

5205-R.1 ACADEMIC, BEHAVIORAL, AND TRAINING STANDARDS FOR ATHLETES

(Formerly known as the Athletic Code of Conduct)

Athletic Mission Statement

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

Student Athlete Belief Statements

- A student athlete is a student first: school and education is the priority!
- As a student athlete you must work hard and do well in the classroom.
- Success in the classroom will lead to success on the field/court, and in life.

Goals of Clinton Athletics

- 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.

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 or entitlement. As a Student Athlete, you will need to meet these three levels of responsibility.

» Personal responsibility

A Student Athlete is responsible for making decisions that follow the academic, behavioral, and training standards indicated in this document. They will learn a great deal about time management, and will look ahead proactively to prevent conflicts and budget time in order to balance the workload of school with the workload of athletics. It is also important to understand the importance of proper rest in order to be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy.

» 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. A Student Athlete should be committed to their studies, team, and teammates, and should be prepared to make the proper arrangements in order to fully invest in the sport they are participating in. There should be no employment conflicts. School and athletics will take precedence over

employment.

» **Responsibility to the school**

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

Eligibility for Participation and 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.

» **Parent Permission, Medical Exams, and Form Submission**

◆ *Parent Portal* - Clinton Schools use the Family ID computer portal as a conduit for families to submit forms and grant permission.

◆ *Medical Exam* - A physical examination by a licensed medical doctor or medical practitioner is required for all levels (modified, junior varsity and varsity), and must declare the student fit for the appropriate sport and level.

◆ *Final Approval* – All forms must be submitted and approved prior to participation.

» **Advanced Placement Process**

For truly exceptional athletes, there is a process for 7th or 8th grade students to be eligible to participate on junior varsity or varsity teams.

◆ Students must complete New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) approved process titled the Advanced Placement Process (APP), which can be found on our website at the following link: [Athletic Web Page](#)

◆ A summary of the steps in the APP process is as follows:

- Parental Permission
- Administrative Approval
- Medical Clearance - Maturation Test performed by the School Physician or Designee
- Sport Coach Skill Evaluation
- Physical Fitness Testing: NYSPHSAA guidelines and criteria must be met for the specific sport and level of competition
- Qualification Determination by Athletic Director

» **Mixed Competition Program**

For a girl to try out to play on a boys' team or a boy to play on a girls' team

◆ Must successfully complete the NYS Mixed Competition Program

◆ The Student Athlete and Parent/Guardian must submit a written request to the District Superintendent and gain approval from the Superintendent

- ◆ Must have a physical examination as stated above
- ◆ The Student's primary care physician and the school's physician must give their consent
- ◆ Must successfully complete the NYS Physical Fitness Screening Test for the sport.

Academic, Behavioral, and Training Standards

1) 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.

2) Attendance Requirements for Academics

- a) Student Athletes must attend **all** scheduled classes in order to practice or compete in a contest on that day
- b) Student Athletes must be on time for school and classes each day
- c) If tardy, Student Athletes must report to the office by 9:00AM 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 unexcused absence
- e) 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.

3) 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 unsportsmanlike conduct.
- c) Student Athletes at all times demonstrate self-control and respect for others, including officials, coaches, spectators, opponents or teammates
- d) Student Athletes are constructive contributors to the team during practice and games.
- e) Student Athletes know that improper behavior while participation in a sport reflects poorly upon self, school, and community.
- f) Student Athletes understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the respective sport.

4) 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.

5) 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.
- b) Student-athletes who miss practices or competition for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted at the coach's discretion.
- c) Coaches shall make every effort to inform parents/guardians and student-athletes of the season's schedule as far in advance as possible.

6) Academic Requirements for Extracurricular Activities

- A. Extracurricular activities are a privilege extended to all students; however, it is understood that there is a correlation between participation in these activities and academic success. Extracurricular activities provide student growth and further development of social and emotional health. However, the primary reason students attend school is to attain academic proficiency.
 - 1. To participate in extracurricular activities, students are expected to maintain a passing grade (65 +) in all subjects in which they are enrolled.
 - 2. Students will be evaluated twice each marking quarter. The first evaluation occurs at progress report time approximately five weeks into the marking quarter, and again at the completion of the marking quarter.
 - a. Incompletes are considered failures until a numerical grade is issued unless extenuating circumstances exist.
 - b. A dropped course (WF) is considered as a failure for a time period of one-week, unless the principal approves movement from an Honors or AP class to a Regents class OR from a Regents class to non-regents class without penalty.
 - c. Students who are deemed ineligible at the conclusion of the 4th marking period will be considered ineligible for fall contests. A student may be restored to full eligibility by successfully passing failed courses through summer school or by having two positive reports through the first two full (5-days) consecutive weeks of school.
 - 3. All students failing a course during either of the two evaluation periods each quarter will not be allowed to participate in athletic or extracurricular contests (i.e. Model UN, Science Olympiad, School Musical, Legal Eagles, athletic contests, etc.) or school-based dances (middle school only).
 - a. While ineligible, the student must practice and attend events and/or contests, but may not participate in games, contests, or performances.
 - b. However, there will be a one-week grace period from the date the student has been informed that he/she is currently academically ineligible. This will enable the student to have one week to earn a positive report before a penalty is incurred. If the student does not have a positive report at the conclusion of the grace week, he/she will be ineligible for at least one-week (Monday - Sunday). Ineligibility will continue until the student has a positive report.

