

**COVENTRY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**



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## **PHILOSOPHY**

The Coventry Local School District believes that athletics are a vital part of the educational, physical, and social development of a student-athlete. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, that we encourage all students to take advantage of. Student-athletes will demonstrate the highest qualities of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship and will learn lifelong lessons that will allow them to become positive contributing members of our school and community.

We recognize the use and abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco poses a significant health risk for our students and may adversely affect the development of skills necessary to successful participation in athletics. Furthermore, it is against the law.

We stress that athletic contests should always be played with an emphasis of sportsmanship, teamwork, competition, and how to win and lose gracefully. The element of competition and winning must never outweigh sportsmanship and the educational value of contests. Athletic competition also improves school spirit and helps students develop pride in their school.

We emphasize that coaches are teachers first and must provide all athletes with examples of exemplary behavior. Exceptional coaching requires great leadership, thorough planning, and effective communication. Exemplification of these qualities will contribute to the student-athlete's chances for success in a competitive society.

We encourage students to participate in multiple sports and support diversification over specialization in regard to athletic participation. Athletic activities make school more rewarding and adherence to certain codes of behavior and academic standards enhances an individual's quality of life.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Student-athletes must meet all standards set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association by-laws regarding age, enrollment and attendance, scholarship, conduct, character, and discipline, residence, transfers, recruiting, and amateur status. Information on these by-laws is available upon request from the athletic director and on the OHSAA website.

### **Academics**

The rules and regulations of the OHSAA and the Coventry Board of Education govern the academic eligibility of all student-athletes. Academic eligibility is based on the following requirements:

1. Enrolled in at least 5 one-credit courses, or the equivalent of, during the current nine weeks
2. Passed 5 one-credit courses, or the equivalent of, during the previous nine weeks
3. Earned a GPA of 1.5 or higher during the previous nine weeks
4. Received no more than one failing grade during the previous nine weeks

Middle school students must receive passing grades in 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

Students ruled ineligible because of grades will only be permitted to practice with the team. Ineligible students may not participate in any athletic contests.

### **Attendance at School**

An athlete must be present at school for at least half the day in order to participate in practices or games on that day. Half a day is constituted as arriving prior to 11:00 am and staying the rest of the day or arriving on time to school and staying past 11:00 am. Students may receive approval from an administrator for special determinations in advance of an absence.

### **Physicals**

Every athlete must have a current physical on file before he or she can participate in practices or games. Physicals are valid for one calendar year from the date the exam was conducted.

### **Pay to Participate**

The Coventry Board of Education has adopted the following pay to participate fee schedule for the upcoming school year:

- Grades 9-12 – \$100 per sport
- Grades 7-8 – \$75 per sport

Payment plans may be set up in the athletic office prior to the first payment due date.

# **SPORTSMANSHIP**

The Coventry High School Athletic Department believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to ensure that all participants have a common understanding of these basic principles.

We believe that participation is more important than winning. We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches, and players.

An additional component to consider is our coach's ethics. We believe the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. Therefore, we expect school administrators, coaches, athletes, cheerleaders, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship:

1. Respect should be demonstrated for an athletic opponent and for their school at all times. We should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guest and accord them the consideration all human beings deserve. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.
2. Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. Officials must be assumed to be and accepted as impartial arbiters who are trained to do their job and can be expected to do the job to the best of their ability.
3. All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized.
4. All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and goodwill that is encouraged in all member schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during, and after contests.

## **Fan Ejection Procedures**

1. First Offense – Fan must schedule a conference with the Athletic Director to discuss their inappropriate behavior and serve a denial of admission penalty as determined by the Athletic Director and Principal.
2. Second Offense – Removal from all athletic contests (home or away) for the rest of the season.
3. Third Offense – Removal from all athletic contests (home or away) for the rest of the calendar year

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF A COVENTRY ATHLETE**

Being a member of a Coventry Local School District athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to build upon and uphold.

Our goal will be to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy to the best efforts of all concerned.

It will not be easy to continue such a great athletic tradition. When you wear the blue and yellow, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

### **Responsibility to Yourself**

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. Your studies and participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as sports, prepare you for life as an adult.

