ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

Appendix D to the Student and Family Handbook, 2026-2027 School Year

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." - Colossians 3:23

1. Purpose and Scope

This Handbook sets out the rules, eligibility requirements, travel and practice expectations, coach communication procedures, and drug-testing requirements applicable to Expression Preparatory Academy athletics. It is Appendix D to the Student and Family Handbook and expands upon Section VIII of that Handbook. The Student and Family Handbook remains the controlling School policy document. By signing or electronically accepting the Student and Family Handbook acknowledgment, the parent/legal guardian also acknowledges and accepts this Appendix D, including the drug-testing consent and authorization in Section 7.

2. Cross-Campus Participation

An Expression Preparatory Academy athletic program may be administratively based at either the Louisa, Kentucky campus or the Huntington, West Virginia campus, regardless of where a participating student is enrolled academically. Athletic eligibility is based upon the requirements of the applicable program and governing rules, not solely upon the student's campus of academic enrollment.

3. Athletic Programs Offered

Expression Preparatory Academy may offer athletic programs system-wide through its Huntington and Louisa campuses. Programs, seasons, team placement, schedules, and applicable governing-association requirements may be established or modified by School administration.

4. Academic and Attendance Eligibility

A student-athlete must meet the academic standing requirements in Section III and the attendance requirements in Section IV of the Student and Family Handbook to remain eligible for practice, competition, and team travel. A student absent from school may not participate in athletics that same day unless administration approves an exception consistent with School policy.

5. Tryouts and Roster Decisions

Team selection, roster placement, playing level, and roster changes are determined by the coaching staff and School administration. Participation in tryouts does not guarantee placement on a team or continued placement for the entire season.

6. Team Rules and Code of Conduct

Every student-athlete and coach must comply with the Student Conduct, Discipline, and Restoration provisions of the Student and Family Handbook and the standards applicable to athletics, including sportsmanship, respect, academic priority, attendance, care of facilities and equipment, and appropriate conduct during practices, competitions, travel, and team activities.

7. Student-Athlete Drug and Substance Testing - Students Under Age 18

Expression Preparatory Academy is committed to protecting the health, safety, character, and well-being of student-athletes. Consistent with the School's Christian mission, participation in athletics is a privilege and is conditioned upon compliance with this drug and substance testing policy.

Consent Through Handbook Acknowledgment.

For any student-athlete under age eighteen (18), the parent/legal guardian's signature, electronic acceptance, or other completion of the Student and Family Handbook acknowledgment constitutes **express consent and authorization for drug and substance testing under this policy.** No separate drug-testing consent form is required unless applicable law requires additional authorization.

Testing.

Testing may occur on a pre-participation, random, reasonable-suspicion, post-incident, return-to-participation, or follow-up basis. Testing may include illegal drugs, controlled substances, marijuana/THC, alcohol when appropriate, and misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medication. Properly prescribed medication will not, by itself, constitute a violation.

Parent Notification and Suspension.

For non-routine or reasonable-suspicion testing, the School will make a good-faith effort to notify the parent/legal guardian by telephone before testing. Notification is a courtesy and does not delay or invalidate testing. Once a student is selected for testing, the student will be temporarily suspended from practices, competitions, team travel, and team activities until a negative result is verified or any required confirmatory review is completed.

Results, Privacy, and Refusal.

Testing will be conducted in a manner intended to protect student dignity and confidentiality. An initial non-negative screen will ordinarily be reviewed or confirmed before being treated as a final positive result. Refusal to test, unjustified failure to appear, specimen tampering, substitution, or an attempt to defeat testing may be treated as an athletics policy violation.

Consequences and Restoration.

A confirmed violation may result in continued athletic suspension, a parent conference, counseling or education, a restoration or return-to-participation plan, or removal from the athletic program for repeated violations. The purpose of this policy is safety, accountability, and biblical restoration rather than humiliation. Separate School discipline, if any, will be handled under the Student and Family Handbook.

Continuing Authorization.

The Handbook acknowledgment provides continuing authorization for testing throughout the school year and the student's participation in School athletics. A parent/legal guardian may withdraw consent; however, the student will be ineligible for School athletics while consent is withheld or withdrawn. The School will administer this policy subject to applicable law and governing athletic-association requirements.

8. Travel Procedures

Student-athletes are expected to follow all School and team rules during athletic travel. Transportation, lodging, supervision, curfews, room assignments, conduct expectations, and other travel procedures will be determined by the School and coaching staff. Students may be removed from travel or competition for conduct that creates a safety concern or materially violates School policy.

9. Practice Expectations

Student-athletes are expected to attend scheduled practices, arrive on time, be prepared to participate, follow coaching direction, and communicate absences appropriately. Practice schedules, off-season activities, conditioning, and team obligations are established by the coaching staff subject to School and applicable governing-association requirements.

10. Recruiting and College Athletics Process

Expression Preparatory Academy supports student-athletes pursuing collegiate opportunities. Students remain responsible for academic performance, character development, NCAA or other eligibility requirements, communication with colleges, recruiting responsibilities, and eligibility standards. The School will assist families throughout the recruiting process whenever possible.

11. NIL, Public Image, and Digital Conduct

For the basketball program, NIL, public image, media, digital conduct, third-party contact, and sports wagering provisions are addressed in Appendix F, the Student-Athlete Public Image, Media, and Digital Conduct Policy. Student-athletes must also comply with all applicable Student and Family Handbook requirements concerning public conduct and representation of the School.

12. Coach Communication Procedures

Appropriate parent-coach discussions include student development, character growth, ways to support improvement, academic concerns, and health or safety concerns. Playing time, team strategy, game decisions, roster decisions, and other athletes' performance are determined by the coaching staff. Concerns should follow the biblical communication principles outlined in Matthew 18 and described in Section XI of the Student and Family Handbook.

13. Relationship to Other Governing Documents

This Appendix D supplements the Student and Family Handbook and does not replace the applicable Enrollment Agreement and Tuition Contract or other program-specific agreements and policies. Where a conflict arises, the controlling document governs its respective subject matter. The Student and Family Handbook acknowledgment expressly incorporates this Appendix D and constitutes the parent/legal guardian's consent and authorization for drug and substance testing under Section 7, subject to applicable law.