- c. It is the student's responsibility to collect the document on Friday in the main office and have his/her teachers complete it. The student is responsible for returning the document to the main office by the end of the school day on Friday. Two consecutive positive passing reports will restore the student to good standing with no further need to have his/her teacher(s) continue to complete the document.
- B. APPEAL PROCESS: There shall be an appeal process which, if exercised, shall commence with the student discussing/clarifying the failures with his or her teacher(s). If, after such discussion, the failure(s) continues to be in dispute, a student and his or her parent or guardian may request a meeting with the Director of Athletics and building administrator and, if necessary, the respective teacher(s). If the dispute continues after this stage, the parent or guardian may appeal the decision to the Superintendent or his or her designee.
- F. It shall be the responsibility of the school to provide a copy of these guidelines to all students desiring to participate in any school activity. It shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian and the student to review these regulations.

7) Injuries

- a) Must be reported immediately to the Coach and the School Nurse and a medical report must be filled out by the School Nurse for injuries that require further medical attention.
- b) Injuries requiring non-emergency medical treatment
 - i) Should be referred to the Student Athlete's primary care physician
 - ii) A written medical statement from that physician must be filed with the School Nurse
 - iii) The written medical statement must include the nature of the injury and clearly defined physical restrictions for the Student Athlete
 - iv) The release date when the Student Athlete may resume participation in the specific sport (the sport must be listed on the statement)
 - v) The School Nurse will facilitate the Student Athlete's return to the sport
 - vi) If an injured athlete is out for one week, he/she must obtain a written medical statement, as mentioned above, from the medical provider.
 - vii) If injured in a non-school activity, the student athlete must report the injury to their coach.

8) TRANSPORTATION - Travel to and from athletic contests

Student Athletes are required to ride to and from contests in the vehicle(s) provided by the Clinton School District.

a) *Exceptions may be granted as follows:*

i) *Transportation to the contest involving parents/guardians*

(1) The parent may request permission from the **Athletic Director** to transport the student to the contest, but the parent/guardian of the student athlete must be the driver, and it must be an exceptional circumstance.

(2) Request must be made **prior** to the day of the contest.

ii) *Transportation home from contest involving parents/guardians*

(1) The parent may request permission from the **Coach** to transport the student home from the contest, but the **parent/guardian of the student athlete must be the driver.**

(2) For record keeping purposes, the parents must sign a sign-out sheet indicating that they are transporting their child.

Note: individual team rules may require all student athletes to ride home with the team.

iii) *Transportation not involving parents/guardians*

(1) Transportation to or from contests that do not involve a parent/guardian as the driver may be granted by the Superintendent through the Athletic Director.

(2) Request must be made **prior** to the day of competition.

iv) *Other exceptions* - must be approved by Superintendent via Athletic Director's request and must be construed as an extenuating circumstance. For example, requests made on the same day of the contest not involving the parent/guardian as the driver.

b) *Guidelines for the Student Athlete during transportation*

i) The Student Athlete is expected to be polite and courteous to the drivers and transportation aides

ii) All school rules are in effect during transportation

iii) Glass containers, aerosol cans will not be permitted in the vehicle

iv) Portable stereos may be used with permission from the driver

v) Every attempt should be made to leave the vehicle in its original condition.

9) **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.

10) **Withdrawing from a Team**

a) A Student Athlete may withdraw from the team at any time prior to the first competition (regular season game) without consequence

b) A Student Athlete who withdraws after the first interscholastic competition without permission/consent of the coach, 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 after consulting with the coach and meeting with the student athlete and parent. .

