

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ETHICS FOR THE ATHLETE

Becoming a member of a Cherry Valley-Springfield athletic activity carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. As a member of an interscholastic team of the Cherry Valley-Springfield School, a student has inherited a tradition of respect for self, family, school, and community. By trying their best and following all of the rules set up by coaches and advisors, a student can feel justifiably proud of him/herself no matter what the win-loss record indicates. The Board of Education has approved student behavior codes for students in grades 7-12. It is the responsibility of all athletes to honor those rules and expectations. Disciplinary consequences by the Principal shall prevail over all matters involving athletic participation.

Responsibilities to Self

A student has the responsibility to develop strength of character and take advantage of the school experience. Academic studies and participation in extracurricular activities, as well as in athletics, prepare a student for life as an adult.

Responsibilities to Others

Knowing that younger students look up to older students and athletes makes it the athlete's responsibility to set a good example. This can be as simple as taking a few minutes to encourage them when they seek attention and guidance.

Responsibilities to School

Student athletes have a responsibility to the school. As such, they are subject to the rules, regulations and consequences of the *Athletic Code of Conduct* as well as the *Student Code of Conduct*. Cherry Valley-Springfield will maintain its reputation as an outstanding school only when student athletes do their best in whatever activity they engage.

Responsibilities for Citizenship

The *Code of Conduct for Athletes* is the standard that the community, school, parents, and students have developed. It acknowledges to others that Cherry Valley-Springfield athletes are held to a high standard. Homework, class participation, and conformance to school regulations are as important as personal conduct in both practice and interscholastic contests. Behavior that may be construed as unbecoming of a participant on CV-S athletic teams may cause him/her to be denied membership on a team. Behavior such as drinking, smoking, illegal use of drugs, insubordination, larceny, or any disobedience to the law or school regulations could be just cause for the student to be denied the privilege of participating in interscholastic sports as a participant and/or spectator.

Responsibilities for Sportsmanship

Cherry Valley-Springfield athletes should exhibit the ideals of sportsmanship, ethics, conduct, and fair play. Athletes are to be respectful to visiting teams, officials, and all spectators, and thus establish respectful relationships. Respecting the integrity and

judgment of the officials is critical to fostering sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of all team members to strive to develop leadership, initiative, and good judgment. Athletes must have a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility. They must also recognize that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life and death for the player, coach, school, official, fan, or community. The purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players. In addition to following Cherry Valley-Springfield rules, they must also comply with any rules/regulations of the institution they are visiting. As a member of a team, an athlete's appearance reflects on self, school, and community. Accordingly, coaches will work to establish an image that conveys the pride and tradition of the athletic program. Being a member of the team and representing CV-S is a privilege. Athletes must be proud of the opportunity to play on a team and the school expects to be proud of their players. Students must attend all scheduled meetings unless excused by the coach/advisor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Parent-Athlete-Coach meeting

Parent(s) and athlete are required to attend parent-athlete-coach meeting during the modified level of play (grades 7 & 8). The student-athlete will not be eligible to play unless the parent and student attend the meeting. If a parent cannot attend the meeting the parent must contact the athletic director prior to the meeting. An individual meeting will then take place at a future date.

Transferring to/from a Team

Once a sport season begins, a student wishing to change to another sport must get permission from the coaches of each sport. Parental permission is also required. He/she is responsible for the specific requirements concerning number of practices, physical exam and other considerations. Generally, a student will not be allowed to join a team after the first two weeks of the sport season. Any request to join after this time period will be reviewed by the coach, Athletic Director, and principal. Students must complete a sport season to be eligible for a letter in sports.

Attendance Requirement

A participant who is not in school by 8:30 AM is ineligible to participate in contests or practice, unless the student enters with a legal excuse. Extenuating circumstances such as doctor appointments, college visitations, and inclement weather will be dealt with on an individual basis. Activities or competitions on the days following snow days or on Saturdays are not included in this restriction. The Principal has the responsibility for final decisions in cases of eligibility.

