

# Eclipse Sports Handbook

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2017 Season

Composed by Volunteers in the Omaha Eclipse Sports Program



Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

## General Information

Forward: This purpose of this handbook is to provide basic policies, philosophies and procedures used by Omaha Eclipse to facilitate its sports programs. You should read, understand, and comply with all provisions of the handbook. It describes many of your responsibilities as a player or parent of a player as you are involved with the program.

No handbook can anticipate every circumstance or question about policy. As Omaha Eclipse continues to grow, the need may arise to change policies described in the handbook. The Omaha Eclipse Management Team, therefore, reserve the right to revise, supplement, or rescind any policy or portion of the handbook from time to time as it deems appropriate. Players and parents will, of course, be notified of such changes as they occur. The current version of this information will be published on the [www.OmahaEclipse.com](http://www.OmahaEclipse.com) website. Throughout this handbook the use of Athletic Director will be understood to mean Athletic Director or any member of the Advisory Board which currently is Mike McCombs and Marty McCombs.

**Eligibility:** Players must be at least 50% home schooled and passing all courses. Players may not have participated in a high school graduation ceremony prior to the beginning of the season, and may not be 19 years of age prior to August 1st of the season year. If the player attends a Christian, Rule 13 or Rule 12 school that does not offer the sport of interest, they may petition to play with an Omaha Eclipse team. All petitions to participate are subject to approval.

**Health Insurance Liability:** All players are expected to carry personal health insurance providing coverage should injury occur during practices or games. Parents, guardians, and players agree that Omaha Eclipse, as well as the facilities used for practices and games, will not be held responsible for any injuries.

**Parental Involvement:** The program cannot exist without the volunteer help of parents and family. All families are expected to volunteer and fill roles as needed. Each sport will have a volunteer coordinator who will coordinate all volunteers in their respective sport. If a sport hosts a tournament during a season, additional volunteering to help with the tournament is required.

**Team Assignment:** Players are assigned to teams by coaches based on age, ability, team chemistry; positional requirements and player/parent preference are a secondary consideration. The assignment continues at the coach's discretion throughout the season. Junior High and younger players will remain with their teams through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Coaches may request a player to move to a different/higher team or play for more than one team in a program only after discussion with the player's parents and the coaches for all teams involved. If all parties are in agreement, the player may be asked to comply. Varsity starters may not start on JV teams, but may play as player numbers require.

**Coaching Philosophy:** Our desire is to develop young men in both athletic skills and life skills. Coaching technique will vary from coach to coach, as well as with different ages and team levels. There certainly is the desire to win games, but it is our higher goal to develop players throughout the years. Elementary, Junior High, and JV teams will see coaches rotate players in and out of the game in order to develop players as they mature, their skill develops and to the player's own comfort level. At the Varsity level, the coaches will play the best players, as determined by the coaches, in order to win games.

These decisions are the responsibility of each team's coach and are based on various factors, including player attendance at practices and games, attitude and effort put in at practices and games, cohesiveness with other players, etc.

Omaha Eclipse has full confidence in the coaches they have chosen and will leave these decisions to them. If a player has a question about his/her playing time, then **the player** is encouraged to address this personally with their coach.

If there is another type of problem, parents and players are requested to bring these to the Football Director privately. **At no time is it acceptable for parents/guardians to approach coaches about issues related to coaching unless it is to ask a question for further clarification.**

### **Concussion in Youth Sports**

On April 14th, 2012, Governor Heineman signed into law LB260, the **Nebraska Concussion Awareness Act**. This bill took effect July 1, 2012. The bill affects athletes 19 years old or younger, sports organization, including youth leagues, club sports, or any organization sponsoring a sporting activity where there is a cost to participants or where such costs are sponsored must follow the law/act.

Omaha Eclipse has several resources available for our coaches, parents and players to educate and comply with the requirements of LB260. We do recommend that everyone review and familiarize themselves with these resources for the safety and well-being of our athletes.

# Omaha Eclipse Philosophies

## **Who are we?**

Omaha Eclipse is a competitive sports club for Omaha area homeschooled youth whose desire is to experience athletics in a competitive and yet fully Christ-centric environment. Athletics are by their very nature competitive, which is why they keep score. We believe that there is value in learning to compete without compromising our faith or core values.

## **What is our goal?**

Our mission is: Building excellence among the home educated young men in the Omaha area emphasizing attitude and effort within a Christian ethic; demonstrating the pursuit of excellence in all that we do, not for our own glory but as ambassadors of Christ.

## **What is our strategy?**

Eclipse coaches will focus on building team excellence by developing the individual player. We will work hard, master the fundamentals of the game, practice good sportsmanship and teamwork both on and off the field of play. As we succeed in achieving these goals, our youth will naturally excel both as players and young Christian gentlemen.

