

Clinton Central School District
Interscholastic Athletic Program Grades 7-12
Student Athlete Code for Training and Behavior

Mission Statement

The Clinton Central School Athletic Programs will reflect District values and support life-long learning by challenging student athletes to strive for excellence.

Goals

- CCS Athletics will strive to set clear and consistent boundaries of behavior that will allow for a comprehensive structure for running a program of excellence.
- CCS Athletes will develop responsibility and leadership through self-discipline, a strong work ethic, respect for others, a winning attitude, regard for team and school rules, and respect for oneself.
- CCS Athletics is an extension of the classroom experience, designed to support and enhance academic achievement.
- CCS Athletic Programs will strive to involve as many students as possible to maximize opportunities to support moral, social and emotional growth of student athletes.

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Overview:

You have elected to participate in an athletic program at the interscholastic level. The program of which you will be a part offers you a chance to grow and mature while enjoying the positive aspects of athletics.

Your desire to take part in the athletic program is a privilege, not a right. As a Student Athlete, you will need to meet these three levels of responsibility.

A. Personal responsibility

A Student Athlete must strive to keep his/her body in the best possible physical health. A Student Athlete must also strive for the best possible mental health. By engaging in activities that interfere with this goal, you will be a less capable athlete and will diminish your experience in athletics. You will be asked to abide by certain guidelines during your involvement with the program. These specifications are outlined later in this document. Adhering to these guidelines will help you develop your mind and body to the peak level necessary for successful athletic competition.

B. Responsibility to the team

A team is only as strong as the weakest member. A Student Athlete weakens the team by not being in top shape, by not attending all practices and by not putting forth 100% effort. There should be no employment conflicts. School and athletics will take precedence over employment.

C. Responsibility to the school

Once a student puts on the uniform of the school or represents the school in athletic competition, the individual and the school are inseparable. Student Athletes must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively upon themselves, the school, and the community.

A Student Athlete will learn a great deal about time management. You will learn to look ahead to prevent conflicts, to budget your time in order to balance the work load of school with the work load of athletics, and to gain an understanding of the importance of proper rest.

You should become familiar with the information in the following pages. That information will be your blueprint for a successful season as a Student Athlete.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRYOUTS:

All Clinton Central School District requirements shall conform to the current requirements of the New York State Education Department and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

1. A Physical examination by a licensed medical doctor or medical practitioner

- a. Exam must declare the student fit for the appropriate activity
- b. Exams are required for modified, junior varsity and varsity sports
- c. Exam results must be submitted to the School Nurse prior to participation in the sport.

2. 7th or 8th grade eligibility for JV or Varsity Sports (For truly exceptional athletes)

- a. Must have a physical examination as stated above
- b. Must gain approval of the Director of Physical Education
- c. Must gain approval of the School Physician
- d. Must complete NYS Selection Classification Process
 - ✓ Parental Permission
 - ✓ Maturation Test performed by the School Physician
 - ✓ Successfully complete state mandated testing
 - ✓ NYSPHSAA guidelines and criteria must be met for the specific sport and level of competition
 - ✓ If all conditions are met, it will warrant a three day tryout evaluation process by coaching staff during which a level of exceptional skill and appropriate maturity level must be displayed.
- e. A decision will then be made for the appropriate level of competition.

3. For a girl to play on a boys' team or a boy to play on a girls' team

- a. Must successfully complete the NYS Mixed Competition Program
- b. The Student Athlete and Parent/Guardian must submit a written request to the District Superintendent and gain approval from the Superintendent
- c. Must have a physical examination as stated above
- d. The Student's primary care physician and the school's physician must give their consent
- e. Must successfully complete the NYS Physical Fitness Screening Test for the sport.

STUDENT ATHLETE OBLIGATIONS:

4. School and Community Behavior

- a. All school rules are to be followed without exception
- b. Student Athletes must practice good social behavior as citizens of the community. Student Athletes must keep in mind that by participation in a sport they represent the school district and community.

