Community Middle School

Athletic Department Handbook

2026-2027

Updated: April 13, 2026

Required Participation Forms

Before trying out for a team, the player should have the following forms uploaded to FinalForms online:

1. Physical Exam (dated after April 15, 2026)
2. Consent to Treat (ensure medical and insurance information is complete)
3. Interscholastic Athlete Participation Agreement
4. Concussion Information
5. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)

If FinalForms is not completed for the player, then they are not allowed to participate in practices, games, scrimmages, etc.

Academic Policy and Eligibility

Students who fail two or more classes for their final grades of the previous school year will not be eligible for sports the next school year. Students who fail one class for their final grade of the previous school year will be placed on academic probation.

Student-athletes must have passed all subjects the previous nine weeks in order to be eligible for participation (final eligibility requirement).

For Fall sports, the grades from the previous school year's last quarter will be considered to determine final eligibility (due to practices starting in the spring/summer).

Students who repeat grades are not eligible to participate in athletics.

If a student athlete fails to pass all subjects, practicing is still allowed; however, the athlete may not play in a scrimmage and/or game until the student can verify that they are passing all academic subjects.

Grades will be checked by the Athletic Director periodically within the season.

> **Fall Sports:** Every two weeks until season ends
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> **Winter/Spring Sports:** End of each quarter; Mid-Nine Weeks of each quarter until season ends; week before the end of season tournament

Once a student doesn't pass an athletic grade check above, their grades will be checked every two weeks to check for progress with the consequences below.

If a student is failing a class(es) or missing more than 2 assignments: (minimum; coaches may have a player contract that has their own discipline)

1. First Check: Warning; Run 1.5 miles per failing grade; 0.5 mile for each missing assignment
2. Second Check (in the same class/classes): probation; sit out practices to work on missing/late work plus Run 1.5 miles per failing grade; 0.5 mile for each missing assignment
3. Third Check (in the same class/classes): suspension from games and practice until a passing grade is achieved and no missing work plus Run 1.5 miles per failing grade; 0.5 mile for each missing assignment

Travel/Rec Teams within Season

Athletes will not be allowed to participate in the independent contests prior to the conclusion of the school season. This includes travel/rec team during the same season. (In high school, this is a huge TSSAA violation.) If found participating in independent sports during school season, the athlete may not again be permitted to participate in the remaining of the school season. CMS athletics take priority over any travel/rec teams.

Homeschooled Students

Homeschooled students that are zoned for Community Middle School are eligible to participate in our athletic program and will be held to the same standards as their public school peers. Per Bedford County Schools policy (Extracurricular Activities 4.300), homeschooled students must play at their zoned school only. If a student withdrawals from CMS to be homeschooled, they are reverted back to their zoned school for sports eligibility. Students will have to show proof of residency just like their public school peers. They will have to present these to our EIS person (Mrs. Gibbs) in the front office before they are

allowed to tryout. A letter must be signed by the student-athlete, parent, and signed off by the principal. This letter must then be given to the coach at tryouts.

***** Proof of residence must be one of the following documents dated within the past three months of tryouts:***

- Utility statement (gas, electric, phone, etc.)
- Letter of correspondence from government agency
- Lease agreement

Behavior Policy

Athletes are expected to be model students in the classroom and have minimum behavioral issues in class. If a student is deemed becoming a behavioral issue in the classroom (or school building), then the coach can punish the athlete at practice with extra running, exercises, etc. If the behaviors continue, the coach could dismiss you from the team for not following team expectations. Multiple Office Referrals will result in the dismissal from the team and could make the athlete ineligible for other teams.

ISS/OSS

> If a student athlete is in ISS for behavior the day of a game, participation in the game will NOT be permitted. Coaches can punish the athlete at practice with extra running or exercises. If a student recieves multiple ISS days within the year, they are ineligible for sports for the year and potentially the next school year if seasons are finished.
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> If a student athlete is in OSS for behavior the day of a game, participation in any school activities will NOT be permitted. After returning to school from OSS, the athlete will be suspended for same amount of games that they had OSS. (Ex. Student receives 3 days of OSS. There is a game during those three days; therefore the student can not play or practice. Student returns to school and will have an additional 3 game suspension.)
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> Upon returning from suspension, the coach will use discretion about when the player shall play or if the player will remain on the team. Coaches can punish the athlete at practice with extra running or exercises.

Attendance

> Student-athletes must be present at least a half day of school (no leaving before 11:15 or checking-in after 11:15) to be eligible to participate in that evenings activities (practices included).

Miscellaneous for Athletes

No one should be in the gym/hallways wearing cleats. No cleats on in the building. When entering the locker room, you must have cleaned your cleats or have them in your equipment

bag. If you do accidentally track in mud/dirt into the locker room, get a broom and dust pan to clean up after yourself.

Student-athletes must be supervised after school. They may not “hang out” in the locker rooms or roam the hallways. They will not be left unattended in the school while awaiting game time. Coaches must remain with athletes and maintain supervision.

Athletes are expected to keep locker rooms clean. Remove laundry daily from your lockers. Do not leave personal belongings or remains from food/drinks littering the locker room floors.

When coaches reschedule, cancel, or add a game, you will be notified via the BCS app. Make sure that parents and athletes are connected on the app.

Athletes are to notify coaches about attendance of practices and games. Athletes must have doctor’s note or parent note for reason not attending practice or game. Do not wait until the last minute to let the coach know that you will not be attending.

Athletes are to show respect to the coaches both in school and on the field. Please make sure the athletes address the coach respectfully, such as “Coach,” “Coach Jones,” or “Mr./Mrs. Jones.”

Athletes are to take care of their uniforms. School provided uniforms are to be washed and returned to the coach or Athletic Director after the season is over. If you fail to turn in your uniform or it is damaged/ruined, you will be charged for the cost of a replacement jersey.

Miscellaneous for Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians: if you have any issues with a game or with practice, you are welcome to make an appointment to talk with the coach, the AD, and/or an administrator later. Administration does require that you wait at least 24 hours before addressing an issue. **Do not approach coaches after games, try outs, or practices to discuss issues unless you have set up an appointment at those times.**

All practices and try-outs for all sports at Community Middle School are closed. Parents/Guardians are not allowed to wait in the parking lot either.