## **Who are our leaders?**

We believe that leading by example is the best way to model excellence and build character in our players. Because Omaha Eclipse emphasizes a Christian ethic, our leadership is committed to upholding a Biblical standard in word and in deeds.

## **What else?**

We will play other homeschool and small Christian schools in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska and our high school teams play in regional tournaments. Our younger teams may also participate in local age-appropriate leagues. We work hard to provide the highest quality sports' experience for our kids while working equally hard to keep costs to a minimum. We offer varied forms of fundraising to give our families the opportunity to offset their costs. Team fundraising is required as well to help keep individual costs to a minimum.

We strive to create a sense of community, and so we ask each family to volunteer during their season to spread out the work but also to hopefully give every family a sense of ownership in the success of the Eclipse programs.

# Omaha Eclipse Fees/Fundraising

Registration fees for 2017 season are:

\$135 for flag football teams

We offer a family discount of \$20 off for additional registrants in the same household. Free admission is granted to all Eclipse home games to any family member of an Eclipse player.

Players are accountable for their own travel expenses (food, gas, lodging, etc.).

There will be several forms of fundraising available for families to utilize; all funds will apply first to fees unless otherwise noted:

1. Pizza Palz - player pays \$11 for each coupon and \$5 will be credited to player.
2. Web Sponsorships.
  - a. Bronze \$50 (\$40 to player / \$10 to Eclipse)
  - b. Silver \$100 (\$75 to player / \$25 to Eclipse)
  - c. Gold \$150 (\$100 to player / \$50 to Eclipse)
3. Restaurant Events (Pizza Ranch, HEN Conference, etc.) - proceeds will be equally divided among participating families then credited to those players.

Minimum first  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Registration Fee due July 28, 2017. All registration fees and fundraising are due August 11, 2017. **Players with unpaid fees will not be allowed to play in any games;** unless prior alternate arrangements are made with the Athletic Director.

# Uniform Requirements

## Football:

**Shoes:** Metal cleats are not to be worn; only cleats made of molded rubber are acceptable. Shoes that have removable cleats are also acceptable as long as they don't have metal tips.

**Mouth guards:** Every player is required to have a usable mouth guard in order to participate in any practice, scrimmage or game.

**Shorts:** Shorts are provided but are paid for by the player. Regulation football pants or full-length warm-ups without pockets are both permissible. Compression shorts should be worn under the shorts. A compression shirt isn't required but is suggested.

**Jersey:** The jersey will be provided but is paid for by the player. T-shirts or hoodless sweat-shirts are acceptable for practices.

# Code of Conduct

## **Players are expected:**

1. To show respect to the coaches, players, and those officiating our games
2. To strive for excellence as a player and to model leadership.
3. To be coachable - willing to take direction, instruction, and discipline.
4. To be on time for practices and games.
5. To contact their coach when they are unable to be at a practice or game.
6. To follow the team rules and instructions, both verbal and written.
7. To not use any abusive, foul, degrading, disruptive, or complaining language, and to always remain encouraging to those around them.
8. To report all injuries to the coaching staff ASAP.
9. Remove all jewelry prior to a practice or game. Any exceptions must be discussed with the coach.

These expectations/rules must be maintained while the players are under the authority of the coaches and chaperones at any Eclipse event. For traveling purposes, this begins at the time when the team departs the Omaha rendezvous point and continues until it returns.

## **Parents/Guardians are expected:**

1. To make every reasonable effort to have the player at all scheduled practices and games to fulfill their commitment to the team.
2. To contact Omaha Eclipse Football Director first with any problems, concerns, or comments regarding the program.
3. To make the coaches or Football Director aware of any physical, mental, or emotional problems that their player may experience.
4. To show respect to the fellow parents, spectators, coaches, players, and those officiating our games
5. To abide by the guidelines and policies published by Omaha Eclipse at the beginning of season and available for download from [www.OmahaEclipse.com](http://www.OmahaEclipse.com) website.
6. To support the Eclipse program by volunteering to help with the many functions surrounding the program.
7. To pay fees by assigned due dates and to provide correct contact and personal information to prevent miscommunications.

**Communication:** We communicate primarily through e-mail. If this is a problem, you will need to set up an alternative form of communication. Schedule changes are inevitable so please be flexible and check the website and your e-mail regularly. If weather is questionable, we will e-mail or text cancellation notices.

## 2017 Board Members

Larry Brown (President) - Football Director

Mike McCombs (Vice President)

Marty McCombs (Treasurer)

Dawn Andersen (Secretary)

Matt Andersen

Maureen Brown

Patrick Dean

Melany Dean

Board members can be contacted at: [Football@OmahaEclipse.com](mailto:Football@OmahaEclipse.com)