. QUITTING A SPORT

A firm commitment to a team and coach is important. Participants who quit a sport after the final cut are not allowed to try out for any other sport during that sports season or practice for another sport until the original sport season ends and will miss 20% of games of a sport during the subsequent season. Any special circumstances will be referred to the Athletic Board of Control for a decision.

11. PRACTICE

- A. Conditioning should be a regular part of the practice plan in every sport. Athletes in every sport are expected to practice or have competitions for an average of at least one and a half hours, four days a week.
- B. Athletes in fall sports must participate in a minimum of 10 days of practice before competing in scrimmages or games. Athletes in winter or spring sports must participate in five days of practice before competing, unless they could not do so because of playoff games in a previous sport.
- C. Athletes must be well-supervised at all times.

12. MINIMUM NUMBERS

Minimum numbers will be determined by the Athletic Director in collaboration with the Principal.

13. THE ATHLETIC BOARD OF CONTROL

This board consists of all high school interscholastic varsity head coaches, the athletic director, and the principal. Their duties include:

- A. Make recommendations regarding athletics and athletic policy to the superintendent and board of trustees.
- B. Hear appeals and make recommendations regarding athletic code violations. (Appeals can only be heard if reported to the principal or athletic director in writing and signed by an adult.)
- C. A majority vote of the members present determines the outcome of the appeal. Two thirds of the Athletic Board of Control must be present to constitute a quorum and one of those present must be an athletic director or the principal. If a coach has a conflict of interest they will not be part of the voting process.
- D. Select individual coaches for a committee to interview athletic director candidates.

Transportation

The Scott Valley Unified School District provides "home- to-school" bus service in accordance with the district transportation policy. The privilege of riding these buses is granted to all eligible students as long as they follow the rules and regulations found in the Guide to Student Responsibilities while Riding the Buses (BP 5131.1).

Activity Buses

School buses and/or vans are provided to transport EHS students to and from many school-sponsored activities such as field trips, concerts and athletic events. Students riding to and from these events are subject to the same rules and regulations as home-to-school riders. Permission slips are required on all school-sponsored trips with the exception of athletics.

Transportation by Private Automobile

The Superintendent or designee may authorize the transportation of students by private automobile for approved field trips and activities when the vehicle is driven by a responsible adult (non-high school student) with a completed School Driver Certification Form, copy of the Driver's License and Proof of Insurance, and an H-6 form on file with the transportation office. This form must be resubmitted each school year.

Athletic Events

Students participating in athletic contests are subject to all district transportation policies and specifically those policies relating to transportation to and from athletic events.

Special Circumstances Transportation

Any Etna High School student participating in a school- sponsored activity will utilize the transportation provided by the district (bus, van, private automobile, etc.) to and from the concerned activity except in cases where prior approval is given by the principal for the student to be transported to and from the activity by his or her parent, or legal guardian.

If a parent or legal guardian wishes to transport his or her child home from the event to which the child traveled via district transportation, the parent or legal guardian, and only the parent or legal guardian, may sign for the release of said child. This signed release must be made in the presence of the district transportation driver or designee.

Requests by parents for their child to ride home with another parent must be turned in on the request form the day prior to the event. No phone call requests will be accepted. We must have a signed document. In addition, a confirming telephone call must be made to the secretary by the parent or legal guardian before the event. This form is also available on our website.

If a student rides home with someone other than his or her parent or legal guardian without the properly signed release, that student may be suspended from district transportation privileges and from participation in extra-curricular activities for a period not to exceed one school year.