### **Responsibility to Your School**

Another responsibility that you assume as a team member is to your school. Coventry Local Schools cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school unless you do your best in whichever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on the state with the spotlight on you at all times. The student body, the community, and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make Coventry Local Schools proud of you and make your community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

### **Responsibility to Others**

The younger students in the Coventry Local School District look up to you. They will imitate you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Be a positive role model. Attitude, character, respect toward others, and your work ethic are the most influential factors. Set good examples for them to follow.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

The Coventry Board of Education desires to regulate and control student participation in extracurricular activities as a matter of discipline and to promote the welfare, health and morals of its students. The authority to control student conduct includes conduct on school premises and at school-related activities. It also includes off-school conduct or non-school related activities having a direct, indirect, or immediate effect on the discipline or general welfare of the school.

All student-athletes in the Coventry Local School District are to conduct themselves in accordance to the student code of conduct and the athletic team rules and regulations. These policies are in effect seven days a week, 365 days a year. Any violation may lead to the denial of further participation in team practices, contests, or other penalties.

## **Policies**

- All student-athletes agree to refrain from the possession, use, concealment, transportation, or distribution of any tobacco products, drugs (unless prescribed), and alcohol, both on and off school grounds.
- All student-athletes agree to refrain from becoming involved in criminal activities.
- All student-athletes agree to refrain from hazing.
  - Hazing is defined as committing an act or coercing another into an act that causes or creates substantial risk of physical or mental harm to any person.
  - Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not less the prohibition contained in this policy.
- All student-athletes agree to refrain from taunting, using intimidating behavior, or making derogatory remarks before, during, or after a contest.

## **Penalties**

1. First Offense – denial of participation in 20% of the current season – if 20% of the current season does not remain, the penalty will be carried over into the next activity
2. Second Offense – denial of participation in all school-sponsored events for the remainder of the school year – if suspension cannot be served in the current season/school year, it will carry over to the next season/school year

## **COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES**

A goal of the Athletic Department is to provide our athletes with the best environment in which their sport experiences may be as rewarding as possible. We believe that this goal may not be realized without appropriate lines of communication available to all parties involved. These communication guides should help coaches, parents, administrators, and athletes communicate more effectively.

### **What You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach**

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has of your child and the team
- Location and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements – fees, special equipment, eligibility, attendance, off-season conditioning, etc.
- Procedure to follow should your child be injured during participation
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

### **What Coaches Should Expect From Parents**

- Concerns should be expressed privately and directly to the coach first
- Notification of any schedule conflicts should be made well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

### **Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches**

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

### **Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches**

- Playing time/position assignment
- Team strategy/play calling
- Matters concerning other student athletes

### **Procedure To Follow If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach**

- Call or email the coach to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached in a reasonable amount of time, call or email the Athletic Director and he will arrange a time on your behalf
- DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice session. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and even may escalate the issue. Coaches are encouraged to adhere to the 24 hour rule

## **VARSIITY LETTER REQUIREMENTS**

<i>Baseball</i>	Participation in one-half of total innings played. Pitchers must participate in one-fourth of total innings played.
<i>Basketball</i>	Participation in one-half of total regulation quarters played.
<i>Cross Country</i>	Run on the varsity squad in one-half of total meets or run sub 18:00 for boys or sub 22:00 for girls.
<i>Cheerleading</i>	Cheer on the varsity squad in one-half of total football games for fall and one-half of total basketball games for winter.
<i>Football</i>	Participation in one-half of total regular season quarters played. Special teams players must participate in a minimum of 5 varsity quarters.
<i>Golf</i>	Participation in one-half of varsity matches
<i>Soccer</i>	Participation in one-half of total halves played
<i>Softball</i>	Participation in one-half of total innings played. Pitchers must participate in one-fourth of total innings played.
<i>Tennis</i>	Participation in one-half of varsity matches
<i>Track</i>	Average at least one point per meet for the regular season and participate in one-half of total meets
<i>Volleyball</i>	Participate in one-half of total games played
<i>Wrestling</i>	Participate in 10 varsity points

### **Awards**

1<sup>st</sup> Year – Pin and Letter

2<sup>nd</sup> Year – Medallion

3<sup>rd</sup> Year – Plaque

4<sup>th</sup> Year – Photo Plaque

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Hazing**

It is the policy of Coventry Local Board of Education that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times. No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school district shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing activities. Hazing is defined as any initiation process that involves harassment.

### **Forms**

All athletic and emergency medical forms must be filled out via the OneView online registration system.

### **Equipment and Uniforms**

School issued equipment and uniforms are the property of the district and is the responsibility of the athlete and must be returned promptly as directed by the coach in as good of condition as possible. Athletes will be held financially responsible for any lost or misplaced school issued equipment or uniforms not turned in. Report cards will be held or senior transcripts will be held until equipment is returned or payment is made.