Athletic Cuts (Removal)

An athlete who is **cut** from a team shall be allowed to compete on another team with the permission of the coach/advisor of the initial team and the advisor/coach of the second team that the athlete is considering joining. Denial of such a request is subject to appeal to the Athletic Director and Principal.

Academic Eligibility

Students in grades 7-12 failing two or more subjects will be considered ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Ineligible time periods will follow the five-week notice and report card dates. Ineligibility lists will be in effect for the full five-weeks. Each week during the five-week period the student must follow the process described below:

- a. The student will meet with the teacher of each failing class to create an academic improvement plan.
- b. Every Monday ineligible students who wish to become eligible will pick up an eligibility sheet from the guidance office.
- c. Students will see the teachers of the classes that they were failing at the five-week notice or report card dates. Students will get their averages and teachers' signatures on the sheet.
- d. The sheet must be returned to the Principal by 3:00 on Monday.
- e. If a student is not failing two or more classes, then he/she becomes eligible for that week and receives the privilege of participating in extracurriculars as listed above immediately.
- f. This pass is good for one week. This sheet must be completed weekly. Each week during the five-week period the student must follow this process.

Student Eligibility

According to the *New York State Commissioner's Regulations*, "A pupil shall be eligible for inter-school competition in a sport during a semester, providing that he/she is a bona fide student, enrolled during the first 15 days of the semester, registered in the equivalent of five regular courses, is meeting the physical education requirement and has been in regular attendance 80% of the school time, bona fide absence caused by personal illness excepted." No athlete will be permitted to practice or play in an interscholastic event without:

- Sports physical – at the beginning of the season
- Attending the NY State required number of practices
- Written consent from the parents
- In case of injury – written permission from the healthcare provider in charge of the case AND the school Health Care Provider (Maureen Kuhn, F.N.P., R.N.)
- Having understood and signed permission forms
- Attending an informational meeting regarding athletic rules and the potential of injury with one of his/her parents/guardians.

If a sports physical is given more than 30 days prior to the start of the sports season, an update form will need to be signed by parents for each sport.

No 7th or 8th grade student shall be tested for State Specials Classification to play on the JV or Varsity level unless all rules and regulations are adhered to. Consent must be obtained from the Athletic Director, coach, Principal, and parent.

Physical Education and Participation

All student-athletes **MUST** participate in all physical education activities during PE class. Student-athletes are expected to perform all activities performed by other students, regardless of evening practice or game commitments. If modifications need to be made, the student should speak with the instructor. Students who do not participate in PE are not able to practice or compete in a game that same day

Discrimination and Harassment

Discrimination and Harassment are prohibited. See the Districts Code of Conduct of prohibited Student Conduct for further information.

Athletic Hazing

There is a prohibition against any form of **athletic hazing**. Athletic hazing is commonly defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Bullying

For the purposes of this policy and its implementation, **bullying** is defined as the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or that takes place off of school grounds but that is designed to or has the effect of interfering with one's ability to attend school and/or to be educated in a safe, non-hostile environment."

Bullying may include, but is not limited to, actions such as: verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, including ethnically-, racially-, religion-, gender-, and/or sexual orientation-based verbal put downs; extortion of money or possessions; and exclusion from peer groups within school. Such conduct is disruptive of the educational process and, therefore, is not acceptable behavior in this district, and is prohibited.

Any person who believes he or she has been the victim or subject of hazing or bullying related to athletics is required to report complaints as soon as possible of the said incident. It is an expectation that any individual witnessing hazing or bullying shall report this incident. Complaints should be filed with the coach, Athletic Director, or Principal.

Special Notice on Social Networking Web Sites and Texting:

As a representative of the Department of Athletics and Cherry Valley-Springfield Central School, you are always in the public eye. Please keep the following in mind as you participate on social networking web sites and texting: Understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any photo placed online is out of your control the moment it is placed online-even if you limit access to your site. You should not post any information, photos, or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, opponents or Cherry Valley-Springfield Central School, including information, photos and items that may be posted by others on your site. Beware of posting photos! What the public sees becomes reality, date or no date on a photo.

