

Evanston Parks and Recreation and Evanston/Skokie School District 65 Athletic Handbook



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Introduction

Dear District 65 Students, Families, and Caregivers,

In partnership with School District 65, we are excited to bring Elementary sports to the City of Evanston. Our community leaders have worked extremely hard to design a sports program that will not only allow students to participate in athletics, but also learn important skills that can be utilized in the future. We want to create an environment that will prepare students for continued physical, academic, and social and emotional success. We hope that you will join us in our new journey as we further welcome opportunities for our students to engage in high quality sports and athletic programming.

The purpose of this handbook is to relay important rules and guidelines to students and families around sportsmanship, health and safety, and conduct and performance as they relate to athletic activities and academic integrity.

After reading this handbook, both the student athlete and a parent/caregiver must sign and return the parent permission form included at the close of this handbook. Signing these documents indicate that both the student athlete and the parent have read the handbook and agree to all policies and procedures described within the handbook.

Eric Eichholz
Athletics Program Coordinator
He/Him/His

Requirements for Participation

In order to be able to participate in practices or contests, each athlete must have satisfied the following:

1. All players must register with the City of Evanston and pay either online or in-person at one of the Community Centers (Chandler-Newberger, Ecology, Fleetwood-Jourdain, Levy, Robert Crown, Prieto). (Schools are NOT able to turn in a roster for the City to register players). Phone registrations are not accepted.
2. For players receiving a City scholarship, the players must still pay the remaining registration fee after the scholarship has been applied.
3. The player must have a City of Evanston account in order to register for the league. The account is free, and only takes a few minutes to set up online at cityofevanston.org/register.
4. Schools should communicate if they will be dividing their team into 2 teams based on the amount of players registered.

Sports Offerings

The City of Evanston and School District 65 offers a variety of sports programming to our elementary school students. Below, please review a list of sports and activities offered each season. Fall sports begin in September and run through October. Winter sports begin in January and continue through March. Spring sports begin in April and continue through May, dates for sports will be announced during the school year. All sports are offered to 4th and 5th graders with some sports including 1st-3rd grade leagues.

Fall:

- Flag Football
- Cross Country

Winter:

- Basketball
- Cheerleading

Spring:

- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track

Sportsmanship

The Evanston Parks & Recreation Department and School District 65 believes that youth sports should emphasize **FUN, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND TEACHING SKILLS**, not winning or losing. A major element in any youth sports program is equal competition. Most programs do this through some kind of player evaluation system and draft to spread out the talent. They also distribute the players so that each team has the same number. This is not the case in our league programs. Some teams have 20 players, some 10 players. Some have many skilled players; some may have first time players. Therefore, we work toward the goal that all athletes have a positive experience. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized, and respect should be shown to officials, coaches, teammates, and opponents. Teamwork skills should be developed through the positive support of teammates and maintenance of team discipline. All players should have fun.

Scholarships

If the parent/guardian of the child would like to apply for a scholarship with the City of Evanston, they can go online to our Fee Assistance page and complete the application. Confidential fee assistance is available to qualified Evanston residents based on family size and total family income. A "resident" lives in ZIP codes 60201 or 60202. Fee Assistance (scholarship) applications are available at local community centers as well as located online. Applications are not processed by telephone and it could take five business days to process an application. Fee assistance is valid for a year. (See below for website link).

<https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/parks-recreation-community-services/recreation/fee-assistance>

Practice and Game Day Expectations

Practice Expectations:

- Athletes will report to practice on designated days. Athletes who leave a school or designated building before the start of practice will not be allowed back into the building unless discussed previously with their coach.
- Athletes will be respectful to school property, coaches, teammates, and adults.

Game Day Expectations

- Parents are responsible for dropping off and picking students up
- Must arrive 15 minutes prior to start time
- Bring extra clothes for unexpected weather conditions
- Be respectful to adults, staff members, peers, and facilities

Coach, Parent, Spectator and Player Code of Conduct

Parents must sign this league code of conduct form before their children may play in the City of Evanston's sports leagues. Parents and guardians must agree to follow this policy. Children will not be permitted to play without having this sheet signed by their parent or legal guardian and returned to the league on-time.