11) Hazing/Bullying

a) "Harassment" means any intentional written, verbal, or electronic communication or physical act including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability or other distinguishing characteristic when the intentional conduct or communication:

- i) Interferes with a student's academic performance or participation in school-sponsored activities or an employee's work performance;
- ii) Creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment;
- iii) Harms a student or employee or damages the property of a student or employee;
- iv) Places a student or employee in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to his/her property; or
- v) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

b) "Bullying" is a form of harassment that consists of inappropriate persistent behavior including threats or intimidation of others, treating others cruelly, terrorizing, coercing, or habitual put-downs and/or badgering others.

c) "Hazing" is a form of harassment which involves committing an act against a student or coercing a student into committing an act that creates a risk of emotional, physical or psychological harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. The fact that the victim may consent to the act does not excuse the behavior or lessen the offense.

d) *Unacceptable Conduct* School-related conduct that the District considers unacceptable and which may constitute harassment, hazing and bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- i) Physical: hitting, kicking, taking or damaging a victim's property, and sexual gesturing or remarks
- ii) Written or verbal: using words to berate, hurt, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, or maliciously spreading rumors;
- iii) Psychological: spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, extortion, intimidation, actively excluding a person from the peer group or causing emotional harm.
- iv) Please see Board of Education Policy 0115 and Administrative Regulation 0115-R for more information.

12) 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, including, but not limited to e-cigarettes, other than prescribed medications.

13) Use of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

- a) To participate in any athletic team a student must completely abstain from the use and/or possession of tobacco, tobacco products, illegal drugs and alcohol, other drugs including, but not limited to e-cigarettes, and the intentional misuse of any over-the-counter or prescription drugs.
- b) 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 Standards document. The Standards 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.

14) Violations of the Athletic, Behavioral and/or Training Standards:

a) Academic Suspension

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

b) Infractions and subsequent consequences

- i) Team level player infraction consequences will be implemented by the coach, who will inform the Athletic Director as needed.

c) Violation of Athletic Training Standards

- i) Violations involving drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and other banned substances will be referred to the Athletic Standards Violation Committee, which will minimally consist of (a School Administrator, the Athletic Director, and an impartial school employee).
- ii) Penalties will include but are not limited to the following schedule:

(1) 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 postseason.
- (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 and education/counseling program selected

by the Athletic Standards Violation Committee

(2) 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 contests including postseason.
- (c) The Student Athlete will forfeit all awards, honors and postseason 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.).
- (g) 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.

(3) 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.).

iii) Note: The Athletics Standards 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.

d) Alleged Violation as Reported to the Coach/Athletic Director

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

e) Violation observed by the Coach, Athletic Director, or Building Principal

- (1) Require a meeting of the Student Athlete, Parent, Coach And Athletic Director
- (2) A determination will be rendered as to the severity of the violation

(3) 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.

f) Suspension Periods which Extend Beyond the Current Sport Season will carry over into the next season for Student Athlete until the Student Athlete has fulfilled the requirements.

g) Appeals

i) 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.

ii) The appeal decision will be based on a majority rule of the Athletic Violation Committee, and will be made in writing, specifying the reasons and circumstances upon which the decision was based.

iii) Decisions of the Athletic Board may be appealed by the athlete or parent to the Superintendent of Clinton Central School District.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) Appeals shall not delay imposition of penalties.

15) Team Rules Developed by the Coach

a) Must be in writing and approved by the Athletic Director

b) These may be more stringent than the guidelines outlined in this document

c) These may not be less restrictive than the guidelines outlined in this document

16) Dual Sport Athletics - participating in two CCS sponsored sports in the same season.

a) CCS student/athletes are allowed to be members of two teams within the same season provided that NYSPHSAA, Section III and the Center State Conference regulations, requirements and restrictions have been met.

b) Student/athletes should be aware that committing to more than one team is time consuming and also impacts other team mates, coaches and programs.

c) Student/athletes should also be aware that tryouts, practices and contests may conflict and that coaches shall be made aware of the student/athletes intentions as soon as possible.

d) A student/athlete may NOT be "penalized" for choosing this path but MUST be aware that different sports require different preparation and that practice time may impact playing time.

e) *The procedure shall be as follows:*

- i) A potential dual sport student/athletes must list a Primary sport team as their main focus and a secondary sport team as their additional focus when signing up for a sports season.
 - ii) Both coaches involved shall be notified by the student/athlete of their intentions.
 - iii) Both coaches shall meet and work out a plan that best suits the intentions of the student/athlete's wishes considering all other factors that may be involved.
- f) Should schedule conflict arise:
- i) Primary contests take precedence over secondary contests
 - ii) Secondary contests take precedence over primary practices
 - iii) Primary practices take precedence over secondary practices
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◆ *Formal acknowledgement of these Athletic, Behavioral, and Training Standards will occur through the Athletic Parent Portal Family ID.*

Adopted: March 20, 2019

Revised: June 27, 2022

Clinton Central School District
