

# Colleton County School District ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



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## INTRODUCTION

Colleton County School District's Athletic Department extends an invitation to all students to participate in the many interscholastic athletic programs offered in the schools.

The information provided in this handbook is relevant to policies, regulations, and rules of Colleton County School District, the Colleton County Board of Education, and South Carolina High School League.

Colleton County School Districts' Athletic Department is committed to the educational development of students and feels that a properly controlled, well-organized, sports program will meet the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth.

The student athlete will learn the value of setting goals, sportsmanship, citizenship and self-reliance. Ultimately, the athlete develops an understanding of the necessity of self-discipline and hard work to attain success.

Athletes are selected for Varsity and Junior Varsity teams based on their demonstrated abilities. Our numerous programs are designed to accommodate as many students as possible. Unfortunately, "cutting" athletes from certain programs may become necessary due to various constraints.

Students who choose to participate in athletics are making a choice that requires self-discipline. Consequently, we place a strong emphasis on good training habits. Failure to comply with rules of training can affect an athlete's performance and contribution to the team. Students who do not adhere to these rules will be jeopardizing their participation in the program. They should be aware that involvement in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

The Colleton County School District takes great pride in its athletic program. I invite you to become an integral part of Cougar athletic family. Remember, student athletes are role models for others and consequently, are expected to set a good example for others.

Sincerely,  
**Leon D. Hammond, Director of District Athletics**

## **ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT**

The Colleton County School District believes that athletics should be an integral part of the total educational process. We believe the combination of one's skills, knowledge, and talent partnered with friendly opposition is a means of learning one's own strengths and weaknesses. Healthy competition, properly supervised, give student-athletes the opportunity to gain self-confidence, improve skills, exhibit good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity. All programs are designed not only to teach athletic skills, but also to instill good character and teach sound values. The Colleton County Athletic Department believes success in our athletic programs can set the tone for the entire school year. Athletics also helps contributes to the overall school by building a positive self-image for the individual athlete, the team, the school, the community. It is our final goal that sports activities will help foster young men and women who will be able to enter the community and become constructive, contributing members of society; citizens that will leave their mark on this world by making it a better place for the future generations.

**The Colleton County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, color, religious creed or age (in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); physical disability (in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and sex or marital status (in accordance with Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments) in any of their educational programs, activities, or employment policies.**

## **ATHLETICS VISION STATEMENT**

The Colleton County School District Athletic Department will strive to produce champions in the classroom and on the field through our sportsmanship and dedication to excellence on and off the field. Our objective within athletics is to increase student involvement and athletic opportunities for students while creating a seamless athletic program that ranges from youth programs to varsity sports. The athletic departments' goal is to create excellence by maintaining the highest quality facilities, coaching, and support staff for all of our athletic teams. Everyone within the Colleton County Athletic Department will embody accountability, discipline, hard-work, and sacrifice.

- **Accountability**
  - All actions have consequences and everyone is responsible for their own actions.
- **Discipline**
  - In the class and athletics
- **Hard Work**
  - In the classroom, in season, and during the off-season.
- **Sacrifice**
  - Student-athletes play for their school, their team, community, and themselves.

