2026 - 2027

CIMARRON PUBLIC SCHOOL

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

(STUDENT-ATHLETES - COACHES - PARENTS)

2026-2027 Cimarron Public Schools Athletic Handbook

Cimarron Public Schools considers athletics an integral part of the education experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a health, educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times and is intended to enhance the educational value of contests.

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of Cimarron Public Schools Athletic Department to inspire each student to extraordinary achievement every day.

- We provide a comprehensive athletic program that emphasizes the development of lifelong learning, values and skills through hard work, sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- Our program is based upon open communication and mutual respect among school administration, instructors, coaches, athletes, parents and officials.
- Our program serves as a positive, powerful, productive force for our schools, community and most importantly the student-athlete. Our program is designed to provide opportunities beyond, and in addition to the classroom.

Experiences in athletics will foster leadership, discipline, commitment, and a deep sense of responsibility to the school, peers and community. Athletes will come to understand that on or off the field/court they represent Cimarron Public School, and to a larger extent, define our school's standards of behavior.

Cimarron Public Schools Athletic Department's objectives are to:

- Provide the student-athlete with an enjoyable and rewarding experience.
- Emphasize the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values and concepts.
- Make player safety and welfare our highest priority.
- To inspire all our student-athletes to give their highest effort in the classroom, as well as on the playing field/court.
- To stress the importance of self-discipline in both the classroom, the community and on the field/court.
- Teach our student-athletes that dignity, self-worth and self-esteem are achieved through hard work.

- To create a positive school environment that is enhanced when student-athletes and the remaining student population work together as a team to represent their school in interscholastic competition.

To make our athletic program a source of both school and community pride Cimarron Public Schools expects:

- Each coach and student athlete is expected to interact positively with faculty, community, opponents and fellow students.
- The team to be a positive influence on all who come in contact with the team. (fellow student body, faculty, opponents, officials, and community)
- Coaches and student-athletes will operate within a set of rules, thus gaining respect for the rights of others, and an understanding that penalties follow rule violations.
- Our coaches and student-athletes are expected to demonstrate the essential elements of character building and sportsmanship: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.
- Student-athletes to understand participation in the school sports programs are a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, student-athletes must abide by the rules and they must conduct themselves on and off the field/court as positive role models who exemplify good character.
- Everyone involved in the competition, including parents, spectators, associated student body leaders and all auxiliary groups have a duty to honor the traditions of the sport and to treat other participants with respect. Coaches have a special responsibility to model respectful behavior and the duty to demand that their student-athletes refrain from disrespectful conduct including but not limited to the use of profanity, belligerent trash-talking, taunting, inappropriate celebrations, verbal or physical abuse, including threats, of opponents and officials.

In Season Team/Parent Meetings

Prior to the start of each sports season, the coach is to hold an Athletic Parent meeting so all parents understand valuable information concerning the athletic program as well as vital team information. At least one parent or legal guardian of the student-athlete is required to attend this important informational meeting. The coach will address expectations of his/her student-athletes, as well as expectations from the parents. The expectations should include but not be limited to: behavior; usage of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and performance enhancing supplements; practices (daily practices and practices over school breaks); attendance and the care of uniforms.

Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol Rules

To safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport, school sports programs must actively prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and performance-enhancing substances, as well as demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those related to gambling and the use of drugs.

In addition to the policy set forth in the Cimarron Public School Student Handbook, all student-athletes will also comply with policy set forth in the Athletic Handbook.

Our policy gives the student specific boundaries that are enforced; there is no place for tobacco, drugs and alcohol in athletics. The first time a student is identified as using, selling or possessing tobacco, alcohol or drugs, or caught with tobacco/drug/alcohol paraphernalia, he/she will be suspended from athletics for two-weeks (this means no practice during the two-weeks). If the student-athlete is identified a second time, they are removed from any athletic participation. However, each coach may impose stronger sanctions, which may include removal from the team on the first offense.

CIMARRON PUBLIC SCHOOL PARTNER ROLE CLARIFICATION

We do not ever want our emotions to get away from us and do something to make our team, a student-athlete or our school look bad. We want to make our team, family, friends and community proud of us by honoring the game no matter what. Cimarron Public Schools expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches and spectators should treat opponents, games officials and visiting spectators with respect at all times. Cimarron Public Schools reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation or suspend any player, any team, any coach, any school official or any spectator determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship Policy

- Understand that high school athletics takes place in a "classroom". The gym/field/lane/court is just another school classroom in the big picture.
- Focus on positive team support and positive school spirit and refrain from obscene, unsportsmanlike and unacceptable cheers and yells.
- Work closely with the cheering section and take a positive role in controlling unacceptable behavior by the cheering section; a must is to model appropriate behavior.
- Understanding the role of educational athletics is one part of a comprehensive school experience.

- Refrain from obscenities, race-baiting, personal insults and any other unacceptable comments directed at opposing cheerleaders and fans before, during, and after athletic contests.
- Refrain from disrupting the athletic contest in any way.
- Stay off the field/court/sidelines at all times; stay in the designated seating/standing area, including sitting on the designated home or away side for Cimarron Games.
- Refrain from confronting officials, coaches, players and others before, during or after athletic contests.
- Show respect to officials even when we are confident they are mistaken.
- Our opponents will know that though we will play fiercely, it will always be friendly and with respect.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated during athletic events. If inappropriate behaviors occur, removal from the athletic event will be considered as the appropriate action taken.

