

# **ST. CLAIRSVILLE-RICHLAND CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **2020-2021 ATHLETICS HANDBOOK**

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<b>Philosophy of Athletics</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sportsmanship Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Athletic Statement of Policies</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Hazing Recognition and Prevention</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sportsmanship</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Training Rules</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Varsity Letter Requirements</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Athletic Awards</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Athletics Ticket Policy</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Athlete Information</b>	<b>19</b>

# Philosophy of Athletics

The role of interscholastic athletes at St. Clairsville High School is one of compatibility rather than exclusiveness. As the fundamental goal of any high school to enter society as a productive and responsible member, we feel that through participation in the athletic program, a student may grow and mature as he/she progresses through the many athletic experiences afforded by the school program.

Specifically, the St. Clairsville High School Athletic Department believes:

- In the values that interscholastic athletics provide.
- That there are substantial educational outcomes from a soundly conceived and executed program for the players, the student body and the school as a whole.
- That the potential values to the participants are genuine by providing adolescents the opportunity to develop ideas and habits of fair play, initiative, achievement and emotional control under prescribed regulations and policies.
- That students find purpose in their schoolwork and in their lives through a program of interscholastic athletics.
- That students can be taught to win with grace and lose with dignity.
- That athletics can provide for substantial physical and emotional growth and stability for the student-athlete.
- That the athletic program though differing in nature from the academic program, justifies itself by providing a wide variety of educational experiences, which are not normally found in the classroom.
- That among other values, those of determination, self-sacrifice and commitment to personal achievement are stressed in any athletic program.
- That any interscholastic sports program should operate within a framework of sportsmanship, discipline and competitiveness.
- That sports, approached properly can serve to greatly enhance the overall school spirit and morale.

# Sportsmanship Characteristics

1. Golden Rule
2. Don't have negative reactions
3. Do your best
4. Winning isn't everything
5. Try to have fun
6. Don't antagonize fans
7. Welcome the opposition
8. Respect officials
9. Play by the rules, don't bend them
10. Applaud when an injured player gets up
11. Congratulate opposing team's win or loss after a game
12. Help opponent up after a fall
13. Tolerance
14. Respect
15. Leadership
16. Enthusiasm
17. Understanding
18. Controlled temper
19. Friendship
20. Politeness
21. Working together - teamwork
22. Pride
23. Patience
24. Motivation
25. Positive attitude - right mental attitude
26. Compromise
27. Spirit
28. Friendly rivalry
29. Control
30. Cooperation
31. Courteous
32. Responsibility (for actions)
33. Consideration for others
34. Complementing

## **Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational process. And the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom.

Participants and responsible adults involved in Board approved extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom. The Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans spirit groups and support/booster groups.

# Athletic Statement of Policies

1. Team members, including coaching personnel, of each team in our school are reminded that the color “black” or colors other than RED, GRAY and WHITE are not permitted as the dominant color in any team uniform, warm-up clothes, t-shirts, etc. when worn at an official team function. These may be used as an accent color and only with prior permission from the High School Principal and/or Athletic Director.
  2. Athletes must attend school for four (4) periods to practice or participate in an athletic contest. The principal or the assistant principal must approve the absence for any part of the day beyond this rule.
  3. A player who accumulates three (3) unexcused absences from any practice or contest they participate in during the school year will be dismissed from the squad. Unexcused absences will be up to the discretion of the head coach. As a guideline, the student handbook lists reasons for excused absences acceptable by the State of Ohio.
  4. Any athlete who is under penalty of in school or out of school suspension will not be permitted to practice or play during the suspension. They will be eligible to return to practice or play once the requirements of the suspension have been fulfilled.
  5. Only team members are permitted on the bench. A team includes: players, coaches, managers, trainers, doctors and a school administrator or designee, if needed.
  6. All practice games with other schools should be cleared with the Athletic Director.
  7. When games are played away from St. Clairsville Schools’ home court/field, players and coaches are to travel on school transportation unless other arrangements are made by the athletic director and approved by the administration. Players may be released to travel home with their parents only. Parent’s written permission and coach’s consent must be obtained. Players may be permitted to ride to or from an athletic event with their parents or the coach provided that:
    - a. The situation or reasoning is prudent.
    - b. The parent permission and head coach consent has been given.
    - c. The written release form is on file. (File should include name of insurance carrier).
- \*Under no circumstances may an athlete drive or ride with another student.
8. Once a student starts a sport, that student may NOT transfer to another sport after 7 days from the OHSAA designated practice start date. Students who quit after the 7 days also, may NOT participate in any other pre-season activity of another sport until either the conclusion of that season or the first practice date of the next season.