## COLLETON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HEAD COACHES

### High School

COACH	SPORT(S)	EMAIL	PHONE #
Peeler, Coby	Football	<a href="mailto:cpeeler@colleton.k12.sc.us">cpeeler@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	864-444-3521
Duncan, Yvonne	Volleyball	<a href="mailto:yduncan@colleton.k12.sc.us">yduncan@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-566-5171
Mullins, Matthew	Boys Basketball	<a href="mailto:mmullins@colleton.k12.sc.us">mmullins@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-330-2795
Smalls, Perry	Girls Basketball	<a href="mailto:psmall@colleton.k12.sc.us">psmall@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-599-8559
Smith, George	Cross Country	<a href="mailto:gsmith@colleton.k12.sc.us">gsmith@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-909-0515
Singleton, Courtney	Boys Track	<a href="mailto:czsingleton@colleton.k12.sc.us">czsingleton@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-908-6577
Smith, George	Girls Track	<a href="mailto:gsmith@colleton.k12.sc.us">gsmith@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-909-0515
Paige, Jermale	Baseball	<a href="mailto:jpaige@colleton.k12.sc.us">jpaige@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-635-2757
	Softball		
Strickland, Jaymie	Boys Tennis	<a href="mailto:jaystrick13@gmail.com">jaystrick13@gmail.com</a>	843-893-8850
Strickland, Jaymie	Girls Tennis	<a href="mailto:Jaystrick13@gmail.com">Jaystrick13@gmail.com</a>	843-893-8850
White, Justin	Boys Soccer	<a href="mailto:jawhite@colleton.k12.sc.us">jawhite@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-270-4234
	Girls Soccer		
Driggers, Meagan	Cheerleading	<a href="mailto:lowcountrygym@gmail.com">lowcountrygym@gmail.com</a>	843-599-3082
Mullins, Matthew	Boys Golf	<a href="mailto:mmullins@colleton.k12.sc.us">mmullins@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-330-2795
Burke, Packy	Wrestling	<a href="mailto:burkepacky@gmail.com">burkepacky@gmail.com</a>	843-909-3769
Parnell, Bryant	Athletic Trainer	<a href="mailto:bparnell@colleton.k12.sc.us">bparnell@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	803-445-5059

### Middle School

COACH	SPORT(S)	EMAIL	PHONE #
Rowes, Keivey	Football	<a href="mailto:krowes@colleton.k12.sc.us">krowes@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-908-6799
Jones, Marrisona	Volleyball	<a href="mailto:majones@colleton.k12.sc.us">majones@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-908-3729
George, Dwayne	Boys Basketball	<a href="mailto:dgeorge@colleton.k12.sc.us">dgeorge@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-599-9244
Klie, Sam	Girls Basketball	<a href="mailto:sklie@colleton.k12.sc.us">sklie@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	551-804-7959
Smalls, Perry	Baseball	<a href="mailto:psmall@colleton.k12.sc.us">psmall@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-599-8559
Wright, Janice	Softball	<a href="mailto:jwright@colleton.k12.sc.us">jwright@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-908-9772
Barnes-Williams, Charlene	Cheerleading	<a href="mailto:cbwilliams@colleton.k12.sc.us">cbwilliams@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	843-599-9496
Bowers, Courtney	Athletic Trainer	<a href="mailto:cbowers@colleton.k12.sc.us">cbowers@colleton.k12.sc.us</a>	864-787-1551

**Jay Davis**  
Assistant Athletic Director

## EXPLANATION OF ATHLETICS

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.

### **Communication you should expect from your child's coach:**

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Locations and times of practices and contests
3. Team requirements, e.g., practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning

### **Communication coaches expect from parents:**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

As your children become involved in the programs within the CCSD, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. Examples of these situations include the treatment of your child, ways to help your child, ways to help your child improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much, when, or where you may desire. It will be the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. **Examples include team strategy, other student-athletes, playing time, etc.**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

### **When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:**

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Coordinator. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

Since research indicates that a student involved in extracurricular activities has greater success during childhood, these athletic programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

## REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

### A. Physical Examination

All students must have a physical on file. New physicals are required on a yearly basis before the start of that seasons' sport. A physical examination and medical history from must be completed each year prior to participation. If a student was removed from participation by a doctor's order, the student must receive a release from the doctor prior to participation. If a student sustained a serious injury, which required surgery or removal from participation, the student will need to take physical examination prior to participation. The physical examination forms are available from the Department of Athletics. Use only the approved CCSD issued form to record physical examinations. Club or organization forms will not be accepted. **(Students must submit a copy of a birth certificate & insurance card)**

### B. Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes (1) Physical Packet Checklist, (2) Athletic Insurance Information, (3) CCSD Parent & Student Sportsmanship Pledge, (4) Emergency Contact Form, (5) Preparticipation Physical Evaluation, (6) Physical Examination Form, (7) Academic Records Release, Weight-Training Enrollment, (8) Concussion Acknowledgement Form. The packet should be filled out completely! Do not leave any requested information blank.

