

Athletic/Activity Code of Conduct

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of Cloudcroft Municipal Schools. While students have the legal right to attend school, the courts have held that the same right does not extend to participating in extra-curricular activities. Because of this, the community, school administration, and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential to the maintenance of our extra-curricular programs. All athletes/participants shall abide by a Code of Conduct.

The following are examples of unacceptable conduct:

1. Truancy
2. Theft
3. Vandalism
4. Disrespect
5. Violations of the law
6. Other rules and regulations established by the Coaches/Sponsors; the Cloudcroft School District; and Local, State and Federal governments

Acts such as these tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the program. **Participation in acts of unacceptable conduct may result in meeting with the student, coach, school administration, and/or parents to determine any penalty to be administered.** Penalties may range from school disciplinary measures (as outlined in the school handbook) to loss of sport and/or activity participation privileges for a portion or the rest of the school year.

Students have to decide if they want to be participants in extra-curricular activities. If one does wish to be a part, one must make the commitment required to achieve success. Though social pressures may exist that tempt one to break rules regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs—their use cannot be justified or tolerated.

As athletes/participants are often looked upon as leaders by other students and the community, rules regarding the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, and/or performance enhancing steroids are in effect for twelve months of the year.

Use of any of the above mentioned substances will affect one's performance and thus must compromise participation. The athlete/participant who wishes to engage in the use of these substances should remove him/herself from the team before jeopardizing team morale, team reputation, and team success. Because of the dire possibilities associated with the possession and/or use of the use of drugs, and alcohol; the following consequences will be imposed:

First Violation—The athlete/participant will be suspended from participation for ten (10) school days and a minimum of two (2) contests. If the penalty is not fully administered during that season or competition period, the remainder of the penalty will be applied to the next interscholastic season/competition period in which the student participates.

Second Violation—The athlete/participant will be suspended from participating in all sports/activities for ninety (90) school days and a minimum of two sport/activity seasons.

This penalty will be reduced to forty-five (45) days and one sport season if the athlete is willing to attend a drug and alcohol counseling program. Counseling program information is available from the athletic director or the high school counselor.

Third Violation—The athlete will be suspended from participating in all sports for one hundred eighty (180) school days and will be expected to attend a drug and alcohol counseling program. Upon completion of the above mentioned penalties, the athlete will be expected to present his/her case in front of a panel of five (5) coaches, teachers, and students explaining what has been learned from the above mentioned penalty and requesting permission to compete once again.

The use of tobacco products also carries a stiff penalty.. The following are consequences when an athlete/participant is caught possessing, using, and/or distributing tobacco products:

First Violation--The athlete/participant will be suspended from participation for five (5) school days and a minimum of one (1) contest.

Second Violation-- The athlete/participant will be suspended from participation for ten (10) school days and a minimum of two (2) contests.

Third Violation—The athlete/participant will be suspended from participation in the current sport/activity season for the remainder of that season.

In addition, any athletic/activity participant who is found to be in violation of the rules while at school or on a school sponsored trip will be suspended from participation in any sport activity for the remainder of the school year regardless of what violation it is and will be subject to penalties established in the Cloudcroft High School student handbook. In addition, athletes who violate the Code of Conduct will automatically forfeit any leadership roles to which they have been appointed or elected.

Coaches/sponsors may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sport or activity with the approval of the athletic director. These additional rules must be stipulated in writing to participating athletes/participants and parents/guardians. Penalties for violation of these rules will also be in writing and shall be administered by the coach/sponsor. A copy of additional rules by coaches/sponsors will be kept on file with the athletic director.

Conduct of an Athlete/Participant

During a Contest

In competition, a real competitor does not use profanity or illegal tactics, and learns that losing is a part of the game. One should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well played game after the contest, whether in defeat or victory.

Displays of fits of temper, clowning, taunting, excessive celebration, etc. are unacceptable and may result in disciplinary actions for an athlete/participant..

Officials in a game are there for the purpose of insuring equity for both teams. Officials do not lose a game. It is tradition that no one except the coaches and/or the appointed captain talks to the officials and that he/she speaks in a professional and respectful manner at all times.

Any negative behavior contrary to that which has been established above is a direct reflection on our community, our school, our sports teams, our coaches, and our individual athletes/participants.

In the Classroom

In the academic arena, a good athlete/participant is an exceptional student. If an athlete/participant does not establish discipline within the classroom setting, how can that same athlete hope to maintain discipline on the field of play? The same philosophy holds true in the areas of laziness, organizational skills, punctuality, and self-respect. An athlete/participant within the Cloudcroft athletic/activity program must lead by example in all of these areas. Take pride in your behavior in class. Compete with your fellow students to develop a classroom environment where success and achievement are the established norm.

In our Community

The way an athlete conducts him/herself within a community setting reflects not only on themselves, but also on their parents, coaches, sponsors and school. An athlete must recognize that their actions reverberate much farther than what they can immediately see in front of them. As an athlete/participant, take the initiative to establish actions both you and your fellow athletes/participants can take pride in. Always contemplate your behavior within a social setting and represent Cloudcroft athletics and activities with pride and integrity.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We certify that we have read, understand, and agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct required for participation in any Cloudcroft High/Middle School extracurricular activity.

_____/_____
Athlete/Participant Signature / Date

_____/_____
Parent/Guardian Signature / Date