9. An athlete can participate in only one sport per season. Exception: Coaches of the two sports must agree and all conflicts must be worked out in advance. The student must choose ONE sport as primary and that sport shall be granted priority when activities are scheduled. The Athletic Director and High School Principal shall be notified of such situations and will also have final authority should a conflict arise.
10. All school board approved, OHSAA sanctioned sports will be given priority over non-school affiliated sports. Examples of non-school affiliated sports include but are not limited to club, travel, AAU, etc.
11. Injuries and Insurance
  - a. It is mandatory that all athletes have a physical and be covered by insurance. Each student must have a signed parental/permission waiver. Athletic insurance will not be offered by the school district.
  - b. Catastrophic coverage for athletes shall be covered as prescribed by the OHSAA.
  - c. There shall be a physician or ambulance in attendance at all home varsity football games.
  - d. It is the coach's responsibility to accompany or to see that another school official or a parent accompanies an injured player until they obtain first aid or are transported to the hospital for physician's treatment. The principal or athletic director should be notified before the next school day.
  - e. Forms for Injuries:
    - i. Emergency medical form (at all practices and games)
    - ii. Insurance form or insurance waiver form
    - iii. Injury record for the season
    - iv. Injury release from the doctor to return to practice
  - f. A physical form must be filed in the Athletic Director's office.
12. The Athletic Department of St. Clairsville High School is compelled to take every possible precaution to prevent accidents.
13. There will be no practices conducted on Sunday unless previous permission has been given by the administration and these cannot be mandatory.
14. All coaches are required to comply with all OHSAA certified coaching requirements. These can be found online at OHSAA.ORG.

15. Medical Emergency Policy:

- a. All injuries shall be reported to the trainer and/or the coach immediately.
- b. If licensed medical personnel (physician or nurse) are present, such personnel shall be notified immediately and shall be asked for assistance in supervising the care of the injured or harmed student until parental or emergency squad care becomes available.
- c. The trainer or coach shall notify immediately the person in charge of the activity.
- d. The athletic director and/or trainer shall contact the parents and, if necessary, shall notify the emergency squad. Notification of the emergency squad shall be the decision of the person in charge and/or the trainer. A school administrator should also be notified.
- e. All school personnel involved in dealing with medical emergencies of students shall follow Ohio Revised Code, Section 3313.712, which states, "Even if a parent gives written consent for emergency medical treatment, when a pupil becomes ill or is injured and requires emergency medical treatment while under school authority, or while engaged in an extracurricular activity authorized by the appropriate school authorities, the authorities of his/her school shall make reasonable attempts to contact the parent before treatment is given."
- f. In no instance shall school personnel, without medical license, assume responsibility for either diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury of any student.
- g. The authorized school personnel in charge of any activity shall have available at all times emergency medical authorization forms required by the school. Said form shall be given to the hospital and/or practitioner rendering treatment.
- h. Within 24 hours, a written report giving circumstances, witnesses, etc., shall be filed with the administration. (Use accident reporting forms.)
- i. Notify the athletic director or principal.

# Hazing Recognition and Prevention

It is the right of a student who is participating in high school athletics to be safe and free from humiliation and intimidation. The following information is what you need to know about recognizing and preventing hazing in our school.

Defined: Hazing can be a difficult term to precisely define as the hazing activity may be engaged in on a voluntary basis or be seemingly light-hearted in nature. Typically, in the high school setting, older members of the group force new members to show subservience to the veteran team members. As a result, the self-esteem of the new members is lowered because of being forced to complete humiliating acts or to endure intimidation. Hazing is an act, including physical, mental, or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate him/her, or which may, in any fashion, compromise hiser/her inherent dignity as a person. In most hazing incidents, student athletes are asked to violate school policies and state or federal law (i.e., use of tobacco or alcohol.)

Definition of hazing from the NFHS Interscholastic Athletic Administration magazine (winter, 2002):

Hazing can be defined as any act or ceremony, which creates the risk of harm to the student or to any other party and that is committed as a form of initiation into a particular club or activity. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, activities that involve the risk of physical harm, whipping, branding, ingesting vile substances, sleep deprivation, over-exposure to heat or cold, restraint, nudity, or kidnapping. Hazing could also include actions or simulations of a sexual nature, activities that create a hostile, abusive or intimidating environment for the student.