### C. CCSD Athletic Handbook

Our current years Handbook is offered on line at [www.colletonsd.k12.sc.us](http://www.colletonsd.k12.sc.us). If you need hard copies of this please contact the Department of Athletics at the High School and we will provide. The student-athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the Handbook Acknowledgement form which is provided in the Athletic Department Forms Packet. This confirms receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies in the Athletic Handbook.

### D. Academic Eligibility

A student in grades 9 – 12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number in state-approved courses:

- a. **Beginning the ninth grade year- must have been promoted from the eighth to the ninth;**
- b. **Beginning the tenth grade year- must have at least 5 credits towards graduation;**
- c. **Beginning the eleventh grade year- must have at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits;**
- d. **Beginning the twelfth grade year- must have 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she has earned 5 credits.**

A student participating in CCSD activities will be ruled ineligible from their respective sport and have his/her grades monitored after a grading period in which the student received a cumulative average lower than 70 or on a scale of 100 on their grades (other than an identified honors or advanced class). The student-athlete's grades will be re-evaluated after one week to determine if the suspension will be upheld or lifted. The monitoring of grades will continue for the remainder of that season to assure the student-athlete is on track to complete the course towards graduation.

**E. Athletic Participation Fee**

**a. High School**

- 1st Sport = \$40
- 2nd Sport = \$20
- 3rd/4th Sport = \$10

**b. Middle School**

- 1st Sport = \$35
- 2nd Sport = \$15
- 3rd/4th Sport = \$5

**F. Off-Season Requirements**

A student must meet any additional requirements set forth by the head coach of each sport.

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

### **1. Coaches' Rule**

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulation with the approval of the District Athletic Director for their respective sports. The rules pertaining to a particular sport must be communicated, by the coach at the start of the season. The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules.

### **2. Discipline Techniques**

Each situation may require a different type of discipline. Whatever type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become better persons. Failure to accept this on the part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program. The different discipline techniques listed below may be used alone or in combination with Student Code of Conduct and non-Student Code of Conduct violations. The listing is not intended to be a list of progressive sanctions or the only methods used.

- **Oral corrections**
- **Counseling by coaches**
- **Physical activity**
- **Behavioral contracts**
- **Withdraw of privileges, such as participation**
- **Techniques or penalties identified by individual coach of sport**
- **Dismissal from team or program**

If a student is placed in ISS (In-School Suspension) or is suspended for any Student Code of Conduct disciplinary offense, he/she may receive additional punishment at the coach's discretion. Teachers are encouraged to communicate with the coaching staff when they are having disciplinary issues with a student. Teachers may refer students to coaches and coaches may use disciplinary action for student referrals.

### **3. HAZING**

"Hazing" is against the law and will not be tolerated in the Athletic Department. "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging being initiated into, affiliated with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students:

### **4. Academics**

All students are required to remain academically eligible to participate. Remember No Pass-No Play. Athletes must realize that they are students first and athletes second. Athletes must manage their time accordingly so that they give sufficient time and energy to their studies to ensure acceptable grades. Repeated academic suspensions may result in dismissal from the team. We encourage academic accountability at CCSD. Athletes that habitually earn failing grades on grade reports and/or progress reports become a detriment to the athletic program. They are showing neglect in their responsibility and obligation to their team and the athletic program. They are also neglecting their main purpose for attending school. Coaches will conduct grade checks to monitor academic performance. Athletes are encouraged to maintain all their grades

throughout the school year. Tutors are available for students that are struggling with their grades. Athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the tutors and/or other resources that are available to help them with their grades. Failure to take care of his/her grades will result in the athlete being placed on academic probation or removed from athletic competition or the athletic program. Their grades will be closely monitored, and they will be expected to show improvement in their grades during the probationary period.

## 5. Attendance (Class & Athletic)

**Accountability and Dependability go hand in hand!** Be in class. Be on time. If you must miss an athletic and/ or academic period or practice, be sure that it can't be avoided. If you must be absent, it is YOUR responsibility to communicate with the head coach of your sport to inform him/her of your absence – **NO EXCEPTIONS**. You will be required to complete the makeup work missed for the practice, or game set forth by the sport head coach.

