



# ***Athletic Handbook***

*-Created 2012*

*-Revised 2021*

## TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR PARENTS WITH ATHLETIC CHILDREN

- 1) Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts, and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- 2) Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic capability, their competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- 3) Be helpful but don't coach them on the way to the field, gymnasium or track or on the way back or at breakfast, and so on. It is tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be inundated with advice, pep talks, and often critical instruction.
- 4) Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying", to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them to develop the feel for competing, for trying hard, and having fun.
- 5) Try not to relive your athletic life through your children in a way that creates pressure; you fumbled, too, you lost as well as won. You were frightened, you backed off at times, and you were not always heroic. Don't pressure them because of your lost pride.
- 6) Don't compete with the coach. If the coach becomes an authority figure, it will run from enchantment to disenchantment, etc., with your athlete.
- 7) Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitudes of your children with other members of the team, at least within his/her hearing.
- 8) Get to know the coach so that you can be assured that the philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his/her leadership.
- 9) Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.
- 10) Make a point of understanding courage, and the fact that it is relative. Some of us can climb mountains, and are afraid to fight. Some of us will fight, but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear or discomfort. The job of the parent of an athletic child is a tough one, and it takes a lot of effort to do it well. It is worth all the effort when you hear your youngster say, "My parents really helped, I was lucky, in this."

## Coaching Standards & Expectations

*The heads of extra-curricular programs in the Clinton school district recognize the need to maintain a standard of excellence for our students. As such, we support the adoption of these standards to be used by the Athletic Director as the basis for the evaluation of coaches and programs.*

A coach has a role as leader and mentor to student athletes, and is an official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic activities. In such important capacities, these standard behaviors should be practiced (including those clubs and athletic programs not sponsored by MHSAA):

1. Develop an understanding of the role of interscholastic athletics and communicate it to players, parents, and the public.
2. Develop an up-to-date knowledge of the rules, strategies, safety precautions and skills of the sport and communicate them to players and parents.
3. Develop, communicate and model policies for athletes' conduct and language in the locker room, at practice, during travel, during competition, and at other appropriate times.
4. Develop fair, unprejudiced relationships with all squad members.
5. Allow athletes to prove themselves anew each season and do not base team selections on previous seasons or out of season activities.
6. Allow athletes time to develop skills and interests in other athletic and non-athletic activities provided by the school and community groups.
7. Give the highest degree of attention to athletes' physical and mental well-being.
8. Teach players strict adherence to game rules and contest regulations.
9. Teach players, by precept and example, respect for school authorities and contest officials, providing support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refraining from critical comments in public or to the media.
10. Present privately, through proper school authorities, evidence of rule violations by opponents; and counteract rumors and unfounded allegations of questionable practices by opponents.
11. Attend required meetings, keep abreast of MHSAA policies regarding the sport, and be familiar with MHSAA eligibility and contest regulations.
12. Present a clean professional image in terms of personal appearance, and provide a positive role model in terms of personal habits, language, and conduct. Use of tobacco within sight of players and spectators and use of alcohol any time before a contest on the day of the contest is not acceptable.

## Parental Standards & Expectations

When the coaching staff, the athletes, and the parents are working together for the good of the team, a season is successful. Help us provide the best possible environment for our athletes to have a quality experience. Everyone must play his/her role. The coaches need to coach, the players need to work hard and sacrifice for the good of the team, and parents need to support their children with attendance and encouragement. As models to our student athletes, the following behaviors should be practiced by parents:

1. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game.
2. Place the emotional and physical well-being of the participants ahead of any personal desires to win.
3. Provide support for coaches and officials working with the participants to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
4. Promote tobacco, alcohol, drug, and violence free sports environment for the participants and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all events.
5. Refrain from comments and actions that are intended to intimidate, bait, anger, or embarrass others.
6. Maintain a position as a spectator and refrain from "coaching from the stands".
7. Support the participants in the appropriately designated areas for spectators.
8. Remember that the game is for the students and not for adults.
9. Make youth sports fun for the participants.
10. Expect that your child treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
11. Keep all comments from the stands positive, including those directed towards individuals other than your own child.
12. Promise to help your child enjoy the extra-curricular experience within your personal constraints by being a respectful fan.

## Extra-Curricular Roles and Responsibilities

Actions by coaches, student athletes, administrators, parents and the board of education are subject to the same standards and expectations as stated in board policy and the contractual agreement between the board and the teacher's association. The same expectations for teachers, as stated in these documents, are expected of coaches.

### Extra-Curricular Participants will:

- Come prepared to work at every practice where he/she is physically able.
- Accept the team rules as established by the coach and the athletic department.
- Attempt to communicate all questions and concerns with the coach in a timely fashion.
- Display a respectful attitude towards his/her teammates, coaches, officials, spectators, and opponents at all times.

### Coaches will:

- Abide by MHSAA coaching standards as stated in the MHSAA Handbook.
- Come prepared to practice daily.
- Make a strong effort to run a safe practice and competition area.
- Communicate important information (such as team expectations and important dates) to parents and administration.

### Administrators will:

- Communicate to parents the "conflict resolution process."
- Enforce the chain of command as outlined in the "conflict resolution process."
- Review with coaches the expectations as stated in the team's guidelines.
- The Athletic Director will conduct a meeting in the off season with the coaches to discuss standards and procedures.

