



CHILTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES AND PARENTS

Chilton County High School

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Chilton County High School Athletic Handbook for Student-Athletes

Welcome to Chilton County High School's Athletic Program. This handbook is presented to you because you have been selected to participate in interscholastic athletics. Parents and student-athletes are encouraged to carefully read the entire handbook. This booklet contains information that is important throughout a sport's season. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our interscholastic program please contact the athletic director.

The mission of Chilton County High School is to provide a learning environment where ALL excel: Students-Faculty-Parents-Community. Chilton County High School athletic program is designed to work in tandem with the academic program to accomplish the system's mission.

The courts have upheld that participation in interscholastic athletics is a **privilege** and **not a constitutionally protected right**. Participation in this privilege carries with it varying degrees of responsibility, sacrifice and commitment. Each student-athlete represents his/her team, coaches, student body, school, parent(s)/guardian(s) and community. It is the duty of the student-athlete to conduct his/herself in a positive manner while representing Chilton County High School and CCS Athletics. This handbook is designed to inform student-athletes and their parents of the rules, regulations and policies that program participants must follow. The following policies and procedures are intended to set minimum guidelines for participation in CCHS athletics; the administration, and/or coaches, may establish additional sports specific rules and/or procedures that must be adhered to. Additionally, Chilton County High School is a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). All regulations of the AHSAA are applicable to our athletic program.

ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This athletic handbook is designed to inform student athletes and their parents of the rules, regulations, and information that help develop the rich tradition of competition in CCHS Athletics. Participation in athletics is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility, and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the Athletic Department and other specific coach's rules for their sport. Each student-athlete represents his/her team, coaches, student body, school, parent/guardian and community. It is the student athlete's duty to conduct him/herself in a manner becoming the student-athlete, his/her family, CCHS, and the community.

While an attempt has been made to answer as many questions as possible and provide information on all aspects of athletic participation, it is possible that you may have some questions that are not answered here. Please contact the athletic director for additional information.

The Athletic Department will enforce all rules and regulations as described in this Athletic Handbook. Parents and athletes are required to sign an acknowledgement document located at the end of this handbook stating that they have read and understand the information in the handbook and that the student-athlete is subject to disciplinary measures should he/she violate the rules and regulations set forth in this Athletic Handbook. Student-athletes cannot participate until this form is signed and returned to the coach/athletic director.

DEPARTMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Athletic Department is to provide the best opportunities for student-athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and character. In addition to developing skill in a sport, the purpose is to provide each participant with experiences that will be positive and memorable and that help develop the capacity for commitment to a cause, acceptance of responsibility, and loyalty toward any chosen endeavor.

Fall	Winter	Spring
Band Cheerleading Football Volleyball	Basketball Cheerleading	Baseball Golf Soccer Softball Tennis Track & Field Archery

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship teaches values inherent to relationships our student-athletes will have long after they leave CCHS. Therefore, our coaches are expected to lead by example and model sportsmanship in everything they do. Furthermore, opportunities to teach lessons related to sportsmanship will be expected and encouraged. The AHSAA, our state's governing body for high school athletics, requires all student-athletes to take a free, online course called "**NFHS Sportsmanship**" before they are allowed to participate in any contest in Alabama high school athletics. Each athlete's Head Coach is responsible for making sure this is completed before their respective season.

EJECTION POLICY

Penalties for coaches and players ejected from one or more contests mandated by the AHSAA are as follows:

First Ejection: A \$300 fine (An athlete's fine can be reduced to \$150 if the athlete being ejected takes the online NFHS Captain's Course and payment is made within 10 days of the date of the ejection.) (NFHS Captain's Course can only be taken one time per sport in a student's athletic career.)

Second Ejection: A one-game suspension and a \$500 fine

Third Ejection: Minimum penalty of a suspension for the remainder of the season plus a \$750 fine

Flagrant Unsportsmanlike (Physical Abuse): CCHS student-athletes are to be role models of the school and community. As with any competitive sport/game there are instances when tempers/emotions rise and we have a tendency to act irrational. However, we cannot allow our

emotions to get the best of us. We have to be able to function in those times so that we can overcome the obstacle(s) in order to secure victory, and/or maintain our dignity and character. Therefore “flagrant unsportsmanlike (physical abuse)” will not be tolerated. If a student-athlete is guilty of this foul the student-athlete will be discipline: suspension of 30% of the team(s) season, payment of AHSAA fine, completion of Captian’s Course (NFHSLearn.com), complete online OSCAR Course, complete 6 days of leadership/character training.

- **Note: If a student-athlete receives a fine due to an ejection, his/ her family will be financially responsible for paying the fine to the AHSAA and may not be able to participate in future competitions until paid.**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CCHS ATHLETE

It is an honor and privilege to represent your school. It is not a right. As a student-athlete on a CCHS team, you represent yourself, your family, your team, your coaches, your school and your community. Your conduct before, during and after games will reflect on you and everyone else associated with your school and the school district.