It is the obligation and responsibility of team members to attend scheduled practices, contests, and meetings regularly and on time. If an unavoidable conflict arises with a practice or contest, one of the coaches should be notified before the workout or game. Failure to make contact prior to the practice, contest, or meeting may result in the absence being considered unexcused.

### **Excused Absences:**

Excused absences will be made up. The make up for an excused absence is not punishment but is administered so that the athlete can make up missed work and conditioning. Examples of excused absences are illness, a death in the family, school sponsored activities, church activities, or emergency situations. Athletes should understand that when they have to miss, it is imperative that a coach be notified prior to the absence. Parents may call the high school office at 843-782-0031 and leave a message for the coaches. Junior high parents may call the junior high school office at 843-782-0040 and leave a message for the coaches.

Athletes should understand that habitual absences, even though they may be excused, become detrimental to their ability to perform and to their knowledge of team concepts. Habitual absences will result in disciplinary actions, including loss of playing time and/or possible suspension or dismissal.

### **Unexcused Absences:**

Athletes and parents should understand that failure to notify the coach prior to an absence will usually result in the absence being considered unexcused. Some extenuating situations will be considered for an excused absence without prior notification. If there is a question as to whether it is excused or not, the head coach and/or athletic director will make the decision. Unexcused absences will be made up and disciplinary action will be taken also.

### **Continual Absences:**

Multiple absences in a sport are grounds for removal from the sport. Multiple absences from athletics are grounds for removal from athletics. We want our athletes to learn life lessons. We believe it is fair to compare an athlete missing practice to an employee missing work. Employees that miss work get fired.

**Injured Athletes:**

Injured athletes who cannot actively participate in the workout must still follow all attendance policies. Being injured is not an excuse to miss practice. The injured athlete will be expected to dress out and participate mentally. This is also a time in which they may see the trainer for treatment. (Some injuries may not allow the athlete to dress out or attend practice. If there is a question, the head coach will make the decision on the athlete dressing out or attending the workout).

**Ineligible Athletes:**

Ineligible athletes shall attend and participate in workouts unless excused by the head coach. By attending and participating in workouts, the athlete may represent the team again at the end of the ineligible period.

**ISS / After School Detention:**

An athlete placed in ISS or detention is still expected to participate in after school practices. Failure to report to after school workout will result in an unexcused absence. Being late to practice because of an after school detention will result in an unexcused tardy.

**Tardy:**

It is also very important for a team member to be on time and to remain at a practice for its duration. Any team member who arrives late to practice or who leaves early is disruptive to the team's improvement and game plan. Athletes that are tardy or that leave practice early will be expected to do make up work for the time they missed. Habitual tardiness will result in disciplinary action including possible suspension or dismissal.

**6. Squad Selection**

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

**7. Cutting**

Choosing the members of the athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of the squads. Prior to tryouts, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

- A. Extent of tryout period
- B. Criteria used to select the team
- C. Number to be selected
- D. Practice commitment if they make the team
- E. Game commitments

**8. Injury or Illness**

The athletic trainer will either treat you or refer you to a physician. If you must leave school because of illness, contact or come by the Athletic Office or coaches' office. If you are ill or injured, we don't expect you to work out, but if you are at school, we expect you to be present and support your teammates the day of the practice/game and accompany your group or team unless given special permission by your head coach.

## **9. Respect for Others**

Coaches should receive “Yes Sir / Ma’am”, “No Sir / No Ma’am” responses from players when talking to them. Players in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, officials, spectators, and support groups. Treat others, as you would want to be treated.

## **10. Promptness**

Always be on time. On trips, the bus will not wait. After the final bell rings, you do not have time to waste; go directly to your sport. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

## **11. Disciplinary Removal**

If it becomes necessary to consider removing a student from a team or the athletic program, the coach of that team will notify the Athletic Director. The student will have an opportunity to confer with the coach and the Athletic Director both present.

