

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Cumberland County High School (CCHS) Athletic Code of Conduct establishes standards by which student athletes are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of Cumberland County High School. Parents are expected to discuss these regulations and consequences with their student athletes so that informed and appropriate decisions about behavior are made.

It is imperative that students and parents understand that the Cumberland County High School Student Code of Conduct and the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct are two separate sets of standards. The CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct, which is written specifically for student athletes, is intended to be used concurrently with the CCHS Student Code of Conduct, but the two codes differ procedurally and substantively. If a student athlete is suspended for a violation of the CCHS Student Code of Conduct, then the student athlete will not be permitted to practice or participate in contests during the suspension. If the same misconduct also constitutes a violation of the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct, then the student athlete will be penalized accordingly.

The CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct sets a high standard because of the school's desire to help protect the health, safety and welfare of all students and community members. The CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct applies to all athletes. A student is deemed to be an athlete for purposes of the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct once the student is notified by the coach/designee that the student has made his/her first team. Thereafter the student is deemed to be an athlete for the remainder of his/ her high school career.

This also includes all athletes "in season" as well as those athletes whose season has been completed but who intend to compete in subsequent seasons or sports. The strenuous nature of athletics and the rigors of competition demand that a high standard of behavior on the part of student athletes be maintained at all times. Furthermore, the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct provides parents with support in dealing with potential problems with their student, and it provides incentive for the athlete to deal appropriately with negative peer pressure.

The CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct applies to behavior that takes place **ON OR OFF** school grounds. These violations may take place at **ANY TIME** during the student's enrollment at Cumberland County High School, including the off-season as well as the summertime. The CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct will be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for 365 days a year. It applies to all athletes, whether in season or out of season, on or off school property including, but not limited to school sponsored or sanctioned events on or off campus, and private activities or events. When off-campus or private behaviors are proven to violate District Policy and/or the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct, then consequences will follow when brought to the attention of the Athletic Director.

Consequences for violating the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct will be in effect for non-district, district, regional, and state contests and championships. With regard to suspensions from contests, scrimmages do not count as contests. **Consequences of athletic code violations will carry over from school year to school year and will be in effect for the duration of the athlete's high school participation.**

## **Types of Violations**

### **Drug or Alcohol Use, Possession, or Distribution**

Student athletes are not to (regardless of quantity) use, possess, sell, distribute, or procure any amount of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances or drug paraphernalia or be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances.

The suspension shall be served immediately and consecutively during the next competitions or in the first contests of the season if the violation occurs in the off-season or summertime. If the season ends before the full suspension is served, the remaining suspensions shall be proportionally applied to the next sport or season by the athletic director.

#### *First Violation*

The student athlete shall be suspended for 30% of his/her competitive season immediately and consecutively:

#### *Second Violation*

For the second violation within the student athlete's high school enrollment, the student athlete shall be suspended for 60% of his/her competitive season immediately and consecutively:

#### *Third Violation*

If a third violation occurs, within the student athlete's high school enrollment, the student athlete will be suspended from all athletic participation for 365 consecutive days from the date of the violation.

#### *Fourth Violation*

When a student athlete violates the drug and alcohol policy for a fourth time during their high school enrollment at Cumberland County High School, he/she shall not be allowed to participate in athletics for the remainder of the student's enrollment at Cumberland County High School.

### **Being in the Presence of Others Using, Possessing or Distributing Drugs or Alcohol**

Student athletes who are 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 (constructive possession) are in violation of the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct. This regulation applies to circumstances that take place ON OR OFF school grounds and at ANY TIME during the student's high school enrollment in Cumberland County High School, including the off-season as well as the summertime.

The consequence for the first violation of constructive possession shall be suspension from one contest. Any subsequent violations for constructive possession shall result in suspension from competition as stated in Section 1, Drug or Alcohol Use, Possession, or Distribution, in this booklet. Constructive possession shall not apply to circumstances where the student athlete is present at places where alcohol is being legally consumed.

