

ATHLETIC CODE **for Clifton ISD Athletic Participants**

Our Purpose

The Clifton Independent School District provides extra-curricular athletic programs for the benefit of our students. We believe that participation in the various athletic programs can provide students an opportunity to learn many things not available to them in the classroom. Students are encouraged to participate in multiple extra-curricular activities. The Clifton Athletic Program will stress playing by the rules, having discipline, being fundamentally sound, maintaining supreme physical condition, and playing with great enthusiasm.

ACADEMICS

The number one reason all students are here is to obtain a quality education.

1. Participants must meet the minimum grade standards of UIL and TEA. At the beginning of each school year UIL eligibility is determined by state graduation credits earned during the previous school year(s). Each student must earn a minimum of 5 state graduation credits in the previous school year. Each participant must be passing “all subjects” with a 70 average at the end of each six weeks grading period.
2. If an athlete is ineligible for three consecutive six week grading periods he/she may be removed from athletics for the remainder of the school year.
3. Academic reminders may be used at the discretion of the head coach during the season.

ATTENDANCE

Athletes are expected to be at every practice and contest. Being a member of a CISD athletic team is a privilege and CISD team practices and contests will take precedence over private and club activities. Athletes will be expected to participate fully unless restricted by a doctor's note or our Athletic Trainer. If for any reason you must miss, athletes must let their coach know in advance. Extenuating circumstances for an absence will always be taken into consideration. There will be two types of absences within the athletic department:

1. **Excused** – an athlete's absence will be deemed excused when they have contacted a coach *before* the beginning of workout. Sickness, death in the family, appointment with Dr. note, etc. are valid reasons for an excused absence. **School related absences are automatically considered excused absences.** Playing time may be affected by missing practice and the possibility of skills make up. If a game/contest is missed, future playing time may be affected.
2. **Unexcused** – an unexcused absence will occur when an athlete misses a practice, game or athletic period without having communicated with his/her coach or for any reason not mentioned above. Unexcused absences will require make-up work. It will be up to the head coach of each sport to determine the specific punishment for unexcused absences. Playing time may also be affected. Multiple unexcused absences may result in missed games and/or removal from the team.

REMOVAL FROM A SPORT

Unless extenuating circumstances exist, the following steps will be taken prior to the removal of an athlete from a sport.

1. Conference with the student and appropriate disciplinary action.
2. Conference with parents and appropriate disciplinary action taken.
3. Removal from sport.

If at any point it is determined to be in the best interest of the athletic program, a student may be removed from a sport by the AD.

QUITTING

Commitment is one of the biggest values athletics teaches. Quitting anything is not a habit we want to reinforce in the athletic department. Any athlete who starts, then quits a sport, after the first contest of any kind, with the exception of extenuating circumstances beyond the athletes control, will not be allowed to start another sport until the season of the sport quit is completed.

PROFANITY

We will not tolerate it. First offense will result in disciplinary action at coaches' discretion.

CONDUCT and DRESS

Proper conduct will be demanded in the school setting and during travel. Failure to do so will result in discipline in accordance with the Clifton ISD Student Code of Conduct. Proper conduct in contests will be expected as well. Technical fouls, personal fouls, ejections, or any other unsportsmanlike conduct will not be accepted and will be handled at the coaches discretion. All CISD athletes will follow the current CISD Student Code of Conduct as it pertains to dress and appearance.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, and ILLEGAL DRUGS

Athletes will adhere to the specified guidelines and rules of the CHS Extracurricular Code of Conduct when dealing with issues concerning tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs.

The following rules apply to all Clifton High School Extracurricular students at all times during the calendar year.

Tobacco

- No smoking or use of any tobacco products.

Offenses will be handled in the following manner:

- Parent notification by the Coach/Director
- Extra conditioning or practice as determined by the Coach/Director

NOTE: Per the CHS Student Code of Conduct, vaping will result in automatic AEP placement.

Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

The following rules apply to all Clifton High School Extracurricular students at all times during the calendar year.

- Students shall not illegally consume, use, possess or disseminate alcohol and/or other illegal drugs in any form, at any time or place, shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities, in addition to any disciplinary consequences required by law.

Offenses will be handled in the following manner:

First Offense:

- Parent notification by the Coach/Director
- The student shall be suspended from participating in extracurricular activities for 10 percent of UIL allowable number of contests in his/her current or next sport/activity season.

Second Offense:

- Parent notification by the Coach/Director
- The student shall be suspended from participating in extracurricular activities for 50 percent of UIL allowable number of contests in his/her current or next sport/activity season.

Third Offense:

- Parent notification by the Coach/Director
- The student shall be excluded from participating in extracurricular activities for the remainder of his/her school career.

Note: To calculate the suspension, a percentage of the number of games/activities/events allowed by the UIL will be applied. For example, if a student is suspended for 10% of the basketball season, the suspension would be for 2.5 games, as the UIL allows 25 games for basketball if no tournaments are played. If the activity is not a UIL event, the percentage will be calculated based on the number of events for that particular activity. For example, if the student participates in activities related to Future Farmers of America (FFA) wool judging, the percentage would be calculated based on the number of wool judging events available to the student. If the offense results in a DAEP placement, the DAEP sentence will be considered as part of the suspension.

If the offense occurs during the off-season then the suspension will begin the Monday preceding the first competition or performance.

Random Drug-Testing Program

Any student who participates in an extracurricular activity in Clifton ISD is subject to random drug testing. A positive drug test results in the same consequences listed above for drug/alcohol use. If a student tests positive in a random test, that student will automatically be entered into the subsequent testing group until a negative test is submitted by the student.

STRENGTH and CONDITIONING

Any athlete who wishes to participate in a 'team' sport must be enrolled in the athletic period unless extenuating circumstances are present. 'Team' sports are: Volleyball, Football, Basketball, Softball, and Baseball.

Any athlete (student who participates in a UIL sport with Clifton ISD) who is not a participant of the above sports and wants to be in the period may be allowed to do so.

INSURANCE

As with almost every school in the state our athletic insurance is a *SECONDARY* policy. This means the family's insurance is filed first. The school insurance pays after the primary policy. If the family does not have insurance the school's insurance will be filed, but will not pay the full amount.

TRAVEL

All athletes must travel with the team. No student may be allowed to drive to the site of a contest unless extenuating circumstances are present and prior approval has been given in writing. All athletes must return with the team unless a parent personally requests supervision of their son or daughter. Face to face contact with the parent must be made for the athlete to be released to their care. Athletes will not be allowed to leave with anyone but a parent or guardian unless it has been specifically requested at an earlier time in writing.

PARENT CONFERENCES and INFORMATION

Parents are always welcome to communicate with the coaching staff. An email, a message on Talking Points, or phone call during the conference period are the best ways to communicate. It will be CISD Athletic policy for coaches to not engage in a parent conference immediately following a game or contest. Those conferences need to be arranged for the next day. Coaches will do their best to send information and updates out as soon as possible. Game schedules and game updates may be found on Rank One or the athletic page on the school website. Information will be sent out on Talking Points, social media, and the athletic page on the school website.

CUTTING PLAYERS

The cutting of players will be a last resort effort to keep the number of players at a feasible number. At the MS level, no seventh grade athletes will be cut, only 8th graders if needed to have a manageable number of players on the available teams. However, cutting is sometimes necessary at the HS level. Tryouts may be used to cut possible players to keep numbers at a manageable level.