## **12. Dress and Appearance**

Athletic participation is voluntary upon the part of the student, and by entering the program, the athlete agrees to abide by the spirit, rules, and regulations, which pertain to athletes. One of the most important rules is that athletes must maintain a neat appearance at all times. You should be very professional in uniform and out. Your appearance away from the field house or gym, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program. Everyone will wear his/her uniform in the same manner. No one will be different. We will furnish your equipment, so do not bring your own. Men and women will wear attire requested by the head coach.

### **Proper Dress For Males**

1. When traveling to and from athletic contests, shirts should be tucked in at all times.
2. Never allow your pants to bag down at the waist.
3. Belts should be worn.
4. Unless approved by the coaches for outdoor activities, no headwear of any kind should be worn while participating in, or traveling to and from an athletic event.
5. Piercings are not to be worn by male athletes in athletic events/practice.
6. Hair and facial hair shall be kept groomed and neat at all times.
7. Proper shoes should be worn. No flip-flops or house shoes will be allowed

### **Proper Dress For Females**

If not dressed in your game uniform, where you have no jewelry, girls will wear the following attire:

1. Tops must be tucked in unless made to be worn otherwise.
2. No sleeveless or off-the-shoulder tops will be allowed.
3. Proper shoes should be worn. No flip-flops or house shoes will be allowed.
4. When not dressed in game attire, only one earring in each ear will be allowed.
5. Unless approved by the coaches for outdoor activities, no headwear of any kind should be worn while participating in or traveling to and from an athletic event.

### 13. Quitting / Dismissals

An athlete who quits/is dismissed from a sport may not participate in another school sponsored sport until the previous sport concludes. The Athletic Director may, at his/her discretion, may make an exception to this rule when an event outside the control of the athlete or his/her family causes the athlete to drop a sport. A clear understanding of the events leading up to the sport being dropped and the consequences for dropping the sport will be reached by the Athletic Director and the athlete at the time the sport is dropped. Anyone walking off the field or gym floor during a practice or a game will be considered by the coach to have quit the team. An athlete involved in physical altercation while in school or while participating in a school sanctioned activity is grounds for immediate dismissal from their respective team. Students can be dismissed from a sport by the head coach of the sport at the coach's discretion.

### 14. Conflict in Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences. In the area of extracurricular activities, the athletic department will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. This would include being cautious about participation in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsors and coaches involved when a conflict does arise. When a conflict arises, the sponsors and coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on the following:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The importance of each event to the student.
3. The relative contribution the student can make.
4. How long each event has been scheduled.
5. Talk with parents.

**Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either faculty sponsor or coach.** If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity in a timely fashion so as not to place an unreasonable burden on the team, coach, or sponsor.

### 15. Travel

All athletes represent the community, school, and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all athletes will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a proper manner. When missing classes because of an athletic event, it is the responsibility of the athlete to see his/her teacher the day before the missed classes. All work shall be made up at the convenience of the teacher. All athletes making a school sponsored trip shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. Students may return home with the parent or guardian when the parent or guardian presents a written request to the coach. On school athletic trips, students will only be released in person to their parent or guardian. If an athlete is injured in a contest away from home, the above policy may be altered to meet the circumstances.

## **16. Vacations**

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged. While family values will always take precedence over program requirements, parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics'. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be a conflict.

In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- A. Contact the head coach prior to the vacation.
- B. Expect to do any make-up and disciplinary exercise for time that they were out.
- C. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2<sup>nd</sup> string, etc. for the time missed.

## **17. Tobacco- Alcoholic Beverages- Use of Illegal Drugs**

There will be no use of tobacco products, drinking alcoholic beverages, or use of illegal drugs at any time for those students who desire to take part in the Colleton County School District Athletic Program. The consequences for violation are a part of each sport's Discipline Policy.

## **18. Theft**

Taking things that do not belong to you, especially taking from your teammates will not be tolerated. A player caught will be dismissed from the team. We ask that you do not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing room. Lock your lockers at all times.

## **19. Criminal Activity**

Any activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the Athletic program will not be tolerated. Such activity may result in dismissal from the program. The consequences are also a part of each sport's Discipline Policy.