COACHES:

- Coaches will not criticize players in front of spectators.
- Coaches will accept the decisions of officials and will not criticize the officials, the opposing team, the coaches, fans or parents, through language or gesture.
- Coaches will support their students on the field and in the classroom emphasizing that good athletes are good students.
- Coaches will emphasize that winning a game is the result of teamwork.
- Coaches shall not use abusive or profane language at any time, they will always set an example in personal conduct.
- Coaches will treat each player, referees, opposing coach and players, parents and administrator with respect and dignity.
- Coaches will learn the strengths and weaknesses of his/her player so they might place them into situations where they have a maximum opportunity to achieve success.
- Coaches will give constructive criticism during a private moment, never in front of other parents, players, officials, spectators, etc.

PARENTS & SPECTATORS:

- Support your coaches, and refrain from "sideline coaching" from the stands.
- Do not criticize an opposing team, its players, fans, coaches or team, by words or gestures and refrain from using profanity. Accept the decisions of officials on the field as being fair and called to the best ability of the officials.
- Parents must stay off the field/court and remain under control to set a good example for players and other spectators.
- Support the coaches, players and officials and help teach the value of commitment to the teams, sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.

- Inappropriate behavior is cause for immediate ejection from the park. Repeat offenses will result in being barred from future games. Parents will not encourage their child, or any other person, to engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participants, officials or any other attendee.

PLAYERS:

- Have fun!
- Be a good sport (win or lose), be honest, fair and always show good sportsmanship to all coaches, players, officials and fans.
- Learn the value of commitment to the team.
- Put personal goals aside for the betterment of the team.
- Show courtesy and respect to teammates, opponents and coaches.
- Players will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct or rude behavior.

Volunteer Coaches

Parent/guardian volunteer coaches are needed for all City of Evanston sports leagues. Coaches will choose their practice day/time based on what works for their schedule and can make schedule requests for games to help accommodate their schedule. A coach deck with practice drills will be provided to help guide practices. All coaches will be required to complete a free fingerprint background check. All coaches serve in a volunteer capacity and do not receive compensation.

Important League Reminders

Equipment: The Evanston Parks & Rec Department will provide team jerseys and equipment on game days. D65 will provide teams with equipment for practices.

Complaints and discipline of coaches: Complaints from parents about coaches (child's playing time, practice time, etc.) should first be directed to your coach and then the Evanston Parks & Recreation Department. Should the Evanston Parks & Rec Department staff see and document abusive language/actions or flagrant violations of league rules, the department reserves the right to discipline the coach in question with a suspension and/or expulsion from the league.

Rules of play: Please review the league guidelines & rules packet which will be sent out at a later date.

Referees: The referees used in these programs are not professional or high school basketball officials. In fact, for some this may be their first experience officiating. The referees will do the best job they can, they will miss calls, they will make bad calls and they will make correct calls. Give them a break. They are trained to work WITH the coaches to support the kids. Please treat them with respect. They are trained to treat you with respect as well. They will do quite a bit of talking to players during games (especially with the younger players) and help teach the game.

Statusfy Information

To ensure we are doing our best to keep participants updated on inclement weather or any facility issues, we will be using Statusfy. This is a free app that can be downloaded on any Apple or Android phone as well as any computer. This app will allow participants to check the status of rainouts. Follow Evanston Parks & Recreation to stay updated. You can also choose to receive emails and/or text alerts. ***The extension for Youth Sports Leagues is 59.*** If you would rather check the rainouts by calling in, you can call (847) 448-0034. Once you are connected with the hotline, you will need to select extension 59.

Athletic Handbook Signature Sheet

I have read the student athletic handbook, code of conduct, and understand the expectations and policies that have been put in place. Please return this page with your signature to your student's coach and keep the handbook as a handy reference.

The undersigned hereby submits assurance that any individual attending the City of Evanston Parks & Recreation Department program, activity, or rental space for which this agreement/contract is in place will not discriminate or deny equal access to service and treatment to any individual regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, housing status, disability, gender identity, or gender expression.