Behavioral expectations in the online world are the same as in the real world. Student Athletes will face disciplinary actions for conduct committed online that violate the code of conduct.

School Property

Students are responsible for all school-owned equipment issued to them. This equipment is to be used only for the purpose it is intended for in practices, contests, and at the direction of the coach/advisor. Students who carelessly or willfully damage or misuse equipment, facilities, or property of the Cherry Valley-Springfield School District or another school district are required to make restitution, the amount to be determined by the full cost of repair or replacement. School issued equipment/uniforms must be turned in at the end of the season or the student will not receive any equipment/uniform for the following season(s). Seniors must turn in their equipment/uniform to meet graduation requirements. No athletic, or other awards, will be made to members who damage or misuse equipment, facilities, or property unless restitution has been made. In addition, a list of violators will be sent to the Principal for disciplinary action.

Practices

Attendance at practice is not optional. Practices are mandatory. Students are expected to be at school the day after a game or contest.

Quitting a Team

If a student-athlete decides to quit a team he/she must meet with coach to communicate why quitting the team. Once a student-athlete quits a team he/she must meet with the principal, athletic director, athletic coordinator, current coach and next season's coach before participating in the following sports season

Locker Rooms

The locker room is to be used for the purpose of changing and using restrooms/showers before or after P.E. classes, sports practices and games. The locker room is not a place for hanging out during free time. Students participating in interscholastic athletics are expected to abide by the following:

- Student-athletes will not physically contact anyone, or use harassing or intimidating language in the locker room or elsewhere.
- Secure all personal items inside their lockers and if a theft occurs report it immediately to their coach.
- Student athletes will not damage lockers, walls, benches, etc in the locker room.
- Student-athletes agree to clean up after themselves and properly dispose of all garbage in trash cans.
- The athlete in violation of this provision may be barred from using the locker rooms for the remainder of the season, or part of the remainder of the season, and being in the locker room without the direct supervision of the coach or P.E. teacher.

Transportation

Parents/guardians may take their son(s)/daughter(s) home after away contests or scrimmages. The coach/advisor of that team will make available a permission form that needs to be signed by the parent. An athlete seeking permission to travel with anyone other than his/her parent/guardian prior to the day of the contest/scrimmage must have approval of the coach and school administrator. The coach shall provide that form to the athlete.

Smoking/Tobacco

A complete Board of Education policy regarding use of cigarettes and other tobacco products is available from the Main Office or District Office. Possession or use of tobacco will not be permitted at any time during the season. This includes such items as chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapors, and snuff.

Drugs, Including Alcohol

Possession or use of illegal drugs, misuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs, including alcohol is not permitted at any time during the season.

Drinking

Drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages is prohibited at any time during the season. Wine consumed in traditional religious celebrations is not a violation of this code.

Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties

Any athlete found to be guilty of hosting a party at which drugs, including alcohol, are provided or used will be treated as having violated the intent of the Athletic Code of Conduct. School officials will report all incidents of alcohol or other drug involvement to law enforcement officials.

VIOLATIONS OF ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Violation of the above rules, regulations, and expectations will be determined by the coach/advisor of each team with the Athletic Director having final authority, unless appealed. Coaches/advisors are encouraged to discuss each incident with the Athletic Director prior to determining what action is taken by the coach/advisor.

Any athlete believed to be in violation of the rules will have an opportunity to have a conference with the principal, Athletic Director and parent/guardian. The coach of the team may be included in such meetings, at the discretion of the Athletic Director. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified by the Athletic Director or Principal. Attendance or participation in such a meeting by the parent/guardian will be voluntary. After such a conference, any team member found to have violated any of the rules will be subject to disciplinary consequence.