5. Attendance Requirements for Academics

- a. Student Athletes must attend **all** scheduled classes
- b. Student Athletes must be on time for school and classes each day
- c. If tardy, Student Athletes must report to the office by 8:30AM in order to participate in after school athletics that day
- d. Student Athletes may not participate in after school athletics during the same day as an absence due to illness or an illegal absence
- e. Students Athletes are required to attend classes the day of a team competition and the day following a team competition
- f. Student Athletes may participate in after school athletics during the same day as a college interview, a job interview or a physician's appointment provided a written note from the appropriate party is obtained.

6. Conduct of the Student Athlete as Part of the Team

- a. Student Athletes take responsibility for their own actions
- b. Student Athletes know that participation in athletics is a privilege that must not be abused by un-sportsmanlike conduct.
- c. Student Athletes at all times demonstrate self-control and respect for other, including officials, coaches, spectators, opponents or teammates
- d. Student Athletes are constructive contributors to the team during practice and games
- e. Student Athletes understand that insubordination, disorderly conduct, mistreatment of other athletes, individuals, teachers, officials and coaches will not be tolerated.
- f. Student Athletes know that improper behavior while participation in a sport reflects poorly upon self, school, and community
- g. Student Athletes understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the sport.

7. Attendance Requirements for After School Athletics

- a. Student Athletes have made a commitment to the team; therefore they have the obligation to be in attendance for all team functions (practice, Team Competitions, Pictures, etc.)
- b. Student Athletes must strive to be on time for all team functions
- c. The attendance record of the Student Athlete will be one of the criteria used in deciding his/her playing time in that sport
- d. If Student Athletes must be late or miss a team function, they must be excused by their Coach in advance of that day.

8. Family Vacations

- a. When parents/guardians and student-athletes choose to take their family vacation during sport seasons, it must be understood that the time missed by the student-athlete can affect team chemistry and personal conditioning. Student-athletes who miss practices or competition for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted at the coach's discretion. Coaches shall make every effort to inform parents/guardians and student-athletes of the season's schedule as far in advance as possible.

INJURIES

9. Must be reported immediately to the Coach and the School Nurse

- a. Medical report must be filled out by the School Nurse for injuries that require further medical attention.

10. Injuries requiring non-emergency medical treatment

- a. Should be referred to the Student Athlete's primary care physician
- b. A written medical statement from that physician must be filed with the School Nurse
- c. The written medical statement must include the following;
 - The nature of the injury
 - Clearly defined physical restrictions for the Student Athlete
- d. The release date when the Student Athlete may resume participation in the specific sport (the sport must be listed on the statement)
- e. The School Nurse will facilitate the Student Athlete's return to the sport
- f. If an injured athlete is out for one week, he/she must obtain a written medical statement, as mentioned above, from the medical provider.

TRANSPORTATION

11. Travel to and from athletic contests

- a. Student Athletes are required to ride in the vehicle(s) provided by the Clinton School District in compliance with New York State's project SAVE legislation. Exceptions are made with the following requirements:
- b. The Parent/Guardian of the student athlete must be the driver of alternate transportation home from the event. Permission of the Athletic Director. The coach will then be notified
- c. Requests must be made *prior* to the day of competition
- d. Other exceptions may, on occasion, be granted by either the Building Principal or the Athletic Director, but the request must be made *prior* to the day of competition and the athlete's parent/guardian *must* be the driver of the vehicle.
- e. Any other exception must be approved by Superintendent via Athletic Directors request and must be construed as an extenuating circumstance.

12. Guidelines for the Student Athlete during transportation

- a. The Student Athlete is expected to be polite and courteous to the drivers and transportation aides
- b. All school rules are in effect during transportation
- c. Glass containers, aerosol cans will not be permitted in the vehicle
- d. Portable stereos may be used with permission from the driver
- e. Every attempt should be made to leave the vehicle in its original condition.