### Parents will:

- Be supportive of not only their children, but of all competitors.
- Support team guidelines and goals.
- Abide by the code of conduct for parents as found in the CHS Athletic Handbook.
- Communicate concerns directly to the coach while respecting the 24 hour "cooling off period."

### The Board of Education will:

- Recognize athletes and programs for academic and athletic success.
- Serve as an arbitrator in disputes that have exhausted the full grievance process.
- Enforce the chain of command as outlined in the "conflict resolution process."
- Remain neutral by refusing all requests to become involved in a dispute before the superintendent has been notified and all steps in the "conflict resolution process" have been exhausted.

## Extra-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process

- All complaints **MUST** be heard at the lowest possible level **BEFORE** intervention by a higher authority can occur.
- A 24 hour “cooling off” period must be granted before any complaints are initiated.
- Complaints must be made within 10 days of the incident. For the sake of all parties, the entire process must be concluded within 30 days of the incidents.

**This system works very well so we are committed to abide by it.**

### Step 1 **Start with the Source**

The player will speak directly to the coach. A cooling off period will be granted for all parties before resolution is sought. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas, and should be conducted face to face. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking solely to the coach may request a parent to be present, however the meeting should be conducted by the athlete.

### Step 2 **Move to Program Head**

This step is necessary only if the issue is in regards to a subordinate or assistant (i.e. an assistant, JV coach, etc.). If going to the source does not resolve the problem, then the head of the program should be notified and he/she should attempt to facilitate a solution. If the “source” is the head of the program, move to step three.

### Step 3 **Contact Athletic Director**

If an agreeable solution is not reached, then the athletic director will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

### Step 4 **Contact Principal**

If an agreeable solution is still not reached, then the principal will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

### Step 5 **Notify the Superintendent**

At this point in the process, individuals who still believe their disputes have not been resolved adequately can submit a written narrative of their complaint to the School Superintendent. A copy of this will be given to all concerned parties, who will be afforded the option of a written rebuttal. After the superintendent has reviewed the documents he can conduct a meeting in a final attempt to resolve the dispute.

### Step 6 **Request Non-partisan School Board Mediation**

This final step is appropriate only in extreme circumstances and shall follow the same process laid down for the superintendent.

## COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACH AND PARENTS

The purpose of the interscholastic athletic program at Clinton High School is to provide an arena in which students can learn and grow in meaningful ways that are not always possible in a classroom setting. Our ultimate success in achieving a positive athletic experience will be measured by our ability to establish lines of communication. Through good communication, people feel valued and understood, even if complete agreement is not always reached. We are all concerned about the *education* of our students. Part of the process of growing up is learning to handle your own difficult situations. If a conflict or misunderstanding between an athlete and a coach occurs, learning to resolve it is an important educational experience for the athlete. Parents should react slowly. Children tend to exaggerate at times, leave out part of the story, or present a skewed version of an incident. Taking responsibility for your part in a conflict is a learned skill. It requires maturity and honest self-reflection. Athletes vent frustration at the dinner table expecting mom and dad to take their side of the issue. Parents, however, realize that they were not present at practice to see how their child behaved, related to the coach, or to evaluate his or her skill and effort. Parents should always seek more information before drawing conclusions. The most productive long-term help a parent can give a child in awkward situations with a coach is to teach and model the skills of conflict resolution. Help your child resolve his or her own differences. When a student successfully deals with difficult interpersonal conflicts, he or she learns and grows. Parents are encouraged to help their athlete learn the valuable lessons that athletics can teach, even the “tough lessons” that may be difficult for everyone involved. .

### **Communications all parents can expect from their child’s coach or Athletic Director**

**Team Itinerary:** Parents need to know the location and times of all try-outs, practices, games, bus trips, meetings, banquets, team camps, conditioning sessions, etc.

**Team Rules:** Parents appreciate knowing not only the philosophy of the coach but also any team policies, including consequences that the coach established to supplement the code of conduct, rules and regulations.

**Criteria for Team Selection:** Coaches should develop and distribute written criteria for team selection, including objective criteria such as those measured against the stopwatch or skills completed, as well as subjective evaluations, such as attitude, effort, coach ability, commitment level, grades or potential.

**Criteria for Earning an Award:** Coaches should determine and distribute written criteria to parents and athletes as soon as the squad has been selected if the criterion is something more than simply completing the season as a member of the team.

**Injury:** Parents can expect to be immediately informed by the coach or trainer when an injury occurs that requires medical attention. Parents may call the athletic trainer for additional information on care.

**Problem Behavior:** Coaches should call parents whenever an athlete exhibits atypical behavior that persists longer than 48 hours.

**Discipline:** The coach will inform parents within 24 hours of all discipline that result in the loss of contest participation or removal from the team. This contact will be done before the parent is to attend the contest whenever possible.

### **Communications Coaches Appreciate from Parents**

**Schedule Conflicts:** If you cannot reach the coach directly, it is then appropriate to notify the main office to get a message to the coach. Please check with the coach before trying out regarding previously scheduled absences.