Clearly, statutorily mandated active preventive policies against hazing must by definition include student discipline when and if hazing should occur. Such policies (including discipline) are actively enforced both to protect students and to avoid the civil and criminal liability of school personnel.

# Sportsmanship

All students, parents, spectators and support organizations share the responsibility for promoting sportsmanship at games and events. Their intended purpose is to provide support, despite the outcome, in a positive manner. They have an enormous influence on behavior and are an important part of the educational process.

- Establish yourselves as leaders in your conduct before, during and after contests and events. Always provide positive support.
- Assist with chants and be a working part of pep assemblies with preparation, organization and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, fans and support groups with respect and enthusiasm.
- Conduct yourselves in an exemplary manner. Remember, you represent your school both home and away.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgement, will only make a positive impression of your group, your team and the community in the eyes of all people at the event.
- Only use positive cheers in support of your team.
- Work within the guidelines established by the administration, and cooperatively contribute to the coach's efforts whenever possible.
- Remember that you are at a contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- Remember that interscholastic athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Remember that a ticket to an interscholastic athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.

The St. Clairsville-Richland City School District and the St. Clairsville Athletic Department recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom. If the full benefit of athletics as an educational tool is to be utilized, educational institutions must immediately concern themselves with the player, coach and spectator sportsmanship.

Ethical consideration is as follows:

- Recognize the official as a person of integrity and qualification, and respect the decision accordingly.
- Refrain from creating disturbances, which would be detrimental to the flow of the game and/or to the safety of the participants involved.
- Refrain from harassment, profane language or obnoxious behavior in respect to players, coaches and spectators.
- Become familiar with the rules of the game in order to enjoy it more and to understand the decisions made by the officials.
- Exhibit respect for the local policies and regulations regarding the use of athletic facilities.
- Exhibit team loyalties and support without negative action toward the opponents, officials or spectators.

NOTE: Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in disciplinary action, which could include possible ejection from the immediate contest and suspension from future contests.

# Training Rules

All athletes are expected to behave in a manner, which reflects positively on the school, and their team. Inappropriate behavior, which reflects negatively, would include such offenses as truancy, vandalism or theft, abusive language, gestures or profanity, and harassment.

**First Offense** - Reprimand from administration including possible detention or suspension, notification of parents, or discretion of coach.

**Second Offense** - Suspension for 10 percent of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contest in that sport.

**Third Offense** - Dismissal from team.

\*Any player written up for flagrant misconduct by an official during an athletic contest will be given a two-contest suspension in accordance with the OHSAA.

The student athlete may not possess, use, or transmit any narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, steroids, or other controlled substances. Use of a drug as authorized by a physician shall not be considered a violation of these rules.

**First Offense** - Suspension for 10 percent of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests in that sport. Application of disciplinary actions per the student handbook.

**Second Offense** - Suspension from remainder of season and loss of any awards, application of disciplinary actions per the student handbook and drug counseling.

**Third Offense** - One year athletic suspension from the date of the 3rd offense, application of disciplinary actions per the student handbook and drug counseling.

The student athlete may not use or possess any tobacco, e-cigarette/vaping device or alcoholic of any kind.

**First Offense** - 1 contest suspension, application of disciplinary actions per the student handbook.

**Second Offense** - Suspension for 10 percent of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests in that sport. Application of disciplinary actions per the student handbook.

**Third Offense** - Suspension from remainder of season and loss of any awards, application of disciplinary actions per the student handbook.

Any student found to possess or the threatening the use of a dangerous weapon, explosive, or anything detrimental to the health, safety and security of the occupants may be immediately removed from the team and will be dealt with according to the student handbook and the laws thereof.

All athletes will comply with the specific training rules and regulations for their sport distributed to them by their coach.

Situations not mentioned above will be handled by the coach of the team with possible referral to the athletic director and school administration. The athletic director and school administration also retain the right to reprimand any athlete for attitudinal reasons or any other cause, which would reflect unfavorably on the St. Clairsville-Richland School District, its athletes, academics, faculty, or administration. The maximum penalty that shall be imposed is exclusion from participation in co-curricular activities for one year from the date of occurrence. Due process shall be followed.