13. Banned Substances for the Student Athlete

- a. Tobacco products
- b. Illegal drugs and alcohol
- c. Substances which alter performance, other than prescription medication
- d. Inhalants other than prescribed medications.

14. Use of Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco

- a) To participate on any athletic team a student must completely abstain from the use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs and the intentional misuse of any over-the-counter or prescription drugs. In addition, Constructive Possession (attendance at a party) applies. This is when a student athlete is found to have been voluntarily associating with others who are illegally using, possessing, or distributing drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol, and who do not attempt to remove themselves in a reasonable amount of time. This regulation applies to circumstances that take place ON or OFF school grounds and at ANY TIME after the student athlete has signed the Code of Conduct. Code of Conduct will remain in effect for the duration of the school calendar year. Constructive possession shall not apply to circumstances where the student athlete is present at places where alcohol is being legally consumed.

15. Care of Equipment, Uniforms and Facilities

- a. Each Student Athlete is responsible for the care of the uniforms and equipment provided by the school
- b. Replacement of lost or destroyed uniforms and equipment provided by the school is the sole responsibility of the Student Athlete and his/her Parent/Guardian
- c. Facilities provided by either the home school or an away school are to be used properly and with respect
- d. All uniforms and equipment provided by the school must be returned to the school at the conclusion of the sport season.

16. Withdrawing from a Team

- a. A Student Athlete may withdraw from the team anytime prior to the first competition without consequence
- b. A Student Athlete who withdraws after the first interscholastic competition will be ineligible to participate in the next interscholastic sport season they sign up to participate in. Sports season will be defined as fall, winter, and spring.
- c. Exceptions for withdrawal after the first interscholastic competition will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director, Coach and Building Principal.

17. Hazing/Bullying

Hazing/Bullying, a form of harassment whether it is physical, verbal, technologically, or cyber generated should not be condoned by a victim, a coach, staff, family, school personnel, fellow students and especially team members. Hazing in any form, including initiation, which is degrading is strictly forbidden by NYS law. Any hurtful, aggressive, destructive or disruptive behavior such as:

- a. Striking
- b. Restraint or confinement
- c. Use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, substance abuse
- d. Whipping
- e. Calisthenics

Or other activities that subject the student/athlete to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the student. No student/athlete shall conspire to engage in hazing/bullying, participate in hazing, or commit any act that cause or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student/athlete or other person. It is understood that hazing is not allowed on this campus or in athletics. It is further understood that we have a duty to report any act of hazing/bullying we see or know of to a coach or administrator and participation in or failure to report any hazing will result in a disciplinary review by the Athletic Violations Committee.

18. Cyber Image Policy:

- a. Cyber Image Policy – Any identifiable image, photo or video which implicates a student-athlete to have been in possession or presence of drugs or portrays actual use, or out of character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or location of where the image was taken, it shall be responsibility that the student-athlete must assume. It must also be noted that there may be persons, who would attempt to implicate an athlete, by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. This is our rationale for demanding that our athletes not place themselves in such environments.

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR VIOLATIONS OF STUDENT
ATHLETE OBLIGATION:**

For guidelines pertaining to criminal activity refer to section 1015 of the Code of Conduct found in the Board Policy Manual.

19. Academic Suspension

- a. All Suspensions, whether in school or out of school -the Student Athlete will not participate in team events on the day(s) of suspension.

20. Infractions and subsequent penalties

- a. Team player infractions will be handled by the Coach
- b. The coach will inform the Athletic Director as to their nature

21. Athletic Violations

- a. Will be referred to the Athletic Violation Committee which will minimally consist of (a School Administrator, the Athletic Director, and an impartial school employee)
- b. Penalties will include but are not limited to the following schedule:

1st Violation:

- a. The student athlete, parent/guardian and coach will be contacted by the Athletic Director.
- b. Loss of the ability to participate in team competition for 25% of the scheduled contests including post season.
- c. If terms of suspension are not met during the present season suspension will carry over into the next season of participation.
- d. Enrollment and completion of an education/counseling program selected by the Athletic Violation Committee