**Emotional Stressors:** Coaches appreciate knowing about any unusual event in the life of an athlete that is causing the young person additional stress.

**Volunteers:** Coaches need help with so many aspects of managing the program (fundraisers, work projects, team dinners, awards banquet, etc.) that they are always glad to hear from parents who have ideas and are willing to work for the team. Volunteer forms are to be on file at the Superintendent's office.

**Forthrightness:** Every coach wants to try to resolve a conflict before it is taken to the athletic director, principal, or higher authority or before it is discussed "in the stands."

### **Appropriate Concerns for Parents to Discuss with Coaches**

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's physical health and welfare, academic progress, or violation of the code of conduct.  
\*\*(Matters regarding other athletes are to be left to their respective parents).

### **Areas of Control that Belong to the Coach Alone**

1. Tryout procedures, team placement, team size, and selection criteria.
2. Position(s) played, lineups, and playing time.
3. Offensive and defensive strategies, play calling, and style of play.
4. Practice plans, drills, and scrimmages.
5. Coaching staff (upon approval of the Athletic Director).

### **How to Discuss an Appropriate Concern with the Coach**

Communication is the most vital aspect of heading off potential problems. Any concern a student or parent has must always be addressed by following the "Extra-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process." The first step of this is to contact the source. Whenever possible the student should initiate, but whether the parent or the student begins the process, there are some suggestions on how to handle this conversation.

**Student Contacting the Source:** The student should talk directly with the coach, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment. E-mail, voice mail, and letters are good methods for communicating information, but they are not as effective for communicating feelings and concerns. By their nature they tend to distance coaches and athletes.

**Parent Contacting the Source:** Contact the coach to talk directly, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game area with the student-athlete present. Making an appointment, sitting down and listening to both sides is far more productive in reaching a mutually satisfying resolution. Our coaches are expected and encouraged to meet with individual parents to discuss concerns that affect that parent's child. Our coaches are not expected to meet with groups of parents to discuss issues of concern. Please do **NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after practice or a contest. Please wait 24 hours. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Our coaches are **NOT** expected to endure yelling, verbal or physical abuse from parents. Make an appointment. Help teach your child the skills of mature conflict resolution.



## Conducting a Meeting

1. Introduce yourself and vice versa. There is to be no yelling, verbal or physical abuse by either side.
2. When each person is speaking there is to be no interruption. Let each person complete his or her version of the situation before the other person speaks. When stating your concern be prepared with the facts in so far as you understand, or can ascertain them. **Be clear about what you hope will happen as a result of your meeting.**
3. As you talk with the coach, or other authority, repeat back what you hear him or her say to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk and listen. Take notes.
4. Assist in generating options to resolve the conflict. Make sure there is fairness to the proposed solutions.
5. Before the session ends, have a plan that is clearly understood by all parties. A written document restating the final outcome, what happens if the situation reoccurs, and signatures indicating understanding is appropriate. This written plan will check for mutual understanding. Make a plan to touch base following the initial meeting. Remember each party has a stake in making the plan work. We always assume all parties have the best interest of the student-athlete in mind when concerns are discussed. Therefore, we make every effort to assure the student is not penalized or placed in an awkward position as a result of voicing a complaint. Parents, rightly so, tend to have single focus and advocate for their own child. Coaches, on the other hand, tend to have multi-focus and must safeguard the needs of every player as well as the team as a whole. Parents and coaches, in order to communicate effectively, must respect the legitimate perspective of the other.

## FOREWARD

*A sound student athletic program is not an accident; it is conscientiously planned and directed by individuals who recognize it's important to the educational environment. The purpose of this student athletic handbook is to explain the philosophies, objectives, regulations, and procedures of the Clinton High School student activities program. In establishing these guidelines, the following factors are considered:*

1. *Safeguarding the health of participants in the athletic program;*
2. *Providing opportunities for student participation;*
3. *Establishing standards that cultivate healthy interpersonal relationships among participants;*
4. *Maintaining the highest quality of student athletics;*
5. *Promoting a healthy school/community relationship;*
6. *Promoting congenial relationships with other schools.*

## ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

In accordance with the goals of education, the Clinton Community Schools athletic philosophy is to help young people develop mentally, physically, emotionally and intellectually to their fullest potential. The athletic program contributes to this goal by providing middle school and high school students with opportunities to participate as team members in sports competition with other schools. The development of physical skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty, tolerance, and perseverance are desired individual outcomes.

## ACTIVITIES SANCTIONED BY CLINTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The following activities are sanctioned by the Clinton Community Schools Board of Education and are subject to all considerations presented in this handbook:

### **Fall**

Cross Country (Boys & Girls)  
Football (Boys)  
Sideline Cheerleading (Girls)  
Soccer (Boys)  
Volleyball (Girls)

National Honor Society  
Drama  
Jazz Band  
Student Government  
Equestrian Club (Boys & Girls)  
Spanish Club  
Summer Sports Camps  
ESports (2019)

### **Winter**

Basketball (Boys & Girls)  
Competitive Cheerleading (Girls)  
Wrestling (Boys)  
Ice Hockey (Co-op)  
Bowling (Boys & Girls)

### **Spring**

Baseball (Boys)  
Golf (Co-Ed)  
Soccer (Girls)  
Softball (Girls)  
Track & Field (Boys & Girls)

## OBJECTIVE OF THE ATHLETICS PROGRAM

A meaningful athletics program should have defined objectives that apply to all levels. These objectives should be consistent with the philosophical and educational objectives designed to promote personal development and community spirit. The Clinton High School Athletics Program is dedicated to the following objectives:

- Provide students with quality teaching/coaching personnel;
- Provide students with facilities that will enhance their skills;
- Provide opportunity for students to participate;
- Build a positive image of school athletics of which community, parents and students can be proud and supportive.