Penalties may range from a discussion between the coach/advisor and athlete to a permanent suspension for the rest of the season and future seasons, as well as possible referral for violation of the Students Code of Conduct and notification of law enforcement. The starting date for any disciplinary consequence shall be the date that determination has been made that a violation occurred.

Reporting Infractions

Infractions for any of the codes of conduct, regardless of where they may have occurred, may be reported by any person to the coach or advisor of the team, the Athletic Director, or Principal. It is the responsibility of the coach/advisor and Athletic Director to investigate and enforce of all rule violations.

An athlete found to have violated the Drug/Alcohol Policy shall be subject to the following:

1st Offense:

- Loss of leadership position - Team Captain
- The student athlete will be suspended from participation in games for a three (3) week period.* If the violation occurs during preseason the three (3) week suspension will begin on the day of the first contest.*
 - *The three-week suspension period will be reduced to two (2) weeks if:
 - The student-athlete voluntarily attends one meeting with the school preventive service worker during the first week of suspension (appropriate documentation required).
 - The student-athlete writes a reflection essay that addresses the violation as well as the health consequences associated with alcohol/drug use during the two (2) week suspension.
- The student-athlete must attend all games during the suspension as a non-participant. The student-athlete will sit on the bench in street clothes.
- The student-athlete will continue to practice with the team.

2nd Offense:

The student-athlete will be removed from all athletic teams for 90 school days. The student-athlete who agrees to attend a substance abuse evaluation and follow the recommendations of the evaluator may return after the 60 day suspension, and must provide proof of that counseling prior to his/her return to participation.

3rd Offense:

The student-athlete will be suspended from participation in all sports for one calendar year. The student-athlete who agrees to attend a substance abuse evaluation and follow the recommendations of the evaluator may return after the 9-month suspension, and must provide proof of that counseling prior to his/her return to participation.

At the end of the season, any student who is completing a disciplinary consequence as a result of violation of any rules shall be sanctioned the remaining consequence in the next subsequent sport played during that school year. The Athletic Director shall determine the remaining contest(s) to be missed.

Students in grades 7 and 8 shall enter grade 9 without prior disciplinary consequence/record carrying forward into the ninth grade. Students in grades 7 and 8 who are on a junior varsity or varsity team shall carry forward into the ninth grade any disciplinary consequence /record recorded during the time on the freshman, junior varsity or varsity team(s).

Appeals

Any student found to have violated this Athletic Code of Conduct shall have the right to appeal the decision of the coach, Athletic Director, or Principal. The process shall be:

- Within three (3) school days following a disciplinary action by a coach/advisor, an appeal must be made in writing to the Athletic Director which states the basis for that appeal. The decision of the Athletic Director shall be rendered to the student in writing with the reasons for denial stated, should the appeal be denied. That decision to deny the appeal shall be made in writing within three (3) school days following receipt of the appeal.
- The student may appeal the decision of the Athletic Director with reasons for the appeal stated in writing within three (3) school days of that decision being rendered by requesting an appeal to the Principal.
- The Principal shall render his/her decision in writing to the student with reasons stated for denial of the appeal within three (3) days of receiving the appeal.
- Appeal of the Principal's decision must be made in writing with reasons stated to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) school days following the decision of the Principal.
- The Superintendent's decision shall state his/her reasons in writing within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the appeal request, should the decision of the Principal be upheld. The Board of Education shall have final decision in any appeal of the Superintendent's decision.
- Appeal of the Superintendent's decision must be made in writing within five (5) school days of his/her decision and must state the basis for the appeal. The Board of Education shall render its decision within ten (10) school days following receipt of the appeal request. The decision of the Board of Education shall be the final level of an appeal.

Cherry Valley-Springfield Central School is a member and follows the rules and regulations of the Tri-Valley League, Section IV, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). These rules and regulations may be viewed or downloaded at the NYSPHSAA website: www.nysphsaa.org. Copies are also available at the Athletic Director's office.