We want our athletic teams to succeed. Many of our student-athletes have gone on to be successful college athletes and still others hold league, section and state records. But, most of all, CCHS teams are recognized for competing hard and fairly. Your challenge is to set high standards and to achieve them.

Being on an athletic team requires sacrifices. You must make choices between all of the activities that are appealing to you. Please understand that by participating in interscholastic athletics, you are making a commitment to your coach and to your teammates. Attending workouts, practices and games is an essential part of that commitment.

You are a student-athlete; your responsibilities as a student come first. You must realize that your **PRIMARY** purpose for attending school is to receive an education (high school diploma). As a student-athlete, you must prioritize your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to insure acceptable grades. Student-athletes are encouraged to take advantage of tutoring as needed. You must attend class, schedule the appropriate number of classes and remain in good academic standing in order to participate in interscholastic sports. Maintaining your academic standing is crucial. Your studies, your participation in other school activities as well as athletics, prepare you for your life as an adult. Therefore you are expected to remain in good academic standing. Student-athletes may be suspended or removed from the team for poor academic performance.

By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of the school and community. Therefore you are expected to display proper citizenship and to conduct yourself properly on and off the playing field at all times. In short, you will conduct yourself in a way that reflects well on your school and community.

FAIR PLAY AGREEMENT

Promoting sportsmanship in CCHS Athletic Programs is an essential part of the athletic experience. Student-athletes develop physically, socially and emotionally through athletics. It is crucial for parents to encourage their children to uphold the values of good sportsmanship. In addition, parents of student-athletes are expected to be models of good sportsmanship by demonstrating fairness, respect, self-control and ultimately leading by example.

For the student-athlete and parent:

- I agree to be responsible for my words and actions while attending and participating in CCHS Athletic Programs and agree to abide by the following Fair Play Agreement:
- I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
- I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
- I will not engage in the use of profanity.
- I will treat any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee with respect.
- I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
- I will always respect the rules of the district, coach and contest.
- I will show appreciation for good players and good plays, even if by the opponents.
- I will demonstrate control of my temper at all times.
- I will demonstrate great sportsmanship at all times.

Social Media

This clause is for parents, and student-athletes; we expect our student-athletes to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner in the classroom, bus, school and all team functions, as well as in the community. In today's world the term "community" has become a much broader spectrum, which includes social media. We expect our students-athletes to be mindful of any posts on social media; today most colleges and business include social media accounts as part of their background checks for potential students, and employees. Therefore, we will not tolerate derogatory comments, pictures, videos, etc. that would bring a negative connotation upon our school, team, coach, community, etc. If a student-athlete, or parent has an issue with something, or an individual/coach/etc. there needs to be a meeting and face-to-face discussion.

- Failure to follow the social media clause could result in disciplinary action by, or dismissal from, team(s).

Sport Parent Code of Conduct

As a parent of a student-athlete you are to first and foremost support the team(s) and coach(es) of the sport your child is involved with:

1. I will not force my son/daughter to participate in athletics.
2. I will remember that student-athletes participate to have fun and compete, and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my son/daughter or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game.
5. I will teach my son/daughter to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. I will teach my son/daughter that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
7. I will praise my son/daughter for competing fairly and trying hard and making my child feel like a winner every time.
8. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I have for my child to win.
9. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
10. I will refrain from coaching my son/daughter or other players during the games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
11. I will avoid speaking negatively about the coach in front of my son/daughter. It may create an insurmountable barrier in their hopes for improvement in their sport.
12. I will pay all fees associated with the program in a timely manner.
13. I will participate in all fundraisers associated with my son/daughter's sport and the athletic booster club.

Expectations of Conduct for Spectators and Guests

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity should permeate all interscholastic athletics in our community. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Our athletic fields should be the laboratories to produce good citizens reflecting "fair play" in every area of life.

Expectations of Spectators, Guests, and Other Fans:

- Game attendance is a **privilege** and not a license to verbally assault others or to be obnoxious.
- Respect the entire playing of the National Anthem.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- Become aware of the purpose of the sport and rules, and keep winning in its proper place.
- Respect fans, coaches, and participants.
- Recognize outstanding performances of either side of the playing field.

Suggested Positive Behavior Guidelines:

- Applaud during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Accept all decisions by officials.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance.
- Applaud at the end of the contest for performances of all participants.
- Demonstrate concern for injured players, regardless of team.
- Encourage supporting people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior:

- Yelling or negative chanting or gestures toward the opponent.
- Booming, heckling, or criticizing officials; displays of temper with an official's call
- Taunting or trash talk.
- Refusing to shake hands or to give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming a loss of game on officials, coaches, or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Using artificial noise makers which may distract from the game.
- Throwing objects or substances which may distract from the game or tarnish the venue.
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- "Coaching" the student-athletes during a competition from the stands.