## DUAL SPORTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are frequently involved in multiple school activities. The student should notify the coach and the director of the other activity as soon as a conflict in the calendar occurs which requires the student to be in two places at the same time. The student is not in jeopardy during the resolution of the conflict. The coach and director will notify the Athletic Director if assistance is needed to resolve the conflict.

The commitment of students in extra-curricular activities should increase at higher levels of competition. At times, personal interests may need to be sacrificed for the good of the individual and his team members. During the season, anytime a participant fails to attend practice/event, with or without prior notice, the student's return to the lineup will be determined by the amount of time necessary to recover lost skills, conditioning, and other factors as determined by the coach. Disciplinary measures by the coach may be enforced when an absence is not connected with the immediate family or not excused.

## GOALS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

The goal of extra-curricular participation in Clinton Community Schools should be an educational experience developing individual skills and formulating team concepts that can be used for a lifetime.

1. Teamwork: Develop self-discipline, respect authority, work hard and place team objectives above personal desires, 100% of the time.
2. Success: Perform at one's best regardless of the final outcome.
3. Good Sportsmanship: Learn to accept winning and losing gracefully. Treat others with respect. Maintain emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.
4. Develop Good Health Habits: Develop good nutritional habits, get proper exercise and follow guidelines set up by coaches and athletic trainers.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

A student who elects to participate in the athletics program is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. Being a member of these groups is a privilege and must be treated as such. An individual's conduct should reflect positively upon himself/herself, his/her family, school, and community.

1. In the arena of competition, behavior should reflect good sportsmanship.
2. In the classroom, good citizenship, the highest individual academic effort and social responsibility should exemplify the conduct of a good athlete.
3. The student is responsible for equipment and facilities used in the performing of the activity.
4. Dropping out of an extra-curricular activity is a serious matter. As a courtesy, the student and parents should discuss this decision with the Coach, Counselor, or Athletic Director before making a final decision.
5. High school students should use good judgment in emulating only those college and professional performers who display positive qualities of sportsmanship.
6. A student should respect and adhere to the expectations of the individual coach/supervisor as outlined in the activities written guidelines.

All rules of this section as well as other sections of the Student Athletic Handbook are in effect from the beginning of their first day of participation in an extra-curricular activity and continuing through to the date of graduation or the last date of participation, whichever is later( grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>). All infractions will be penalized and be applicable at any time during the calendar year and will carry over from year to year.

The students are at all times representatives of the athletics program of the School District and must not engage in conduct which is disreputable or unbecoming of a student of the School District. Conduct which would constitute a violation of any law or ordinance and which involves an act of dishonesty or criminal intent will be subject to the penalties and disciplinary measures of the Athletic Code.

Violations of the Code of Conduct are punishable by the disciplinary measures and penalties as follows:

- Suspension – restricted from participation in the scheduled events and/or games of the athletic activity for a specified duration. The athlete must attend practices.
- Removal – removal from participation in any and all athletic activities including practices for a specified period or permanently.

The Athletic Director and the Principal shall determine the degree of the penalty or disciplinary measure imposed on a case-by-case basis according to the seriousness and severity of the violation. The student's assigned High School Counselor will be consulted when appropriate. The above training rules are the minimal standards, which are to be adhered to by students. **Any coach may implement her/his own training rules and regulations which go above and beyond the minimum standards previously stated with approval of the Athletic Director.**

## RULES PERTAINING TO THE USE OF TOBACCO, DRUGS, STEROIDS, AND ALCOHOL

Refrain from smoking, using chewing tobacco, the use of or possession of drugs, steroids and/or alcoholic beverages harmful to the body or mind.

Consequences for violating rules pertaining to the use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, steroids or tobacco substances:

1. First Offense: Suspension from all extra-curricular activities for 33% (1/3) of the contests or competitions in the current season and/or the next season of competition. The suspension will start when the athlete is physically and academically eligible. Dates cancelled because of weather will not count as part of the suspension unless those dates are made up later against the same teams. If the violation occurs with less than 1/3 of the season remaining, the rest of the suspension will be served in the next season of participation. The suspension will be pro-rated if the number of events is different in the two sports. The athlete will also serve ten hours of community service within the Athletic Department, the school or the community. The athlete will also be placed on probation. A suspension will not be considered complete if a student athlete attempts to play a new sport for the sole purpose of serving the suspension or to quit the sport when the suspension is complete.
2. Second Offense: Suspension from all extra-curricular activities for one calendar year. If one calendar year passes without any participation in extra-curricular activities, the suspension for an activity code violation is negated.
3. Third Offense: Suspension from participation in all arranged competition at Clinton High School for the remainder of the student's high school career.
4. If the individual informs the administration and/or Athletic Director about the violation before we find out from an outside source, the punishment will be reduced by half. This opportunity is only available on the first offense and only one time.
5. The coach at his/her discretion, may impose additional penalties, but may not impose more severe penalties relative to suspension
6. A flagrant violation of school and/or athletic rules may result in a penalty greater than those listed above.

