



# Eden Valley-Watkins Eagles

Independent School District No. 463

Eden Valley-Watkins Athletic Department

Holly Hansen,  
Activities Director

298 Brook Street, Eden Valley, MN 55329

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## **2025-2026 Parent (Fan) Decorum Policy**

At a time when society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontations and unmanaged anger associated with youth sports, Eden Valley -Watkins High School wishes to state its philosophical stance for keeping our athletes, coaches, and fans safe; insisting on proper behavior and promoting our positive reputation as regards to sportsmanship.

We recognize that the majority of our parents and fans set a behavioral example of the highest standard. However, the few who do not, force us to address these issues.

Our coaches, student-athletes, and regular students are subject to school rules and expected behavior as established by the Minnesota State High School League and EV-W school board. It therefore becomes incumbent upon us to set standards for the behavior of our adult fans and parents.

Eden Valley-Watkins High School supports the MSHSL and the Central Minnesota Conference rules and the emphasis on good sportsmanship. We embrace this fully by definition and in spirit of intent. Proper human courtesies, kindness and decorum must apply to all relationships and situations, and sports are no exception. High school and junior high sports exist to build character, allow students to express themselves through physical exertion and skills, and as entertainment. EV-W will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed towards EV-W staff or players, the opposing school and all its representatives or the game officials. Inappropriate behavior is embarrassing to the school and reflects poorly on our values as a community.

Parents (fans) need to understand certain facets of the structure of high school athletics and the relationship involved.

Notably . . .

1. The coach alone is responsible for deciding who plays and how much. Participation is a privilege not an inherent right. At EV-W, our athletes that are on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams will have equitable playing time as long as the athlete follows all guidelines assigned by the coach. On 9<sup>th</sup> grade teams, the playing time may not be equal but the athlete will receive significant playing time as long as the coaches' guidelines are followed. On all 10<sup>th</sup> grade, JV and Varsity teams, the coach will determine playing time in relation to the athletes' skills and attitudes as well as the needs of the program.
2. By allowing one's child or children to play sports, the parent is, in effect, turning the child over to that coach for that time period. The coach will instruct the child and keep the child safe within the normally accepted standards. Coaches are operating within the best interests of all student-athletes in their charge.
3. It is inappropriate for a parent to confront a coach immediately before, during or after an event. Parents must wait 24 hours after an event before they meet with the coach. A tournament is considered an event and the coach must not be confronted until at least 24 hours after the last game of the tournament is played. This "cooling off" period will help avoid conflict at a potentially emotional time. If a parent cannot reach satisfactory resolve from the coach, he/she may then contact the Athletic Director.
4. It is never acceptable to make derogatory comments about the officials, coaches, players of either team or other parents and fans at an athletic event.
5. It is never acceptable to be swearing at public athletic events.
6. It is not acceptable to come to an athletic event intoxicated.
7. Being offensive in any other fashion is not acceptable.



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Parents who violate any of these standards of decorum risk sanctions established by the Central Minnesota Conference Fan Department Policy and the Eden Valley-Watkins school board including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. A warning, verbal or written.
- B. Removal from the contest or premises.
- C. Banishment from attendance at athletic contests for a set period of time or even permanently.
- D. The severing of further contact with team personnel.
- E. Civil or legal action.

In conclusion, the EV-W athletic department commends those parents who have always exhibited exemplary behavior and have served as positive role models for our student-athletes. We encourage our parents to volunteer, to become involved with our teams, and to be supportive of the attempts of the entire community to educate our youth. By working together, we will establish Eden Valley-Watkins athletes as a "class" act.

We sincerely want to strive to make sportsmanship at Eden Valley - Watkins an expectation . . .

Where we let players play

Coaches coach

Officials officiate

And let the fans be positive



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**2025-2026**

### **Signature Form**

We, as parents, agree to abide by and support the rules established by the coaches, the Minnesota State High School League, the Central Minnesota Conference, and the Eden Valley - Watkins School Board and to encourage and assist our athlete in the same.

The undersigned parents or guardians also agree to abide by the conduct guidelines contained in the "Parent (Fan) Decorum Policy". Our student athlete (s) in grades 7 to 12 for the 2025-26 school year are:

Print Students Name\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_

Print Students Name\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_

Print Students Name\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_

Print Students Name\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_

Signed\_\_\_\_\_ / /  
Parent/Guardian Mo Day Yr

Signed\_\_\_\_\_ / /  
Parent/Guardian Mo Day Yr

**STUDENT ATHLETES MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICES OR CONTESTS UNTIL THIS FORM IS SIGNED AND ON FILE WITH THE SCHOOL ATHLETIC OFFICE.**