2nd Violation:

- a. The student athlete, parent/guardian and coach will be contacted by the Athletic Director.
- b. Loss of the ability to participate in team competition for 50% of contest including post season.
- c. Student Athlete will forfeit all awards, honors and post season recognition.
- d. The Student Athlete will meet with the Athletic Violations Committee to draft a program to assist the athlete to overcome his/her difficulty
- e. Community Service hours may be recommended.
- f. Enrollment in appropriate educational seminars will be recommended (examples include drug counseling, alcohol counseling, anger management, etc.).

***Any Student Athlete that has an infraction and carryover violation to the next season, can tryout and will be required to practice with the team. However, the athlete will not be able to play until the penalty is served.

3rd Violation:

- a. Student Athlete will be dismissed from the present team and will remain ineligible for participation for the remainder of the school calendar year.
- b. Enrollment in appropriate educational seminars will be recommended (examples include drug counseling, alcohol counseling, anger management, etc.).

Note: The Athletics Violations Committee goal is to develop a program that will support the Student Athlete who is faltering in order to develop that individual into a productive member of the team.

22. Alleged Violation as Reported to the Coach/Athletic Director

- a. Require a meeting of the Student Athlete, Parent, Coach and Athletic Director
- b. An investigation must be conducted in order to verify or dismiss the allegation
- c. A determination will be rendered as to whether an violation has occurred
- d. The Student Athlete will participate in all practices and competition during the investigation.

23. Violation observed by the Coach, Athletic Director, or Building Principal

- a. Require a meeting of the Student Athlete, Parent, Coach And Athletic Director
- b. A determination will be rendered as to the severity of the violation
- c. The Student Athlete may, depending on the nature of the violation, be immediately suspended from all practices and competition until a final determination is made.

24. Suspension Periods which Extend Beyond the Current Sport Season

- a. Will carry over into the next season for Student Athlete until the Student Athlete has fulfilled the requirements.

25. Appeals

- a. Decisions of the Athletic Director may be appealed by the athlete or parent to the Athletic Violation Committee within Five (5) school calendar days. The appeal must be made in writing, and must request an Athletic Violation Committee hearing. The Athletic Violation Committee has the authority to uphold, rescind, or modify the penalty imposed by the Athletic Director.
- b. The appeal decision will be based on a majority rule of the Athletic Violation Committee, and will be made in writing, specify the reasons and circumstances upon which the decision was based.
- c. Decisions of the Athletic Board may be appealed by the athlete or parent to the Superintendent of Clinton Central School District. The appeal must be in writing and submitted within five (5) days of the decision. The Superintendent of Schools shall have the authority to uphold, rescind, or modify the penalty imposed by the Athletic Board. The Superintendent of Schools' decision will be made in writing specifying the basis for the decision. Decisions may be appealed to the Board of Education.
- d. Appeals shall not delay imposition of penalties.

TEAM POLICIES/RULES DEVELOPED BY THE COACH:

26. Must be in writing and approved by the Athletic Director

- a. These may be more stringent than the guidelines outlined in this document
- b. These may not be less restrictive than the guidelines outlined in this document

27. Must be signed by the Student Athlete and his/her Parent/Guardian

- a. Refusal on the part of either party to sign will make the Student Athlete ineligible for the season

CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT:

By signing this document, I _____ parent/guardian, indicate that I have knowledge, understanding and agreement to these standards, set forth in order for my son/daughter _____ to be afforded the privilege of representing **Clinton Central School** as a student-athlete. I am also aware that any violation on the part of my child, to any of these standards, shall result in the consequences contained within this policy. I understand that the Code of Conduct will be in affect for the entire school calendar year.

Date _____

By signing this document, I _____ student/athlete, acknowledge that I have read and understand my responsibility of the Code of Conduct. I understand that the Code of Conduct will be in affect for the entire school calendar year.

Date _____