### **Tobacco Use, Possession, or Distribution**

Use, possession, or distribution of tobacco or tobacco products, in any form, is prohibited. The consequence for the first violation of tobacco use, possession or distribution will be suspension from one contest. The consequence for the second violation will be suspension from two contests. The consequence for third violation will be suspension from three contests. The consequence for the fourth violation will be subject to review by the athletic director. The athletic director will decide the appropriate penalty for the athlete taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense, any harm or injury to person or property, the remorse of the athlete and any other relevant factors.

### **Unlawful or Delinquent Behavior**

An unlawful or delinquent act is a violation of any civil or criminal statute, ordinance, regulation or court order (except for minor traffic offenses) including, but not limited to civil rights violations, theft, vandalism, destruction of property, or other misdemeanors and felonies as defined by the Tennessee Criminal Code. An athlete who pleads guilty, is found guilty, or found to have committed a delinquent act by any court of law, pleads no contest to or dispositions through a settlement and charged with an unlawful act is also subject to sanctions in accordance with the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the athletic director reserves the right to determine whether the athlete committed an unlawful or delinquent act rather than to be bound necessarily by the decision of the courts or others. Incidents involving athletes either directly or as an accomplice will be subject to review by the athletic director. The athletic director will decide the appropriate penalty for the athlete taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense, any harm or injury to person or property, the remorse of the athlete and any other relevant factors.

### **School Suspension**

Athletes who are suspended from school under the CCHS Student Code of Conduct are prohibited from participation in practices and interscholastic events during the length of the suspension.

### **Attendance–Truancy**

The high school administration and coaching staff recognize that attendance at school is critical to a student athlete's success in the classroom, much the same as attendance at practice is essential. Student athletes are expected to attend all of their classes and avoid truancy. The coach and/or the administration reserve the right to limit athletic participation in cases of truancy or non-attendance at school or at practice.

### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Other Unacceptable Behavior**

Unsportsmanlike conduct and other unacceptable behaviors not specifically covered in the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct, but which are contrary to the spirit of the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct, are subject to an appropriate penalty at the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or the Principal, taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense, any harm or injury to person or property, the remorse of the athlete and any other relevant factors.

### **Violation of Team Rules and Regulations**

Coaches may establish reasonable rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the athletic director, for behavior not otherwise specified in the CCHS Athletic Code of Conduct. Coaches may determine reasonable penalties for violation of team rules and regulations subject to the review of the athletic director.

### **Unusual or Special Circumstances**

Notwithstanding consequences for violations prescribed in the above paragraphs, the principal has the discretion to reduce the penalty when unusual or special circumstances warrant such a reduction.

### **Due Process and Appeal Process**

Student athletes will be provided due process. The student athlete is entitled to be informed of the charges against him/her, and an informal meeting where he/she has an opportunity to be heard before the athletic director. The athletic director shall render a written decision within one school day of the meeting. A student athlete and his/her parent(s) may appeal the athletic director's decision to suspend to the building principal, in writing, within one school day of the athletic director's decision to suspend. The principal shall render his/her decision within four school days of the consideration of the appeal. A suspension may be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal at the discretion of the athletic director, the principal, the Supervisor of Secondary Education, or the Director of Schools. The principal's decision will be final unless the suspension is for 50% or more of the season. In such a case, the student athlete and his/her parents may appeal within five school days to the Supervisor of Secondary Education whose decision will be final.

**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK/CODE OF CONDUCT ACKNOWLEDEMENT FORM**

This form, with signatures requested below, verifies that I, as student-athlete or parent(s)/guardian(s), have received a copy of the Athletic Handbook/Code of Conduct and understand, support, and agree to the contents, meaning, expectations, and consequences. I also understand that, prior to participation as a member of an athletic team, a student-athlete must have on file with the coach:

- \* a current physical examination (dated after April 15 of year school begins) verifying medical permission to participate as an athlete
- \* a signed parent consent form
- \* confirmation of student-athlete's insurance coverage either through the parents policy or school insurance.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year Student  
Entered 9th Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date