



EDGE Athletics Summer Camp Behavior Policy

About EDGE Athletics' Summer Camp Behavior Policies

EDGE Athletics' standard of care is that every child feels safe and secure while engaging in fun, structured games and activities. We strive to build a child's self-esteem, character, and social skills while also setting reasonable, natural boundaries and consequences. We encourage self-discipline and require respect for others.

When behavior issues arise, we work within the camp setting to help the camper meet their needs. However, behavioral issues require not only camp counselors and team member intervention, but also support and reinforcement of camp rules and boundaries from parents. This does not mean that your children are "bad" – they are learning and understanding right from wrong.

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Consequences for this type of behavior are determined on a case-by-case basis. Early pick up, suspension, or removal from the program can result if behavior that is not conducive to our mission cannot be rectified.

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It is important that campers have clear boundaries and easy to understand rules. Because of this, camp expectations will be reviewed with all campers by EDGE Staff members every morning at 8:45am.

Should a camper need to change his/her behavior, EDGE Athletics counselors always start with multiple gentle, helpful verbal corrections or redirections. These initial attempts at behavior change are always framed as positively as possible. If it becomes clear that verbal redirections are not helping the camper change their behavior, EDGE Athletics may utilize different strategies, as determined on a case-by-case basis. This could result in "time out," a call to a parent (which could result in early pick-up).

Additional Information on removal from camp

Early Pickup for the Day Early

An early pick-up may happen if the camper exhibits a behavior that puts themselves, our staff, or other campers in danger. Violent outbursts, hitting, vulgar language, bullying and self-injury, among other dangerous behaviors, are all grounds for early pickup, without prior warning.

Dismissal for the Week

Should a camper be sent home early multiple times within the same week, or should it be clear that they are unable to change their behavior, a camper may be removed from camp for the remainder of the week. Our hope is that the camper and their parents will create a plan of action and return the following week with better behavior. This does not necessarily mean that the camper has been removed from the camp permanently.

Removal From Camp

Some children have needs that are beyond the scope of EDGE Athletics' staff training and environmental structure. If we find that we are not able to properly meet a camper's needs, or if we determine that EDGE Athletics is not the best environment for a camper, we may choose to remove them from camp.

While this decision could be based on the camper exhibiting multiple, unchanged behavioral issues, it could also be because a child is not engaging well with their peers, is not ready to be away from their primary caregiver for the entire day, has developmental needs that our staff is not equipped to meet, is unable to adapt to our environment, or any other number of non-behavior related issues that we have seen arise over the years.

We do not take removing a child from camp lightly, and only do so when we feel it is in the child's best interest, or necessary for the safety or operation of the camp. Should a camper be removed from camp, we will discuss with the parent whether they will be invited to reenroll in future years, or if removal from EDGE Athletics camps and activities is permanent.

Additional Behaviors that are not acceptable for Camp

Bullying

Often, bullying is described as a repeated behavior that belittles a victim. While this could be the case, EDGE Athletics has found that behaviors do not need to be repeated to be bullying; even a single incident can have a devastating effect on a child. EDGE Athletics has a strict anti-bullying policy. Once a bullying behavior has been identified, if it is not corrected immediately, the camper will be removed from camp.

EDGE Athletics describes bullying as: *Bullying is unwanted behavior that places the aggressor in a position of power over the victim, or intentionally makes the victim feel 'less than'.*

-What we do to combat bullying:

1) Responsibility & Education: We place responsibility for change directly on the child who was the aggressor, but we also attempt to educate them about their actions. Children are naturally empathetic, and we find that when we can help them empathize with their victim, we can change their bullying behavior.

2) Parental Support: No parent wants to hear that their child has exhibited bullying behaviors. However, children compartmentalize their actions; it is normal for them to act differently in different environments. True, your child may not bully anyone at your home, but can easily do so when attempting to integrate into a wider social setting like Summer Camp.

We ask that parents listen and engage with our staff, should we need to inform you that your child is involved in bullying. It does not mean they are a "bad child", but without your support, it is unlikely that they will be motivated to change their behavior.

3) Environmental Success: Often bullying occurs where a vacuum or structure, leadership or support exists. These vacuums are often created during lulls in scheduled activity when children are left to entertain themselves, or a time when children are alone together without adult supervision.

Because we know this, EDGE Athletics schedules activities throughout the day, and children are always supervised. We keep our camp counselors staffed at a 1:12 to a 1:15 ratio, depending on the age of the campers. This ensures that as much as possible, children are engaged in a counselor-led, structured activity. While there are a few times a day when children have "free time", it is highly monitored with a line of sight to the bars, pit, floor, trampolines, and front area.

4) A Culture of Inclusion: EDGE Athletics is highly focused on creating a culture of inclusion. We truly believe every child is unique and special, and we work every day to help all of our campers understand, acknowledge and accept that others can be different, and that those differences are to be celebrated, not made fun of.

Physical Aggression

Hitting/kicking/striking/pushing another camper is not acceptable behavior. We understand that sometimes emotions can be difficult to handle, but we cannot tolerate physical aggression. We work to encourage campers to express themselves verbally, approach counselors with issues they are having with other campers or communicate their needs to a parent. Our primary priority is camper safety, and physical aggression puts other campers at risk. If the camper's behavior does not change after positive redirections and discussions with parents, physical aggression is grounds for removal from camp for the day, week, season or permanently.

Inappropriate Language/Subjects

Children repeat or discuss things they hear or see on TV, from adults, at school, etc. We cannot control what your camper says or repeats. However, many of these things are not appropriate for camp. Should a camper repeatedly use inappropriate language or discuss inappropriate topics, they will be asked to leave camp.

Racial slurs/Derogatory language

EDGE Athletics will not tolerate racism of any kind, including racial slurs or derogatory language. We have a zero-tolerance policy, and campers who use racial slurs may be removed from camp with no warnings.

Campers not understanding the gravity of racial slurs or derogatory language will not be an accepted excuse. It is the family's responsibility to teach their children the right ways to treat children of other races and backgrounds, and EDGE Athletics' responsibility to provide all campers with a safe place to spend their summer.

Refusal to Comply with Requests

Safety is our absolute top priority. This means that we must trust that all campers, when asked to do or not do something, comply with staff requests. Staff requests will never be unwarranted or without cause. Should it become clear that a camper repeatedly fails to comply with staff requests (does not get in line with other campers, will not board a bus, refuses to rotate with their group from one activity to the next), they will be removed from camp.

We Appreciate Your Support

EDGE Athletics strives to create a safe environment for all children and families enrolled in our programs. We want every person to enjoy their time here, which requires quick, consistent action when behavior is inappropriate or disruptive. Children, especially in their earlier years, are beginning to understand boundaries and learning about socialization. We work hard to teach them these values and expect support from parents as well. When counselors, parents and campers all work together as a team, we have an amazing Summer!