NOTE: A scrimmage with another school may not count as a scheduled interscholastic competition.

NOTE: A student suspended from interscholastic competitions must continue to demonstrate the qualities of sportsmanship outlined in this Handbook.

NOTE: If a suspension cannot be completed in the present season, the suspension will be carried over to the student's next sports season. The amount of dates to be suspended will be determined by the Athletic Director.

NOTE: Offense for steroid use: Any student suspected of steroid use will be required to submit to a drug test. Failure to take or pass this test will cause removal from the team for the balance of the season. Any further participation in high school athletics must be approved by the Athletic Director and Superintendent.

NOTE: Suspensions for Athletic Code Violations assessed by other school districts will be carried over to Clinton High School for transferring students.

NOTE: Actions displayed on the internet are considered a source of evidence in determining a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

NOTE: Parents of the students involved in any drug, alcohol or tobacco related offenses that may result in a suspension would be notified prior to the suspension of the student athlete. Any student or parent has the right to call for a hearing with the Athletic Director on any of the above steps. Proof of notification or attempts to notify the

parents will be documented in writing. Within three (3) school days following the assessment of a penalty, a student or student's parent/guardian may file an appeal in writing with the superintendent.

### **REINSTATEMENT**

- A. Suspended students will be required to participate in practice activities while serving a suspension.
- B. A student violating any substance rule may be required to attend a substance abuse program approved by the school and arranged and funded at the student/parent's expense.
- C. Once a student has violated the activity code of conduct, he/she may not join an athletic team if 20% of the season has elapsed including practice time.

## **STUDENTS CONDUCT CODE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Recognizing that participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, the District requires that the conduct of student participants be exemplary at all times. Participants are representatives of the District and their school and must conduct themselves appropriately at all times both while in school and out of school. Student participants who violate this policy are subject to being removed from the activity at the discretion of the coach, sponsor, Building Principal or Athletic Director, in addition to any other applicable punishment.

The Athletic Director shall require that all coaches and sponsors of extra-curricular activities have Rules or a Conduct Code for their participants consistent with this policy and the rules adopted by the MHSAA. These rules should contain a notice to participants that failure to abide by them could result in removal from the activity. The Rules of Conduct Code shall be reviewed by the Building Principal periodically at his or her discretion and presented to the School Board. (See alternative paragraph below).

All coaches and sponsors of extra-curricular activities shall annually review the Rules of Conduct with participants and provide participants with a copy.

### **ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

The Athletic Council is comprised of the Athletic Director, Principal, and the Varsity Head Coaches:

The Athletic Council shall, at the request of the head coach, have the power (subject to the Student/Parent Handbook) to bar from participating in athletics any individual whose actions are detrimental to the reputation of the school. This option shall be based upon the individual's scholarship, sportsmanship, citizenship, and cooperativeness. Any individual thus barred must make a personal appearance before the Athletic Council before the student may participate in athletics.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Activities in our schools have earned an outstanding reputation in the area of school and community sportsmanship. Our students, fans and participants have always conducted themselves in a commendable manner. Everyone is very proud of this reputation and works hard at upholding it. Please review the following suggestions for future consideration:

- 1. A spectator represents his/her school the same as the athlete;
- 2. The good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play;
- 3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute;
- 4. Recognize and show appreciation of fine play and good sportsmanship on the part of the opponent;
- 5. Advocate that any spectator or athlete who continually demonstrates poor sportsmanship may be excused from the athletic program.

### **ADULT FAN BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

If a fan is acting in an unsportsmanlike manner, he/she will be approached and be advised of the inappropriate behavior by a staff member or the game management with a follow up letter sent by the Athletic Director. This offense may result in a suspension of

home contests and any other athletic event during the suspension time period. Further offenses will result in a suspension from all athletic contests for the remainder of the school year. This process may be accelerated if the administration deems it necessary.

## MHSAA MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

What follows is a condensed version of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's standards. Questions as to the details included in these standards should be taken to the High School Athletic Director. You may also visit [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com)

Michigan High School Athletic Association Eligibility Standards:

A. ENROLLMENT: Students must be enrolled not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day for the first semester, or not later than the fourth Friday of February for the second semester to be eligible for interscholastic athletics.

B. AGE: A student must be under nineteen (19) years of age at the time of the contest unless the student's birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year. Should the student's birthday occur on or after September 1, the student is eligible for the balance of that school year.

C. MAXIMUM COMPETITION: A student, once enrolled in grade 9, shall be allowed to compete in only four first and four second semesters.

D. SEMESTERS OF ENROLLMENT: A student shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four first semesters and four second semesters of enrollment. Enrollment in a school after the fourth Friday counts as a semester. Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic contests also constitutes a semester of enrollment.