# Varsity Letter Requirements

- A. Baseball/Softball - Must play  $\frac{1}{2}$  the innings or  $\frac{1}{2}$  the games or if injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach. A pitcher, because of the uniqueness of the position, may also be given an award at the discretion of the coach.
- B. Basketball - Must play in  $\frac{1}{2}$  the quarters of the regular season games or if injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach. Participation for one play would constitute a quarter.
- C. Bowling - Must participate in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the varsity matches. If injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach.
- D. Cheerleaders - Must participate in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the varsity contests. If injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach.
- E. Cross Country - Must place in the top 5 team positions to receive one point. A 6th or 7th team position finish is worth  $\frac{1}{2}$  point. To letter, an athlete must score a minimum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the total number of points. (Each race is one point.)
- F. Football - Must play in  $\frac{1}{2}$  the quarters of the regular season games or if injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach. Participation for one play would constitute a quarter.
- G. Golf - Must be designated player in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the matches. If injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach.
- H. Senior Athlete Letter - Seniors can be granted a letter if they have not met the letter criteria for a particular sport providing they participated in that sport for the entire season. These are given at the discretion of the coach. If a senior has been awarded a previous letter or letters in their freshman, sophomore or junior years and has not met the requirements for a letter their senior year, they will not receive an upgraded letter.
- I. Soccer - Must participate in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the varsity games. If injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach.
- J. Swimming - Must score a total of 50 points in practice or the regular scheduled meets. If injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach.
- K. Tennis - Must participate in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the varsity matches. If injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach.
- L. Track & Field - Must score in  $\frac{1}{2}$  the regular scheduled meets or in one of the major meets. If injured, they may receive an award at the discretion of the coach.
- M. Wrestling - The 1st year must score 12 points, the 2nd year must score 18 points, the 3rd year must score 24 points and the 4th year must score 36 points. If injured, an award will be received at the discretion of the coach.
- N. Volleyball - Must participate in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the games. If injured, receive an award at the discretion of the coach.

# Athletic Awards

Participation Award	Certificate
First Letter	Letter/sport pin
Second Letter	Certificate/bar
Third Letter	Picture/bar
Fourth Letter	Plaque/bar

There will not be Frosh/Reserve awards other than a certificate in any sport.

Coaches are not to present any special awards other than the awards listed under special awards. Athletic awards will be presented at the awards ceremony.

All athletes are strongly encouraged and expected to attend their post-season awards banquet.

## Special Awards

### Baseball

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Basketball

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Bowling

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Cheerleaders

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Cross Country

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Football

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Strager Award

### Golf

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Soccer

Most Valuable Player

### Softball

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Swimming

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Tennis

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Track and Field

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Volleyball

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Wrestling

Most Valuable Player  
Most Improved Player

### Saints Club

Outstanding Athlete (F)  
Outstanding Athlete (M)

### Red Devil Club

Senior Awards

## Athletics Ticket Policy

Ticket prices for Middle and High School athletic events:

### Middle School Sports

Students	\$3.00
Adults	\$5.00

### High School Sports

General Admission (excluding Football) - All Tickets	\$5.00
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### High School Football

Pre-Sale Student	\$5.00
Pre-Sale Adult	\$5.00
General Admission at the Gate	\$7.00
Reserve Seating at Home Games	\$8.00

### Passes

Student Athletic Pass	\$35.00 (family rate of 3 or more students - \$30.00 each)
Adult Athletic Pass	\$75.00
Senior Citizen Pass	\$25.00

# Athlete Information

## Physical Examinations

Each athlete must have a physical on file in the athletic director's office prior to participation in any sport. Physical forms can be accessed at [stcathletics.com](http://stcathletics.com) and [FinalForms.com](http://FinalForms.com) or may be picked up in the athletic or main offices.

## Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Rules and Regulations

Rules and regulations can be viewed at [ohsaa.org](http://ohsaa.org). Topics include:

- Residency
- Academic eligibility
- Age and semester rules
- Transfers
- Non-school teams

## St. Clairsville Middle School/High School

Students must earn 5 passing grades and also have a GPA of 1.5 or better in the grading period prior to or during their specific sport season.

## National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Rules

The NCAA website ([ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org)) provides student athletes with up-to-date information concerning eligibility and NCAA Eligibility Center guidelines. All students that plan to play a sport at any Division I or Division II school must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.