## **20. Locker Room**

Athletes are expected to help keep locker rooms as neat and sanitary as possible. It is the responsibility of the athletes to throw away trash, pick up equipment, and keep the locker room clean. All equipment should be hung or placed in the lockers. No equipment should be left on the floor. Specific locker and locker room guidelines will vary from season to season.

Keep all valuables locked up. Valuable items that cannot be secured in your locker should not be brought into the locker room. Do not leave valuables out in the open. Stolen items will be the responsibility of the athlete. (Some athletes may not have access to lock boxes to secure valuables. They should make arrangements with their coach to secure valuables.)

## **21. Uniforms and Equipment**

Uniforms and equipment are on a loan basis and are to be worn only when authorized by the coach. Only uniforms issued by the Athletic Department will be permitted to be worn for contests. The athletic department does not issue additional uniforms if a student forgets theirs on game day. All uniforms and/or equipment are the responsibility of the athletes during the season and must be returned at the conclusion of the season. If lost or stolen, the replacement cost of the uniform or equipment will be assessed to the student.

You will not be allowed to try out for or play on a team during the next season until you have returned or paid for the replacement of uniforms and equipment. Failure to return uniforms and/or equipment will affect an athlete's graduation status and the athlete would be ineligible for any athletic award.

## **22. Student Recognition**

Each Varsity Sport will host their own "Senior Night" during which coaches will recognize and pay respects to the contributions made to the program by those seniors and their families. (Exceptions will be considered for sports who don't participate in home contest, physically on campus).

## Colleton County Cougar's Game Removal Policy

The following are reasons why a player may be removed from an athletic event:

- Inappropriate behavior during the sporting event (on the court or on the bench)
- Inappropriate language on and off the court
- Removal of game uniform during the event
- Refusal of entering the event
- Inappropriate replies or remarks to any of the coaching staff
- Failure to show good sportsmanship
- Any other action/conduct that be a misrepresentation of the program, school and coaching staff

Once a player has been removed from the athletic event, due to the fact of one of the following rules stated above, an assistant coach will escort said player and stay with them during the duration of the scheduled event. During that time, a parent or guardian will be called to inform them of the removal of their child, if he or she is not present at the time of the event. A meeting will be held twenty-four (24) hours after the event with the Head coach, assistant coach, player and parents to discuss the incident(s) at hand. Punishment will be based upon the action(s) at hand and may result in repercussions spanning from the loss of 1 quarter of play, to a one game suspension, to the removal from the team.

A meeting may also be set up between the Head Coach, along with the Athletic director and parent if there is a disagreement about the breaking of the team game removal policy.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP – ATHLETES/PARENTS/SPECTATORS**

The Colleton County School District administration and athletic department feel it is very important that sportsmanship is demonstrated at all athletic contests. Athletes must understand the importance of respecting the decisions of game officials. Spectators should exhibit the same respect to game officials. The officials are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game. Spectators verbally abusing officials with insults, threats and profanity can result in the athletic team being punished under the rules of the SCHSL. This punishment can result in a team having to forfeit a contest or possibly being suspended or disqualified from playoff competition. Be sure everyone understands the potential seriousness that could result to the school's athletic program if misbehavior of spectators is reported to the SCHSL.

### **Colleton County Athletic Department Expectations of Spectators, Athletes, and Coaches**

- Show respect at all times.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- Insults directed to officials, players, coaches, or other fans will not be tolerated.
- No noisemakers are allowed at indoor competitions.
- Only cheers that support the teams will be allowed.

***Those unable to exhibit proper sportsmanship will be unable to attend games.***

Following are a list of behavior expectations of athletes and spectators. These lists appear in the Sportsmanship Manual developed by the SCHSL. Become aware of these expectations, as well as the ones above, and put them into action. Together we want to present a positive image of Colleton County to the game officials and to our opponents.

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE**

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and fellow students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than you can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and everyone at the contest.

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS**

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition – not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event.
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

## INSURANCE

Colleton County School District strives in providing each and every student with the best care possible under the guidance of professionally trained coaches. Each year we hope to avoid injuries but unfortunately that is something that cannot be controlled. The reality is that all medical expenses resulting from an athletic injury are inherently the parent's responsibility. Therefore, we require all CCSD student-athletes to produce proof of health insurance coverage, provided by parent and/or legal guardian.