E. UNDERGRADUATE STANDING: The student must not be a high school graduate.

F. PREVIOUS SEMESTER RECORD: The student must have passed 66% of the credit load for work taken during the last regular semester of enrollment, and have passed at least five (5) out of seven (7) semester courses. A student who fails to pass 66% of the credit load – five (5) out of seven (7) semester courses at the end of any semester period shall be ineligible for the next 60 school days unless the deficiencies are made up. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next semester when the school accepts the credit.

G. CURRENT SEMESTER RECORD: The student must be passing at least 66% of the credit hours of work during the current semester, passing a minimum of five (5) out of seven (7) courses.

H. TRANSFERS: The student must be accompanied by the persons with whom the student had lived when moving out of a former school district or service area and into a new school district. The student is ineligible to participate in an athletic contest or scrimmage for one full semester unless the student qualifies for at least one of the 15 exceptions as stated in the MHSAA Handbook, Section 9, pages 36-42.

I. AWARDS: A student may not accept an award for athletic performance that exceeds a value of \$25.00. An award may not include cash, merchandise certificates or negotiable certificate for any value.

J. AMATEUR PRACTICES: The student must not accept money or any type of valuable consideration (merchandise, etc.) for participating in any type of athletics, sports or games. Nor should the student accept this same type of consideration for officiating interscholastic athletic contests. A student is not to sign a contract with a professional team.

K. LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP: 1) After a student has represented the school in an interscholastic athletic activity, the student may participate in a maximum of two(2) non-school individual interscholastic athletic meets or contests during the athletic season of the school year while not representing the school only in the sports of cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling. 2) The student may not participate in any "all-star", charity or exhibition contests in any interscholastic athletic event not sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association before graduating from high school. 3) Parents should always check with the Athletic Director before allowing a student-athlete to participate in any non-school athletic activity. This is important to the student's future athletic eligibility. A violation of the limited Team Membership rule results in ineligibility for three competitions.

L. REINSTATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY: A change in status for an athlete who has been ineligible occurs on the first full day of the new semester on which regularly scheduled classes are held, and not on the last day of the previous semester.

M. COMPETITION DISQUALIFICATION: Note: This is the working of the Michigan High School Athletic Association – Reg. V, Sec. 2, Pg. 89: The following policies for disqualifications shall apply in all sports:

- A. When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next contest/day of competition for that team.
- B. When a coach is disqualified during a contest/day of competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching for the remainder of that day of competition and from coaching at or attending at least the next contest/day of competition for that team.
- C. Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or for the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition.
- D. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season in any sport for seniors.
- E. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty or more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations,. The playing rules apply. (1990)
- F. Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament.

## I. POTENTIAL DANGERS IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

- Informed Consent: By its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their coaches or athletic trainer, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment. Also, due to the nature of athletics, the possibility of the exchange of body fluids is present in sports. Regardless of how remote the possibility of transmission of diseases such as HIV/HBV is, all athletes should be aware of the inherent risks associated with athletic competition.
- Risk Taking: Participation in athletics is a voluntary extra-curricular activity in which the student participates at the risk of injury. Athletic activities can be hazardous and participation in such activities is a calculated risk on the part of the student and parents.

## II. INSURANCE

The Clinton Community Schools Board of Education does not assume liability for injuries suffered by students while participating in athletic activities. Clinton Community Schools do not require or provide insurance coverage for participation on athletic teams. The responsibility for the expenses incurred in athletics for doctors, ambulance or medical expenses for injury must be assumed by the parent or guardian. If you do not have medical insurance and would like to get covered see the Athletic Director or Carol Wahl in the finance department.

## III. PHYSICALS

A physical form must be properly completed and signed by the parent/guardian and examining physician. This form shall be kept on file in the Athletic Office of the high school before a student may participate in athletic activities.

- A physical examination given after April 15, good for the following school year.
- Physical examinations will be given through the school at a free or reduced price on a date to be determined each year.

#### **IV. INJURY POLICY**

Injury Reporting: Students absent from practice due to extended illness or any athlete who sustains an injury while participating for CHS or on his/her own time needs to report the injury to the head trainer.

Release to Practice/Compete Following an Injury: Any athlete who has sustained an injury must be released to return to competition or practice by the head trainer and/or his/her physician. Release by the physician must be delivered in writing to the head trainer. If the head trainer feels the athlete may be at risk of further injury, return may be withheld pending trainers consulting with the athlete’s physician.

Head Trainers Role: The head trainer is responsible for injury prevention, care, treatment and rehabilitation under the direction of the Athletic Director.

Athlete’s Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the athlete to follow the instructions of his/her physician, as well as the head trainer’s recommendations and direction with regard to an injury; it is his/her own responsibility to follow up with treatment as directed by the team trainer.

#### **V. DUAL PARTICIPATION POLICY**

There exist circumstances in which it may be in the best interest of both a particular team and an individual athlete to allow participation on more than one athletic team during a particular season. This would allow individual athletes an opportunity to excel in activities that will help both them and others grow and develop physically, socially, and emotionally while, at the same time, helping the overall growth, development and success of the entire team.