Student Name (Please Print) _____

Student Signature _____

Student Grade Level _____

Guardian Name (Please Print) _____

Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Volunteer Waiver

Your acceptance of a volunteer assignment must carry with it your understanding that the assignment is offered pending final clearances and may be terminated at any time with or without cause, or changed at any time by the City of Evanston. By accepting a volunteer assignment, you also agree to the following Terms and Conditions:

1. I understand, appreciate and agree to personally assume any and all liability and risks of volunteering with the City that may be dangerous and carry with it certain inherent risks. I affirm that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age or have permission from a parent/guardian.
2. I understand and agree that the City of Evanston is relying on my promise to volunteer as scheduled and accordingly, I must be available for my particular assignment as scheduled. I shall attend any on-the-job-training sessions as requested or required by the City.
3. I understand that as a volunteer, I will receive no compensation or benefits for my services. I understand that I may be assigned to work cooperatively with paid employees of the City of Evanston.
4. While on assignment as a volunteer, I shall not engage in religious or political activities, or any unauthorized commercial activity. I shall abide by all other standards or conduct as outlined in policies established by the City of Evanston.
5. At all times that I volunteer, I hereby understand that I have no authority to incur obligations on behalf of the City of Evanston, and I do not exercise authority on behalf of the City. I shall not take any action during my volunteer activities that may be construed as exercising authority on behalf of the City of Evanston.
6. I understand that there may be media coverage of certain events at City of Evanston facilities and events. Should my likeness be photographed, taped or otherwise recorded by the City of Evanston or media, I irrevocably consent to the reproduction and use of such photography, tapes, or other recordings without compensation to me and hereby assign any rights I may have to the City.
7. I acknowledge that law enforcement agencies and private investigators will perform background checks on volunteer opportunities. I hereby consent to such inquiries and agree to comply with all security and access policies and practices with the City of Evanston. I understand that access credentials are the property of the City of Evanston, and I will surrender them upon demand.
8. I agree to hold in confidence any information disclosed to me concerning the business activities of the City of Evanston, and any information relating to any confidential or proprietary data and agree not to divulge such information to any person or persons unless I have received written authorization from the City of Evanston. I agree not to remove any documents or materials (whether computer-generated, hard copy, audio, or otherwise) from any of the offices or other locations in which the City of Evanston conducts business without prior written consent from the City Manager. I agree not to use any photographic or recording equipment, within any of the offices or other locations in which the City of Evanston conducts business, and I expressly agree that any such photographs or records, if made, may be retrieved without notice by the City of Evanston and/or enjoined from the use by the City of Evanston.
9. I hereby assign to the City of Evanston all right, title, and interest in and to any work product developed or created by me for the City of Evanston in connection with my services as a volunteer. I acknowledge that this assignment further extends to any and all profits derived from the sale, use or other application of any such work product or part thereof.

10. I hereby waive, release and discharge any and all claims for personal injury, death or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of my participation in the volunteer assignments. I agree to indemnify and to hold harmless the City, and its officers, employees, attorneys, and agents from any loss, liability, damage, cost, or expense which they may incur as the result of my death, injury, or property damage that I sustain while participating in the volunteer assignments. This release is intended to discharge in advance the City of Evanston, its officers, employees, attorneys, and agents from any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in the volunteer assignments, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities mentioned above. I further agree that this waiver, release and assumption of risk is binding upon my heirs and assigns.

I FURTHER AGREE that if any claim or suit is pursued by me or on my behalf as a result of injuries from the volunteer activities that I participate in, against the City of Evanston, and its officers, employees, attorneys, and agents, I will Indemnify and Hold Harmless these parties from all judgments, payments, damages and claims, including all costs, expenses and attorneys' fees incurred by these parties in defending against such claim.

The undersigned hereby submits assurance that any individual attending the City of Evanston Parks & Recreation Department program, activity, or rental space for which this agreement/contract is in place will not discriminate or deny equal access to service and treatment to any individual regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, housing status, disability, gender identity, or gender expression.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY, AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EVANSTON AND ME, AND I SIGN IN OF MY FREE WILL.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____