Student Athlete

- Treats coaches, officials, teammates, and opponents with respect.
- Win graciously and lose with dignity.
- Demonstrate the essential elements of character building and sportsmanship: Loyalty, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring for teammates, good citizenship, school pride and making good grades.
- Puts forth his/her best effort in practices and contests/games/events.
- Demonstrate pride in team performance and in himself/herself as a member of a team.
- Attends all practices and contests unless the coach has granted permission.
- Conducts himself/herself in a manner that brings honor to Cimarron Public Schools.
- Remember that participation in the athletics program is a privilege, not a right.
- Understanding unacceptable conduct may result in forfeiting the privilege to participate.
- Understands that damage to school property or equipment will result in disciplinary action and or restitution.
- Accepts training rules, team behavior standards, and responsibility for equipment.
- Understands, and respects that a commitment to participation in a sport is made on the first day of practice, as soon as a previous sport ends and you are released by the coach.
- Accepts responsibility for finishing a season they start. Don't be a quitter!
- Accepts responsibility of starting a sport, being on a team, on the first game of the season.
- Understands the importance of year round athletic participation.

Coaches

- Treats other coaches, players, officials and parents/guardians with respect.
- Follows school policies and philosophy.
- Communicates with parents and student athletes. (Proudly explains his/her philosophy, expectations, practice times, locations).
- Prepares his/her team to the best of their ability.
- Emphasizes skill development.
- Is fair and impartial in dealing with student-athletes in his/her program.
- Makes himself/herself available to answer questions or discuss issues with students/parents at appropriate times.
- Will promote high academic achievement expectations for all students. The first priority of students should be a serious commitment to his/her education.
- Promotes the essential elements of character building, sportsmanship, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.
- Insist that their players model appropriate behavior.
- Holds student-athletes responsible for inappropriate behavior in a well disciplined manner.
- Monitor their team at all times and be cognizant of developing problems, especially at the end of heated contests.
- Models respectful behavior and demands that athletes refrain from disrespectful conduct, verbal/physical abuse of opponents or officials, profane and belligerent trash-talking, taunting, complaining, inappropriate celebrations and poor attitudes.

- Recruits students to his or her sport(s) that are not connected to sports, even when students are recruited to play/participate for the very first time when it's necessary to have a full season.

- Our coaches know and realize that their daily professional approach is a direct reflection to his/her roster numbers. This approach is so sincere, that each of our coaches on staff are willing not to receive a coaching stipend, when there are not enough student-athletes to fill a full roster to legally play/participate in games or events.

- Will supervise their athletes at all times, including transportation to and from away games until all student athletes are picked up by their parent/guardian at the end of the night.

Parents/Guardians

- Treat other parents/guardians, athletes, coaches and officials with respect.
- Model appropriate adult behavior. **IF AN ADMINISTRATOR OR GAME OFFICIAL REMOVES YOU FROM THE CONTEST, YOU WILL MISS THE REST OF THAT GAME AND THIS WILL RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL TWO GAME SUSPENSION.**
- Respect the decision and judgments of the coaches regarding discipline, strategy, playing time, and technical preparation.
- Communicate and express concerns directly to the coach.
- Be willing to discuss a coach's concern(s) and take responsibility for your child's behavior both on and off the field/court.
- Encourage student-athletes to accept responsibility, by NOT complaining or making excuses.

In area of open/effective communication we ask that each of you follow the steps below:

1. The student-athlete is encouraged to discuss concerns directly with the coach (otherwise it's hearsay coming from a parent).
2. A parent/guardian can contact the coach with concerns. (excluding playing time)
3. Parents/guardians, coaches and student athletes may need to meet face to face to resolve an issue at a scheduled time.
4. Never meet with a coach after a ball game or before a ball game.
5. Most issues are easier to resolve in person, and **never** by text messages.
6. Parents/guardians/athletes can contact the Director of Athletics with unresolved concerns (other than playing time).
7. Parents/guardians/athletes can schedule a meeting with the Principal when issues remain unresolved after a scheduled meeting with a coach, a scheduled meeting with the Director of Athletics (other than playing time).
8. Parents/guardians/athletes can schedule a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools when issues remain unresolved after a scheduled meeting with a coach, a scheduled meeting with the Director of Athletics and a scheduled meeting with the Principal (other than playing time).
9. Parents/guardians/student-athletes must follow the chain of command (coach first, then athletic director, then principal, then superintendent if necessary).

We are hopeful this step-by-step procedure (above) will help foster positive communication and promote a resolution to "any" issue of concern.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE CIMARRON ATHLETIC HANDBOOK. MY SIGNATURE (BELOW) IS EVIDENCE THAT I HAVE RECEIVED MY COPY FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	PRINCIPAL
Randy Henderson	Tim D. Wright
COACH	PARENT
Print name below, and sign above	Print name below, and sign above
SUPERINTENDENT	STUDENT-ATHLETE
Dr. Jill Henderson	Print name & grade below, and sign above