A parent/guardian of a student who wishes to participate in two sports should request a meeting with the student, the coaches of both sports, and the Athletic Director to discuss these wishes and review the following:

1. A written contract will be established wherein all the above named parties may agree upon training and performance requirements concerning the games and practices.
2. The athlete must choose his/her primary sport and would be expected to attend all practices and contests of the primary sport.
3. The athlete will only be able to participate in the secondary sport when there is not a conflict with primary sport activities. Potential conflicts will be resolved by the parties involved and included in the contract.
4. The athlete would be expected to abide by all team rules for both sports, unless mutually agreed upon.
5. If the athlete fails to comply with any of the agreed upon criteria, the athlete will no longer be eligible to participate in the secondary sport.

#### **GENERAL POLICIES**

##### **PREVIOUS SEMESTER RECORD ELIGIBILITY & MHSAA REQUIREMENTS**

According to the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), No student shall compete in any contest during any semester, who has not passed at least 66% of the credit load. (Passing 5 out of 7 courses) for the last semester during which he/she shall have been enrolled in grade nine to twelve, inclusive for a period of three weeks or more, or during which the athlete shall have taken part in any interscholastic athletic contest. A student who fails to pass 66% of the credit load five (5) out of seven (7) semester courses at the end of any semester period shall be ineligible for the next 60 school days unless the deficiencies are made up. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next semester when the school accepts the credit.

A student entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time may compete without reference to his/her record in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In determining the number of hours of credit received during a semester under this rule, the usual credit allowed by the school shall be given. However, reviews and extra-curricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted. Deficiencies, including incomplete, conditions, and failures from a previous semester may be made up during a subsequent



semester, summer session, night school, or by tutoring. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next semester when the school accepts the credit.

## CURRENT HS SEMESTER RECORD ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility/Ineligibility begins the Monday after grades are reported

- A. Any student with two (2) or more E's at **Progress Report or the Nine Week Marking Period** will have five (5) 'probationary' school days in which to improve. If after the five (5) day 'probationary' period the student improves his/her grades so they have less than two E's they will immediately be eligible until the next monitoring date. However, if after the five day 'probationary' period, should the student continue to have two (2) or more E's they will be ineligible for the next eight (8) school days.
  - a. It is the responsibility of the **student** to bring the HAC report to the Athletic Director by the end of the school day or the student will be considered to be ineligible

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. An athlete must be in school by 12pm or leave no earlier than 12pm the day of the event to be eligible to participate unless he/she is participating in a school sponsored function.
2. If there are extenuating circumstances to an athlete's attendance, the school attendance officer/athletic director will determine the eligibility.
3. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ATHLETES: The student must pass a physical examination for the present school year. A record of this examination must be on file in the high school Athletic Director's office.
4. If an athlete is absent or late the day following a contest, he will report the reason to his coach before participating in practice or contests.

## TRANSPORTATION

Students are required to travel to and from athletic events by the transportation provided by the Clinton Community Schools District. This requirement may be waived for extenuating circumstances by the parents of the student submitting, in writing, a request to the coach prior to the event.

## FOOT COVERINGS

State Health Department regulations require feet to be covered at all times in public buildings. The only exception should be in locker rooms. "Spikes" and cleats of any kind are prohibited in the hallways or locker rooms. Athletes are to put on and take off this type of shoe outside of the building.

## FOOD

1. No one should be eating food or drinking beverages in the locker rooms. Food and beverages are to be consumed in designated supervised areas only.
2. Students are not to bring glass bottles, cans or any other containers into the building.
3. Beverages and food are to be consumed in the cafeteria.
4. Opened bottles or cans should be disposed of immediately after consumption in the cafeteria.

## PARKING

1. All participants are to park in the main student parking lot. No one is to park in the Administration's parking area until after 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
2. No one is to park along the sidewalk by the Administration's parking lot.

## **EQUIPMENT**

1. Any individual who has failed to return, in good condition, any equipment issued shall be ineligible for an award and from participation in any other sport until such equipment is satisfactorily returned or the Athletic Department is reimbursed.
2. The theft of school equipment is larceny and Michigan law regards larceny as a felony.

## **SNOW DAY PROCEDURES**

- A. All clubs' and organizations' meetings will be canceled until school is called back into session.
- B. If school is called off during the school day;
  1. No team practices.
  2. If a varsity team contest is scheduled for the next day;
    - a. Varsity teams only may practice after safety and team arrangements have been considered;
    - b. No junior varsity or middle school practices are to be held.
- C. If school is called off before the start of the day (first day);
  1. Varsity team only may practice at discretion of Athletic Director;
  - 2.. No junior varsity or middle school practices (or middle school games)
- D. If school is called off before the start of the school day (second day or more) – all teams may practice with permission from Athletic Director.

## **NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**

Students interested in competing in division one or two collegiate athletics must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Students should contact either the Athletic Office or the Counseling Office, or view the NCAA website at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>.

## **PARTCIPATION ON VARSITY AND JV TEAMS**

- A. Before a ninth grader can participate on a Varsity Team, the Varsity Coach must confer with the parents. If the parents object to their son/daughter playing on the Varsity team, the athlete will be assigned to the JV team.
- B. Eleventh graders may participate on a JV team if the Varsity and JV coach feel it would be beneficial to the individual and the program.
- C. Twelfth graders will not play on a JV team. The only exception would be a foreign exchange student playing a sport for the first time.