Athletes who do not have coverage or would like to have additional coverage may purchase the voluntary coverage plans offered through our school districts provider of student insurance coverage. K&K Insurance Group is the insurance carrier. A brochure on their policy items can be picked up from the athletic office. You may take out a policy with this company on-line. Should you elect to take out a policy through them, please bring documentation when your child reports for physicals? If you elect this coverage, bring the completed application with a check or money order to the athletic office for us to copy and mail.

All injuries which occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach and or athletic trainer. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it is the athlete's responsibility to secure a written note from the physician indicating that the athlete may return to the activity.

All Colleton County School District Athletes are covered by a ***"Catastrophic Injury"*** policy provided by the South Carolina High School League. This means student-athletes medical expenses exceeding \$25,000.00 will be covered at 100%, once the deductible of \$25,000.00 is satisfied. Athletic Department personnel will fill out the school's part of the form and give the form to the parents/guardian for completion.

## ATHLETIC AWARDS

### Certificate of Participation

A certificate of participation will be awarded to each athlete who finishes an athletic sport season and is on the final athletic award roster.

### Varsity Letter

A varsity letter and a pin indicating the type of sport will be given when an athlete earns the letter by satisfactory participation at the varsity level for the first time during a particular year. If an athlete letters in more than one sport per year, he or she will be awarded an additional pin(s) to designate the sport, but not an additional letter. If an athlete letters in the same sport, they will receive an additional sport pin indicating years of service at the varsity level in that sport. Varsity letters in all varsity sports shall be awarded by the Colleton County Athletics Department upon the recommendation of the coach who will consider the following award criteria:

An athlete must:

- Attend practice and games on a consistent basis
- Display a cooperative spirit with the coach, teammates and opponents
- Display respect for others on and off the field
- Observe all rules and regulations as outlined in this handbook
- Actual varsity game involvement

Student managers, who successfully meet all their responsibilities, are awarded a varsity letter.

### The Season

The season is defined as the period between the dates officially designated by the SCHSL as the beginning of the season for that sport and the close of the post season SCHSL tournaments.

### Injury Rule

Any athlete who is a varsity starter or plays in varsity contests on a regular basis and becomes injured may be awarded a letter if, in the coach's judgment, he or she would have met the criteria.

## COLLEGE SPORTS

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid, regulates many college sports. The NCAA has four membership divisions - Division I, Division I-AA, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members in one or another division according to size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II sports, **you must be certified** by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will analyze your academic information and determine if you meet the NCAA's initial-eligibility requirements.

- Complete and sign a NCAA clearinghouse student release form and mail white copy and fee to the NCAA clearinghouse.
- Give the yellow and pink copies of the clearinghouse form to your school counselor to forward.
- Have an official transcript mailed from any other high school attended.
- Have SAT scores sent to the NCAA clearinghouse.
- Complete the NCAA Amateurism Certification Questionnaire.

### **Division I:**

- At least four years English
- At least three years math
- At least two years social science
- At least two years natural or physical science (including one lab course if offered)
- At least one year additional classes in English, math or natural or physical science
- Four additional academic courses in any of these areas: foreign language, computer science or comparative religion.
- Earn at least a 2.5 GPA in your core courses
- Earn an SAT combined score of 900 or an ACT sum score of 75.

### **Division II:**

- At least three years English
- At least two years math
- At least two years social science
- At least two years natural or physical science (including one lab course if offered)
- At least three year additional classes in English, math or natural or physical science
- Four additional academic courses in any of these areas: foreign language, computer science or comparative religion.
- Earn at least a 2.2 GPA in your core courses
- Earn a SAT combined score of 840 or an ACT sum score of 70.

**Division III:**

The above requirements do not currently apply to Division III colleges, where eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition is governed by institutional, conference and other NCAA regulations.

