CAMP ERNST MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Camp Ernst Athletic Handbook

Camp Ernst Middle School Athletic Department exists to provide students with the skills to build teams so they can become exceptional leaders.

An interscholastic athletic program as a co-curricular activity is an integral part of the total education and growth experience at CEMS. Student-athletes, administrators, coaches, and parents are all called upon to work together in the spirit of sportsmanship to create an environment that produces positive values both to participants and the entire school community.

Through participation in CEMS Athletics, students will mature physically, emotionally, and socially. They will learn responsibility by developing loyalty, pride, integrity, and commitment. Athletics provides student-athletes the opportunity to exhibit a progression of physical skills, knowledge of a particular sport and team building and leadership skills. Every member of the CEMS community is expected to encourage and foster growth and development in all student-athletes.

I. Role of a CEMS Athlete

Participation in athletics is a privilege. Athletes are expected to better themselves as individuals by honoring their team, their school, and themselves. Actions deemed inappropriate will result in negative consequences and/or dismissal from the team.

- **Responsibility to self** – The most important responsibility of an athlete is to broaden one's self and develop strength of character. Your studies and participation in extra-curricular activities help mold you into the person you will become as an adult.
- **Responsibility to school** – CEMS cannot maintain its position as an outstanding school unless you do your best in every activity you engage in. By being a part of the athletic program and participating with your maximum ability, you are

contributing to the reputation of our school. You assume a leadership role when you are a student-athlete; the student body, the community, and other communities will judge our school by our attitude and actions on and off the court.

- **Responsibility to others** – As an athletic team member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to those who support and cheer for you. When you put forth your maximum effort every day in the classroom, at practice, in games, and everything else you are asked to do, you and your family can be proud of your accomplishments. Other students will be watching and learning from your examples and will copy you in many ways. Do not let them down.

II. Conduct of an Athlete

Conduct of an athlete is observed in many areas of life; There are expectations of how an athlete behaves:

- **On the court** – In any athletic competition, a true athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics, and learns quickly that losing is part of the game. You are to be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- **In the classroom** – As an athlete, you must manage your time appropriately to give yourself sufficient time and energy for your studies to ensure acceptable grades. In addition, an athlete must maintain respect for other students, faculty, staff, and facilities at all times.

III. Grades and Eligibility

Academics will always come before athletics. Grades will be checked every week; if a student is deemed ineligible, the athletic director will send an email to parent/student/coach detailing the period of ineligibility and a copy of the student's grades from the class resulting in ineligibility. The Camp Ernst SBDM policy on eligibility is as follows:

- Students must have passed the previous school year.
  - ➢ It is a Boone County Schools policy that a student in the middle school grades has three years to participate in grade level activities. This would equate to one year in each sixth, seventh, and eighth grade activities.
- Students must have a 70% or higher in all classes during the extra-curricular activity season.
  - ➢ Grades will be checked on a weekly basis for all students participating in extra-curricular activities at CEMS. This grade check takes place every

Monday. If it is a short week (Fall Break, Thanksgiving, etc.), grades will be checked on the first day of that school week.

- ✓ If deemed ineligible, the student will be informed of the situation, notified of the class that he or she is not passing, and that he or she is ineligible for a period of one week. That period begins the following Monday and runs through Sunday. If, at the end of the following week, a student has successfully achieved all passing grades eligibility will be reinstated the following Monday.
- ✓ A student has two opportunities to be declared ineligible at any time. On the third incident of ineligibility during the season of an individual sport, the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

- Students must meet and follow the Boone County Board of Education and Camp Ernst Middle School disciplinary standards.
  - ➢ Student-athletes have been chosen to represent a team, their fellow students, the faculty of CEMS, and the community. Following the policies and procedures set forth by the Boone County Schools and Camp Ernst Middle School is a requirement. Disciplinary decisions made by the administration of CEMS may also be considered in declaring student ineligibility and/or removal from a team.

IV. Attendance

Regular attendance is expected of all athletes. Athletes must be in attendance for at least half of the school day in order to participate in practice or competition, unless an excuse is provided. The athletic department reserves the right to review all absences and allow the student-athlete to participate if there is, a valid reason for the absence. Attendance at all games and practices are mandatory unless excused by the coach before the competition or practice. Athletes who are absent the day before a non-school day activity are not eligible to participate without a valid excuse.

V. Physical Examinations and Consent Forms

All participants in interscholastic sports must provide evidence of a medical examination (pre-participation physical) or a parental consent to tryout form that certifies the athlete is physically capable of participating in athletic activity. The student-athlete and their family will be responsible for any cost associated with a physical, and physicals are only valid for a period of one year. A complete physical examination must be completed before the athlete will be eligible to participate in a competitive sports program, and must be completed on the KHSAA Middle School approved form.

VI. Insurance

Student–athletes should be covered by their own personal insurance policy and will be expected to show proof of that coverage before they will be given permission to try out.

All athletes will need to have an Auto Affidavit completed and a copy of auto insurance submitted prior to attendance of the first game/tournament.

VII. Dropping or Transferring

In rare instances, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If an athlete decides to drop a sport the following procedure must be followed:

- The student-athlete must talk to his/her coach first.
- The student-athlete and coaches must report the situation to the athletic director.
- The student-athlete must return all equipment issued.

If an athlete quits for other than medical reasons, he/she will not be allowed to compete in another activity for the remainder of that sports season, unless cleared by the coach and athletic director. Individuals selected to any athletic team shall be considered a member of that team through the regular and post season unless they are removed for disciplinary reasons, scholastic ineligibility, or mutual agreement between player and coach.

VIII. Equipment

All equipment and uniforms belong to the school, unless the student purchased the item. Students may not keep or give away any item that has been purchased by CEMS. Students may not use any school equipment for other teams or organizations for any reason at any time. Student-athletes are responsible for all school equipment they receive; keeping it clean, in good condition, and worn/taken care of properly at all times. Student-athletes have the responsibility to report any equipment deficiencies immediately to their coach.

School Provided Uniforms should be washed separately and in cold or warm wash. After washing, the uniforms can be hung on a plastic hanger to dry. DO NOT place the uniform in the dryer.

Uniforms will be returned to the coaches following the season, unless team pictures have not been taken, then it will be returned following pictures.

Uniforms and/or Equipment will be returned to the coach within 5 days in the event the athlete is no longer involved in the athletic program. Failure to do so will result in replacement of uniform or equipment (replacement cost).

IX. Return to play

If a student-athlete is injured or has other medical issues that may affect his/her participation in an athletic activity, that student must obtain a note from a medical provider clearing them to return to the team. The note must indicate the day the athlete may return to a normal activity schedule and any restrictions that may be imposed on the athlete. If an athlete is given full clearance, the coach will determine how much the athlete will participate.

X. Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular activities will undoubtedly face conflicts. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences by being able to participate in many extracurricular areas. However, students have responsibilities to themselves and the organizations to which they belong. They need to be judicious about their time and avoid those activities where conflicts will arise. Students must notify faculty sponsors and coaches in advance when there are unavoidable conflicts, and work with those involved to work out some solution. If a solution cannot be found, the athletic director will make a decision based on the following:

- The relative importance of each event.
- The importance of each event to the student.
- How long each event has been scheduled.
- Communication with parents or guardians.

XI. Fees

Athletes are required to pay athletic fees to participate in sports. All athletic fees are set by the Boone County Board of Education. Currently the Boone County Athletic Fee is $30/athlete and is only paid once per year. Students participating in two sports will pay $15 for the second sport.

XII. Elastic Clause

It would be impossible for every situation to be cited in this handbook. With this in mind, situations that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis. Coaches and sponsors may have more stringent rules and policies than the ones that are established in this handbook as long as they have been presented to their team.

Appendix

Appendix A

Parent/Coach Communication Policy

Positive involvement in sports requires commitment from student-athletes, administrators, coaches, and parents. To be successful, everyone involved must work together to ensure effective communication. Positive and effective communication will only strengthen our Athletic Program. The following guidelines are intended to aid parents and coaches in their interactions.

- **Communication Parents can expect from Athletic Department**
  - Parent meeting before the start of the season.
  - Location and time of practices and games.
  - Coaches expectations and philosophy.
  - Team requirements, i.e. – fees, special equipment, off season conditioning.
  - Notification when a student-athlete is injured during participation.
  - Notification of disciplinary action resulting in removal of student-athlete from team.
  - Request for support towards the commitment of the program. For example, coaches may ask for parents' help ensuring that a student-athlete is at practice on time or imposing a reasonable curfew.
  - Information regarding the Awards Banquet at the end of the season.
- **What are appropriate concerns for Parents to discuss with Coaches?**
  - The treatment of their child, both physically and mentally.
  - Skill improvement and development.
  - Concerns about their child's behavior.
- **What things are not appropriate for Parents to discuss with Coaches?**
  - Playing time.
  - Team Strategy.
  - Play Calling.
  - Other Student-Athletes.
- **Communication Coaches should expect from Parents:**
  - Individual concerns expressed directly to the coach.
  - Advance notification of any schedule conflicts.
- **What is the procedure to discuss concerns with the Coach?**
  - Make an appointment to talk with the coach. Please do not attempt to confront the coach before, during, or after a game or practice.
  - After having a discussion with the coach, contact the Athletic Director if a resolution is not reached.
  - If a resolution cannot be reached, a meeting will be arranged with everyone involved, including parent, player, coach, athletic director, and a member of school administration.

BLAZERS
CARL ERNST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Appendix B

Guidelines for choosing Student-Athletes for Teams

Students may be denied the privilege of participation because of limited participation availability. The number of participants in each sport will be determined by the head coach and the athletic director. Criteria that determine the size of the team may include:

- Talent and work ethic of those trying out.
- Number of individuals trying out.
- Optimum number determined by coach to conduct productive practices.
- Academic eligibility of those trying out.
- Behavior of those trying out.
- Any policy set forth by the coach that complies with school policy.

Guidelines for cutting Student-Athletes

Our coaches realize that as difficult as this process is on them, it is more difficult on the student-athletes. We make every attempt to use this opportunity to let student-athletes know this is not a personal decision and that we support their efforts to try out in the future. The following are minimum procedures that coaches will follow when cutting student-athletes:

- Tryouts will last at least two (2) full practice sessions unless stated in the individual sports handbook (Cheer, Volleyball, Basketball and Archery).

Appendix C

Prohibition of Hazing

The Camp Ernst Athletic Department only supports those activities which are constructive, educational, inspirational, and contribute to the personal development of student-athletes. The administration opposes any situation created intentionally to produce embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. CEMS interprets hazing as any act whether physical, emotional, or psychological, which subjects another person voluntarily or involuntarily to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate. In addition, any requirements by a member which compel another member to participate in any activity which is against school policy or state/federal law will be defined as hazing.

Appendix D

Athletic Event Code of Conduct

CEMS strives to encourage good sportsmanship throughout our athletic program. We expect all our players, coaches, and spectators to be respectful of other players, coaches, officials, and spectators. We believe our fans should cheer for our team, not against the other team. We also believe it is imperative to let the players, coaches, and officials determine the game. CEMS will not permit any behavior that distracts from proper conduct of the game.

Signatures

Please complete, detach, and return this portion to the coach

I, _____ (Student-Athlete) & _____ (Parent) have read through and understand the Camp Ernst Athletic Handbook. This includes the Eligibility Procedures, Fee Schedule, Uniform Care, Coaches Responsibilities, Parent Responsibilities, Athlete Responsibilities, Sportsmanship, etc.

Date: _____ Grade Level: _____ Sport: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student-Athletes Name (Print): _____

Student-Athletes Signature: _____

*By signing and returning this portion of the Camp Ernst Athletic Handbook you are acknowledging that you understand the rules and policies set in place by Camp Ernst Middle School. This form will be filed with other paperwork to ensure that we have provided this information to everyone involved in CEMS Athletic Programs. This handbook is available online at https://cems.boone.kyschools.us/.