## **AWARD POLICIES**

- A. All awards must conform to the regulations of the State High School Athletic Association. A season is not completed until after the conclusion of the Awards Banquet. CRITERIA FOR ATHLETIC TEAM AWARDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM COACHES AND THE ATHLETIC OFFICE.
- B. Award Hardware Policy:
1. Junior Varsity Team – Award Certificate
  2. Varsity Team
    - a) First year – letter award with sport identification insert. If this is the first Varsity Award, they will receive a Block “C” and their numerals. Only one block “C” will be awarded per career.
    - b) Second year, third year and fourth year will receive inserts for sport identification. Third year will receive a medal and fourth year will receive a plaque.
    - c) ALL LEAGUE winners are selected by the Tri-County Conference Sports Guidelines. In some sports, a league meet determines the winner. In others, the league coaches vote. All Academic teams are for grades 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> holding a 3.5 GPA or higher.
    - c) All athletes must have conformed to the regulations for attendance at practices and contests to the satisfaction of the coach for that sport. Athletes must have completed their season under good standing, without removal for Code of Conduct, quitting, or other disciplinary reasons.
    - d) All athletes should have displayed at all times, to opponents, officials and fellow teammates, the type of sportsmanship which his/her school demands.
    - e) All athletes must have conformed to all rules for training as established by the Athletic Department for equipment checked out to them.
    - f) All athletes must have conformed to all rules for training as established by the Athletic Council, Athletic Director and the coach of the designated sport.
- C. Trophies and Plaques:
1. Trophies or plaques may be given out by coaches provided they have the approval of the administration. The School district will cover 3 awards per sport per season. Any “extra” awards will be financed through the coach’s internal accounts.
    - a) Two plaques will be used for the “Male and Female Athlete of the Year” and will be placed in the showcases across from the main office.
      - The “Male and Female Athlete of the Year” will be selected by all varsity head coaches.
- D. **Letter Requirements for all Sports**
- The letter requirements will be outlined in each coach’s written sport guidelines and reviewed with the Athletic Director.

## **CONDUCT CODE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Participation shall at all times abide by the safety rules of their activity or sport. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Participants’ conduct, in and out of school, shall not reflect negatively on their school or create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school.

Participants who violate this Conduct Code are subject to being removed from the activity at the discretion of the Coach, Building Principal or Athletic Director, in addition to any other applicable punishment.

## Clinton Middle School Athletics

### Middle School athletics are about access.

Everyone who is academically and physically eligible may join a team. Clinton Middle School has a no-cut policy. The emphasis is on participation, learning, and being a team member. Equal playing time is not guaranteed, but time on the floor or the field is.

There is sometimes a wide discrepancy between the skill levels of experienced athletes and novices. Coaches are aware of this. Coaches help newer participants gain confidence in their skills and rely on the leadership of veterans to create a healthy team experience. This is the place to try a new sport!

### Middle School athletics are about a special team experience.

This includes everything. . .from the long bus rides to schools to the team cheers. Team members support each other, whether they are playing or watching from the sideline. Team tactics emphasize a common purpose, working together, and competing in a sporting manner. Instruction in techniques and fundamentals helps players gain confidence.

This is about obligations that team members have to each other, too. Coaches teach and manage. Players are expected to be positive with teammates and to attend scheduled team events. It is the students' responsibility to communicate with coaches when they cannot make practices or games. In addition, athletes are expected to wear the school uniform and return it washed and in good condition at the end of the season.

### Middle School athletics are NOT about winning.

Although winning is welcomed the goal is to help Middle School student/athletes become healthy competitors, to learn new skills, and to enjoy the team experience.

### Additional Information

- There are home and away games against other schools. We try to balance the schedules.
- Teams travel to away venues in Clinton Community school buses. Teams often travel together.
- Parents may bring their children home from away venues provided they have followed guidelines and received approval prior to the event.
- Schedules change constantly. Please check the web site for updates, changes, and directions to away venues.

### Clinton Middle School Athletic Offerings

#### Fall

- Boys Football - (seventh grade team & eighth grade team)
- Girls Volleyball - (seventh grade team & eighth grade team)
- Girls Cheerleading - (seventh grade squad and eighth grade squad)
- Boys and Girls Cross Country

The fall seasons run from the beginning of school until the last week in October.

#### Winter

- Boys Basketball - (seventh grade team & eighth grade team)
- Girls Basketball - (seventh grade team and eighth grade team)
- Wrestling - (one Middle School team)

Basketball and Wrestling play from February until mid-March.

#### Spring

- Boys and Girls Track (one Middle School team)

The season begins shortly before or after Spring Break and ends with the league Track meet in May.

## PARENTS SIGNATURE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent or guardian of  
(Print Parent/Guardian Name)

\_\_\_\_\_, graduating class of 20\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_ have  
(Print Athletes Name) (Print Sports participating in)

read the information in this packet. All rules of this Student Athletic Handbook are in effect from the beginning of their first day of participation in an extra-curricular activity and continuing through to the date of graduation or the last date of participation, whichever is later (grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>). All infractions will be penalized and be applicable at any time during the calendar year and will carry over from year to year.

I agree to follow all these rules and regulations of Clinton Community Schools and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) as they pertain to my son/daughter and me.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student if 18 years old)