The NCAA has a booklet called **"MAKING SURE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COLLEGE SPORTS"** that is available in the counselor's office that will give you specific directions on filling out the forms for the Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse may also be reached as follows:

**NCAA Clearinghouse  
2255 North Dubuque Road  
P.O. Box 4044  
Iowa City, IA 52243-4044  
(319) 337-1492**

**NAIA COLLEGE SPORTS:**

An entering freshman must be a graduate of an accredited high school or be accepted as a regular student in good standing as defined by the enrolling institution and meet two of the three following requirements:

1. Achieve a minimum of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT.
2. Achieve a minimum overall high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Graduate in the top half of your high school class.

To register or gather more information about playing at a NAIA College please speak with your school counselor and visit the following website [www.PlayNAIA.org](http://www.PlayNAIA.org). Every student who plays in the NAIA for the first time must have their eligibility determined through the NAIA Eligibility Center.

## **TEN COMMANDMENTS OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETIC PARENTS**

1. Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know they are accomplishing something by simply being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses or place blame if your son/daughter is not playing. Be supportive and encourage them to work hard and do their best.
3. Do not criticize the coaches in front of students. Coaches, like parents, represent authority; they are teachers charged with responsibility of education in a complex society. Continual parental criticism creates doubt in the mind of the athlete and can render the coaches ineffective. As a result, the athlete becomes a complainer, not a doer!
4. Encourage your son/daughter to live an athletic life off the field of play. An athlete must have proper rest and diet to be effective mentally and physically. Know what your athlete is doing at all times. Be accountable for your child.
5. Insist on good grades. If an athlete is not passing, he/she cannot play. We want an athlete to be a successful person, not just a successful athlete.
6. Do not live your life through your son/daughter. Athletics are for the students, let them play! Do not show animosity or jealousy toward any of your child's teammates. This type of envy can rub off on your child and have an adverse effect on him/her and the team. Remember, it is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit!
7. Allow the coaches to coach. They work with the athletes daily and know the individual abilities of each participant. They are professionals and have been trained to coach.
8. Understand the athletic pyramid. The further one advances in athletics, the more difficult it becomes to be successful. Being a little league all-star does not ensure success at the high school level. Each level becomes more demanding and requires more parental support and understanding.
9. Your successes, a sibling's successes, do not constitute guaranteed success for all family members. Each child is an individual, unique, like no other before or after. The battle one must wage is against oneself only, against taking the line of least resistance, against not working for self-improvement. Comparisons, although inevitable, should be avoided at all costs because they can lead to irreparable damage.
10. Love your child for who he/she is, not for his/her athletic accomplishments. Your child is a human being, not an object.

**COLLETON COUNTY COUGARS  
ATHLETIC CONTRACT**

I, the undersigned athlete, understand that by playing for the Colleton County School District, regardless of sport, do agree that I am a student athlete and will abide by the guidelines set forth by the Athletic Department Coaching Staff. It is a privilege to participate in interscholastic activities and represent the communities of Colleton County. I trust that my coaches have mine and the team's best interest in mind when they make decisions. These decisions include but are not limited to the following: position, team, play calling, playing time, and disciplinary action. I will not argue with my coaches or teammates or be a distraction to the program.

I also understand that by signing this contract, I am letting the coaches, administration of this school, and the teams know that I too am about the team, the program, the school, and the community; and that I want what is best for those that I represent. I understand the importance of practice and being there for my team. I promise to put the team first and myself second regardless of the situation. I understand that by not meeting the expected criteria, action will be taken by the coaching staff and / or administration that can include but is not limited to extra physical demand or dismissal from the team. I, the undersigned parent / guardian, also agree to the criteria of this contract and am willing to support and uphold these policies as an athletic parent and supporter. I do understand that the coaching staff will hear any questions or concerns as long as those questions or concerns are presented in a timely, respectful, and orderly manner. I also understand that if my student / athlete are not successful in meeting the expected criteria, action will be taken by the coaching staff and / or administration that can include but is not limited to extra physical demand or dismissal from the team.

***“I am aware of the significance of the Athletic Code and the Athletic Contract. I am aware of the disciplinary action for breaking these rules and not upholding the Athletic Contract, and that the main degree of prevention of the breaking of these rules and upholding the contract, lies in the hands of the student-athletes and their parents.”***

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT-ATHLETE (PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT-ATHLETE SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE