

Cherokee County Middle School Athletic Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Cherokee County Middle School athletic program is to provide students with meaningful experiences in the participation of an athletic activity of their choice. The goal of every athlete is to be the best in every aspect of athletic competition while exhibiting the utmost in sportsmanship, teamwork, and community pride. All Cherokee County student athletes are governed by the policies of the Cherokee County Board of Education and the disciplinary codes established in the Cherokee County Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. The rules, codes, and policies established by the Cherokee County Board of Education apply to all students at all school functions including field trips, athletic contests, and practice sessions. Keeping in mind that athletic participation is a privilege and not a right; the following additional guidelines apply to all Middle Grade athletes in Cherokee County schools.

1. A student must have passed a minimum of five out of six core classes during the preceding semester with a 70 or above average to be eligible at any time during the present semester. Core Classes are defined as Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education and Career/Technical Education. The semester is normally considered half of the academic year.
2. Student athletes, who meet Cherokee County promotion requirements for attendance based on previous semester data, will be considered eligible to participate in any middle school sports program. A player must have been in attendance for at least 85 percent of the previous semester. Any student must be in membership to be able to make up days missed while in membership (days missed while not in membership may not be made up for athletic eligibility). For a regular 90-day semester, a student may not miss more than 13 days and be in compliance with the 85 percent rule.
3. All athletes must be present at all required games and practices unless previous arrangement has been made with the coach or principal. If a game or practice session is missed without the coach's or principal's permission, the player can expect make-up activities for each day missed.
4. Student athletes must be in school at least half a day (11:30 a.m. is the cut-off time) in order to participate on the day of an athletic contest. Student athletes who are not present for at least half a day must have a doctor's excuse, be attending a school function such as a field trip, or be excused by the principal in order to participate in an athletic contest on that date.
5. The use of any tobacco products will not be tolerated. Consequences will result in disciplinary action by the coach or administrator up to and including dismissal from the team for repeated offences.
6. Any athlete caught using or possessing alcohol during a particular sport season shall be suspended from participation in inter-scholastic sports for the remainder of the sports season.
7. Any athlete caught using or possessing illegal drugs during a particular sport season

will automatically be subject to disciplinary action established by Cherokee County Schools Policy 4326 (Drug Screening Program for Middle and High School Student Athletes).

8. Any athlete caught using or possessing alcohol during a particular sport season will be suspended for the remainder of the sports season or six weeks (whichever is greater).
9. If a player is suspended from school (OSS), s/he is automatically suspended from the team for the same number of days. A second out-of-school suspension during the same sports season will result in dismissal from the team. Students placed in ISS (In-School-Suspension) may practice with their team but are ineligible to play in any games until the ISS time has been served. The student becomes eligible to participate in a game the day after his/her OSS time has been served. Athletes assigned to ISS become eligible to play in a game at the end of the instructional day on the last day of assigned ISS.
10. The use of profanity or any obscene gesture will not be tolerated in the school, gym, or at any school function. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action by the coach or administrator up to and including dismissal from the team for repeated offenses.
11. Any student who is convicted of a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or federal law or is adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult is not eligible to participate in the middle school sports program.
12. All athletes are required to compete and participate within the full intent of the sport. Making a mockery of the sport or behaving in a manner which brings embarrassment to the school or community will result in a punishment to be determined by the coach.
13. All athletes are expected to ride to and from games with the team. However, if an athlete needs to ride home with his/her parents or guardians after away games, the parent or guardian must make personal written contact with the child's coach after the away game. If the parents or guardians want their child to ride home from an away game with another adult, they must make personal written contact with the coach.
14. In order to be eligible for practice or participation in interscholastic athletic contests, a player must receive a medical examination once every 365 days by a physician licensed to practice medicine, nurse practitioner or physician assistant and be cleared.
15. Students absent from athletic practice for five or more consecutive days due to illness or injury shall receive a medical release by either a physician licensed to practice medicine or his designee (nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or licensed athletic trainer) before readmittance to practice or contests. Students with potential head injuries must receive a medical release by a physician licensed to practice medicine before readmittance to practice or contests.
16. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT PLAYERS BE COVERED BY ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE, MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS ON SITE AT ATHLETIC EVENTS IN CASE MEDICAL TREATMENT IS REQUIRED.

Cherokee County Schools provides a secondary insurance coverage to all athletic participants.

PARTICIPANTS WITH INSURANCE COVERAGE: Your personal insurance pays first. The Cherokee County Schools Insurance may cover a portion of the remaining amount. **THE INSURANCE MAY NOT COVER ALL FEES. ANY REMAINING FEES ARE THE PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY.**

PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT INSURANCE COVERAGE: If the participant does not have insurance, the Cherokee County Schools Insurance may cover a portion of the medical expense. **THE INSURANCE WILL NOT COVER ALL FEES. ANY REMAINING FEES ARE THE PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY.**

In the event the participant is injured, the following injury claims procedures must be followed:

- Report the accident to the Coach. The Coach will complete an Incident Report Form.
 - The Incident Report Form must be submitted to the Athletic Director within 24 hours of the accident.
 - The Athletic Director will complete Part 1 of the Student Accident Claim Form. The parent/guardian is responsible for obtaining the form from the Athletic Director and completing Part 2 of the Form.
 - It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to mail the form and any itemized bills to the insurance company within 90 days of the date of the accident.
5. All athletes are responsible for the care and upkeep of any equipment, uniforms, or other school property, which is issued to them. The athlete must pay for any items that are lost, destroyed, or damaged beyond repair at the end of the sport season. Failure to do so will automatically eliminate that athlete from further sports participation until the matter is resolved.
 6. All athletes are expected to show respect for coaches, teachers, officials, and administrators. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the team for repeated offences.
 7. An athlete who quits a sport team before the end of the season is not eligible for any awards, honors, or recognition for that sport. The athlete will not be allowed to begin to practice or try out for the next sport season until the athlete is interviewed and cleared by the school's Athletic Grievance Committee.
 8. Dual participation, playing on a middle school team and a recreational league team at the same time, is prohibited in all sports except baseball and softball. Participation on a middle school team will take precedence over any/all other sport teams.
 9. Parents or fans who might become upset at officials or coaches at an athletic contest or practice are not to make contact with the officials/coaches before, during, or after a game or practice session. Please contact the school and set

upon appointment with the principal if problems arise. Disagreements should not be expressed in the presence of student athletes or the student body. A spectator guilty of misconduct may (1) be placed on spectator probation, (2) be banned from attending school contests for a period of time not to exceed one calendar year from the date of the offense, or (3) cause the school to be penalized. In incidents involving criminal misconduct such as assaults, school officials in conjunction with the victims assaulted are instructed to press charges in a court of law. If charges are not filed, the school is still responsible for handling the misconduct. Spectators may not approach or contact game officials in any way to question the judgment or decision of an official. Schools are responsible and may be disciplined for the conduct of their spectators. Any assault upon, or intimidation of a game official by a spectator is per se unsportsmanlike conduct by the school and may be dealt with as such. Schools found guilty of infractions inconsistent with a wholesome athletic program may be (1) reprimanded, (2) placed on probation for a period not to exceed one year, with or without playoff privileges, (3) fined \$25 to \$500, (4) have its home games taken away for a period of time not to exceed one year, or (5) suspended from participation in sport or sports for a period of one year. (Reference to the Board of Directors of the NCHSAA has been removed because they do not govern Middle Grade Sports).

10. Students who have been dismissed from a sports team may appeal the dismissal to the Athletic Grievance Committee. The dismissing coach should have an opportunity to express the details of the dismissal. After an appeal has been heard, the Athletic Grievance Committee will discuss the appeal and vote to uphold or overturn the dismissal. Each committee member will cast one vote and a simple majority will rule. The principal will notify the student athlete of the decision of the Athletic Grievance Committee within 24 hours when possible. A further appeal to the Cherokee County Board of Education may be made if the student chooses to do so. (Students are not permitted to practice or participate with any middle school sports team during the appeals process.) The Athletic Grievance Committee is to be made up of 5 members two of which will be the principal and the Athletic Director (unless the Athletic Director is also the dismissing coach).
11. Conduct outlined in the Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook as adopted by the Cherokee County Board of Education is an integral part of the athletic policy code of conduct. Violations of that disciplinary code will result in disciplinary action being taken by the coach and/or administrative action up to and including dismissal from the team.

Student athletes and their parents or guardians are asked to please read and sign this copy of the Cherokee County Middle School Athletic Policies. Student athletes are not allowed to participate on any middle school sports team until a signed copy of this form is placed on file in the coach's office. Additional student eligibility requirements are listed in the *Middle School Athletics in North Carolina Public Schools* booklet published by the NC Department of Public Instruction. A copy may be examined upon request at the principal's office of your local school.

Custodial Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature and Date

Student Signature and Date