Communication and Resolving Concerns

Athletic involvement, while fun and rewarding, can be very time consuming and emotional. Due to the level of effort and emotion invested, conflicts between players and coaches will inevitably arise. All conflicts should be addressed professionally and as soon as possible. To accomplish this, please follow the following guidelines:

FIRST STEP: Student-Athlete and Coach Contact

The student-athlete should meet individually with the coach to share concerns and/or discuss any issue or conflict. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to make an attempt to meet with the coach before involving others, if at all possible.

- **Times to be avoided when initiating contact:**
 - ✓ Immediately prior to and/or right after a contest
 - ✓ During an active practice session
 - ✓ During a time when other students are present and/or when the discussion is readily visible by others
 - ✓ When it is apparent that there is not sufficient time to allow for complete discussion

SECOND STEP: Parent/Guardian and Coach Contact

If a conflict between a student-athlete and a coach remains unresolved or becomes a chronic issue, the parent/guardian and student should schedule a meeting with the coach. The student should be involved and present at this meeting.

THIRD STEP: Parent/Guardian and Athletic Director

If a satisfactory resolution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the student-athlete and parent/guardian should inform the coach that they intend to contact the Athletic Director. A meeting with the Athletic Director should be scheduled through the Athletic Office.

FOURTH STEP: Parent/Guardian and Administration Contact

If existing concerns remain following a meeting with the Athletic Director, the student-athlete and parent/guardian should acknowledge such and initiate contact with the Athletic Administrator and/or Principal.

- **Please note: Failure to follow the proper communication protocol may result in the student-athlete being dismissed from the team he/she is involved with.**
- **Also, if you believe that, due to the seriousness and/or nature of your concerns and or complaint, you may express your concerns directly to the Athletic Director.**

ATTENDANCE

Team members must be present and on time for all scheduled practice sessions and contests. Any athlete who is present in school but absent or late to the athletic activity without permission from the coach will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. That action ranges from a warning to suspension to dismissal from the team. Remember that once you have been placed on a team roster, you are making a commitment to that team for the full season. Games and practices may be rescheduled on short notice and students are expected to attend. Exceptions for non-attendance at scheduled practice sessions and games are limited to:

- Sickness
- Emergency appointments (e.g., doctor, dentist, college visitation)
- Funerals
- Religious obligations
- Special examinations, tests or overlapping seasons

It is the student's responsibility to inform the coach in advance (if possible) prior to missing a practice or game.

Attendance is essential to achieving and maintaining physical fitness and to instilling positive values such as good citizenship and sportsmanship. Honoring this commitment also avoids disruption to the team's improvement and success in competitions. Attendance at school is imperative to the educational process. Board Policy states that "To participate in extracurricular activities after school, students must have attended school that day."

The head coach may penalize any student-athlete with unexcused missed practices or missed games as well as a failure to complete the full season, including postseason games. If an athlete quits a sport after the first regular season contest, he/she is not eligible to participate in another sport during that season.

QUITTING A TEAM

Any athlete who makes the decision to quit a team during the season will be prohibited from participating on another school sponsored team until their original team completes their season.

If necessary, the Athletic Director and Principal will make a final determination if there are extenuating circumstances that prevent someone from completing a season. **A student-athlete is considered to be part of a team upon completion of tryout period where he/she has been placed on a team by the coach.**

DISCIPLINE

A student on out-of-school suspension shall be ineligible for any athletic events (including, but not limited to practice and competitions) during the period of suspension until the next school day. A student on in-school suspension may be ineligible for any athletic competition or practice that day as deemed necessary by the head coach, athletic director, or principal. Misbehavior as an athlete away from school may also result in suspension from school.

DRESS CODE

A team's athletic dress code will be determined by each sports individual Head Coach and attached to this handbook at their parent meeting prior to the beginning of their respective season. Your signature on the handbook release form states you understand and agree with these requirements. Athletic gear is purchased to be worn at school-sponsored events only. Athletes are not permitted to wear their gear to class unless the *coach* has special permission from administration.

CONFLICTS WITH OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many activities will undoubtedly be in a position of conflicting obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in school activities and, to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflict. The athletes and parents/guardians must realize that many times schedules cannot be changed because of area/section regulations or facility usage.

ALCOHOL and ILLEGAL DRUGS

Student-athletes shall not possess, sale, partake of or be under the influence of Alcohol or Illegal Drugs at any time. It is the policy of CCHS Athletics that the term "athlete" applies 24/7. If at any time, school personnel become aware there was a violation of this policy, a thorough investigation will determine whether the accusation can be substantiated. If it is determined that the violation did in fact occur, then appropriate action will be taken regardless of **when or where** the violation occurred.

If a violation occurs in season:

1. Complete a CCHS approved drug/alcohol education course.
2. Students will be suspended from competitive extracurricular activities for the remainder of that extracurricular activity season or seven weeks whichever is greater.
3. Suspension can carry over from one sport's season to the next.

If violation occurs out of season:

1. Complete a CCHS approved drug/alcohol education course.
 2. Suspension from athletic competition for 20% of the upcoming season's contests.
- **NOTE:** Each sport's Head Coach may have additional consequences that are stated in their individual sport's team rules. These are to be discussed and attached to this packet at a parent meeting prior to the beginning of their respective season.

SUSPENSION/DISMISSAL FROM TEAM

Participation on a high school athletic team is a privilege, not a right. For this reason a student may be suspended or dismissed from a team for reasons including, but not limited to, academics, attendance, or discipline. Dismissal requires that all school-owned equipment, uniforms, and apparel be turned in to the coach immediately. Any fees paid for participation are non-refundable.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

Uniforms and equipment are essential parts of athletics. They protect you and identify you as a team member. At the beginning of a season, you will be issued uniforms and equipment. Any equipment required for your sport and not provided by the school must be provided by you. You must take care of your equipment. Any equipment needing repair must be brought to the coach's attention immediately. You are responsible for all of the equipment issued to you.

It is your responsibility to return to the coach all clothing and equipment issued during the season. If you do not do this in a timely fashion, you will be required to pay to replace the missing article(s). If you do not pay for the missing articles you will not be allowed to participate until the obligations are met.

Tryouts

It should be understood that representing CCHS through athletics is a privilege. Students are encouraged to become involved in athletics each season. Participating in tryouts (unless tryouts are not required) is necessary in order to be considered for an athletic team. In some programs, there is a risk of not being selected for a team. Team sizes/auxiliary groups may be limited due to the nature of the sport, the number of candidates, or to ensure player safety and practice time. Team/group selection sizes will be determined by coaches/sponsors of each activity.

The coaching staff/sponsors of each team has the sole responsibility for selecting members of the team, determining the level of play, and the amount of playing time. Prior to tryouts, all candidates will be informed as to the expectations that the coach has for them during tryouts.

Any student not selected is encouraged to explore other opportunities on teams that have not finalized their rosters.

Eligibility

Academic Eligibility:

To be academically eligible for athletic participation, the AHSAA has mandated that all students in high school **must pass** 4 core classes (history, math, science, English) and 2 elective courses with at least a 70% average in the most recent 2 semesters.

Athletic Eligibility:

To be athletically eligible for athletic participation, the AHSAA has mandated that all students in high school must adhere to specific guidelines:

A student must be under the age of 19 on/after August 1st of the current school year.

1. A student is eligible only for four consecutive years upon entering 9th grade.
2. A student must be enrolled in school within the 1st 20 days of school and must reside in the school zone (unless already enrolled for 1 year prior to playing a sport)
3. A student must be NFHS Sportsmanship certified, have a current physical on file, complete the AHSAA agreement, and have current insurance.

Student Spectator Discipline Contract

If a student spectator displays inappropriate conduct at an athletic contest, home or away, the following discipline contract may be used:

To: _____

This contract is being utilized because you have exhibited inappropriate behavior while attending an athletic contest at Chilton County High School. CCHS has a rich tradition of student support at events; however, a line exists between support and insubordination. Due to your actions, you have crossed that line. This contract will begin immediately and will last the duration of the current school year.

1st Offense: 25% season suspension. Sport _____ Games ____ Date: _____
Student: _____ Admin: _____

2nd Offense: 50% season suspension. Sport _____ Games ____ Date: _____
Student: _____ Admin: _____

3rd Offense: 100% season suspension. Sport _____ Games ____ Date: _____
Student: _____ Admin: _____

4th Offense: Remainder of Athletic Contests for Current School Year
Student: _____ Date: _____

Administrator: _____ Date: _____

**Chilton County High School
Parent and Student Athletic Acknowledgement Form
2018-2019**

1. Code of Conduct

I am aware of the rules governing the code of conduct for parents, spectators, and athletes. I understand these rules and understand that failure to follow these rules may result in me not being able to attend athletic events in a capacity of spectator or as a player.

My signature below indicates that as a parent/student-athlete, I have reviewed and will abide by the guidelines and requests set forth in the CCHS Athletic Handbook.

Print Student-athlete Name	Grade	Date
Student-athlete Signature	Parent Signature	

2. Athletic Handbook

I am aware that a copy of the CCHS Athletic Handbook is available to me and my son/daughter via the CCHS Website:

<http://chiltoncountyhigh.al.cch.schoolinsites.com/>

My signature below indicates acknowledgement of my responsibility as a parent/student-athlete to read and be accountable for the policies addressed within the CCHS Athletic Handbook.

Student-athlete Signature	Date
Parent Signature	Date