

Cleveland ISD Student Athletic



**Handbook
2020-2021**

CLEVELAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
2020-2021

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chris Wood, President
Christina Purkerson, Vice President
Kelly Jenkel-Axton, Secretary
Amanda Brooks
Willie Carter
Ronnie Lewis
Aaron Montesnieto

SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Trotter

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES

Dr. Nathan Boughton

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Maria Silva

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Stephen McCanless

DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Brandon Perry

CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Dr. Glenn Barnes

CLEVELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Nick Hoffman

CLEVELAND ISD ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Jason Fiacco-Athletic Director/Head Football Coach

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
EXPLANATION OF ATHLETICS	2
REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE	4
ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM	6
CISD STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK	7
Sportsmanship	8
Grooming	8
Dress	8
Steroid Testing and Random Drug Testing	8
Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco	9
Profanity	9
Stealing	9
Class and Respect	9
Promptness	9
Attendance and Practice Regulations	9
Multiple Sports	10
Vacations	10
Athletic Period	10
Quitting	10
Equipment and Facilities	11
Travel	11
Injury or Illness	12
Emergency Procedures Regarding Severe Head Injuries	12
Suspension from School	12
Classroom Progress and Conduct	12
Discipline of Athletes	13
Off Campus and Out of School Offenses	13
Harassment, Hazing, Intimidation	13
Social Media Guidelines	13
UIL Eligibility Guidelines	14
Multi-Sport Student Athletes	14
DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES - EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	15
CHEERLEADING GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING PROGRAM	16
CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS POLICY	20
BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS AND/OR PARENTS	21
SIGNATURE PAGE	22

The Cleveland ISD Athletic Handbook contains a general statement of the administrative regulations governing the overall athletic program. Provisions of this Athletic Handbook may be expanded, modified, or revoked only by the Athletic Director, recommendation of the Principal, Superintendent, or Board of Trustees. All provisions must be approved by the Board of Education. If any of the provisions of this Athletic Handbook conflict with federal or state laws, and regulations, or Board policy, those provisions are superseded by applicable law or Board policy. The provisions of this Athletic Handbook are severable, and the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability of any provision will not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the other provisions.

EXPLANATION OF ATHLETICS

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult endeavors. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of one another and provide greater benefit 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:

Philosophy of the coach.

Locations and times of practices and contests.

Team requirements, practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

Concerns expressed directly to the coach.

Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

As your children become involved in the program at Cleveland, 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 improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

As a parent, it is very difficult to accept your child's lack of playing time, when they may play in a game, or the position on the team in which they play. 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 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. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. There will not be a conference regarding playing time without the student-athlete and coach present. 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, call the Athletic Director's office. 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, and meetings of this nature do not provide a 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 adulthood, these athletic programs have been established with this in mind. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

INDIAN ATHLETICS

According to U.I.L. rules, being in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Only those students who abide by school and athletic policies will be allowed to represent Cleveland ISD.

When young men and women sign up for athletics and become a member of a team, they make a commitment. They are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the program. Students are not forced to participate. It is voluntary; therefore, they are expected to follow rules of order and behavior.

Parents should strive to help their son or daughter achieve success in athletics. Success is defined as participating at 100% of the individual's ability. We can never expect athletes to do more than they are capable; however, we do want them to obtain their fullest potential. Supportive parents can instill this desire in student athletes long after their playing days are over by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and regulations.

UNDERSTANDING RULES-FANS & SPECTATORS

Any student/athlete or spectators who are removed from an athletic event by an official, police or administrator is subject to suspension from all athletic events for the remainder of that season or year. Any fan who disrupts an athletic event is subject to suspension or banishment from all athletic events at Cleveland ISD. This includes yelling or using inappropriate/offensive language toward coaches, players, or coaches' family members, officials, etc.

REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT before participating in any practice or game in any extracurricular athletic activity.

A. Physical Examination

A physical examination is required by the U.I.L. for all students entering the 7th grade and all high school students entering the 9th and 11th grades. Beginning for the 2011-2012 school year, physicals will be required every year for all students participating in U.I.L. sports. Whenever it is possible, Cleveland ISD provides a team physician to administer the physicals to the students at no charge to the student. It is not mandatory that the team physician administer the exam. The student may go to their family physician. When students do this, they are required to use the approved UIL form to record physical examinations. Club or organization forms will not be accepted. The physical form is available from the athletic department or from the main office on each campus. Group physicals will be scheduled in May of the preceding school year for all athletes.

B. Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes: (1) UIL Acknowledgement of Rules, (2) UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form, (3) UIL Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form, (4) UIL Anabolic Steroid Form, and (5) Personal student and parent information. The packet should be filled out completely! Do not leave any requested information blank.

C. Acknowledgement of Cleveland ISD Athletic Handbook (Athletic website)

The student-athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the handbook *Acknowledgement* page. It should then be returned to the Athletic Department. This shows receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies contained 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 of credits in state approved courses:

- a. Beginning the 9th grade year; must have been promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th grade.
- b. Beginning the 10th grade year; must have earned at least 5 credits toward graduation.

- c. Beginning the 11th grade year; must have earned at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.
- d. Beginning the 12th grade year; must have earned at least 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.

A student participating in UIL activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class. This suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period and the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal or greater than a 70.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The administration of the Athletic Program should provide every boy and girl the opportunity to participate in any sport. No student in any grade should be deprived of the opportunity to begin participation in any sport if he/she has met the off-season and pre-participation requirements.

The general administration of the Athletic Program is the direct responsibility of the Athletic Director. This includes the arrangement of all schedules, time and place of playing games, selection of officials, and the general management of all matters pertaining to the Athletic Program. In carrying out this program, each head coach in the department shall attend to details of their respective sports.

Cleveland ISD Student Athletic Handbook

The purpose of the athletic program is to do more than provide competition between two individuals and/or two schools. It is to teach fair play, sportsmanship, the understanding and appreciation of teamwork, the teaching of discipline, and that quitting means failure and hard work translates into eventual success. We will attempt to accomplish this general objective as outlined below.

1. Academic success, hard work, and dedication will be stressed on a daily basis throughout the entire athletic program. Encourage the students to grow physically, mentally, morally, and socially. They must pass in the classroom to be eligible for athletic participation (UIL).
2. Keep as many students as possible involved in a good environment.
3. Instill good work habits, sound morals, exemplary citizenship, and a high standard of sportsmanship in the athletes of Cleveland ISD. Athletes are to display positive leadership at all times in our school and community.
4. Escalate an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness. The importance of proper rest, good eating habits, and proper hygiene will be stressed at every opportunity.
5. Develop all programs in such a manner that the end result will be one of unity, harmony, and success. Mass participation is to be emphasized and encouraged especially below the high school varsity level. Students will be encouraged to participate in multi-sports at all levels of competition.
6. Instill in all athletes the desire to represent their school and community in a manner that will make citizens, parents, school personnel, and classmates proud of them.

Participation in the athletic program and/or The University Interscholastic League (UIL) contests is not a right, but a privilege. No student is required to take part in the contest or activities; therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the Athletic Code of Conduct. All students must conform to these guidelines, and understand that the coaches of the sport or activities along with the athletic director, shall have every right to remove these privileges if guidelines and procedures are not followed.

Sportsmanship

The athlete will win and lose with class. Temper fits, flagrant violations of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Total respect to officials, other team coaches or players, and anyone taking part in the athletic event will be shown. Any behavior contrary to the above mentioned or any other act which is not conducive to good sportsmanship, may result in removal from the contest and possible expulsion from the athletic program.

Grooming

See Cleveland ISD Handbook.

No athlete will groom or dress in a manner that will draw attention to themselves and away from the team.

Dress

Should be very professional in or out of uniform. Everyone will wear the uniform in the same manner. WE ARE A TEAM!!! It is against UIL Guidelines to wear any type of jewelry during athletic events. No earrings are allowed in the athletic field house or any school event. Also, covering a piercing with a Band-Aid will not be allowed during practices or contests. Hats, caps (exception-school issue), bandanas, and rags should not be worn on athletic trips, except during competition with the coach's approval. If caps are to be worn, they need to be matching and part of a uniform. Shoes must be the same color if different brands are worn. Game uniform shirt tails must be completely tucked in at all times during a contest unless designed otherwise. Once you have left the locker room, the shirt tail should remain in at all times until the completion of the game. This includes pre-game, bench time, half time, etc. Uniformity and class will be apparent when traveling to other towns, communities, schools, restaurants, etc., as representatives of the Cleveland Independent School District. They should be groomed and dressed in a manner that our community, school, and sponsors will be proud. Giving up untidy fads of dress and appearance is a very small sacrifice.

Note: Violations of the above standards of grooming and dress may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team.

Steroid Testing and Random Drug Testing

The Board of Trustees adopted in May 2005 a policy of random drug testing for all participants in extracurricular activities. This began in the 2007-2008 school year. The State of Texas is requiring steroid testing of athletes. **The consequences for a failed drug test are as follows:**

1st Positive Test – A student will be suspended from all extracurricular competitions for 20 consecutive calendar days. This includes all activities that take place before or after the school day. The student will continue to participate during the school day's athletic period. After the first positive test, the student shall be subject to participation in each random testing period for the remainder of the student's high school career. The athlete will be required to make up all games and practices missed while on the 20 day suspension.

2nd Positive Test – The student will be suspended from all extracurricular activities for one calendar year.

3rd Positive Test – The student will be dismissed from the program.

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

These will not be allowed. First offense may result in dismissal from the team. Second offense will result in dismissal from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

Any videos, pictures, etc., showing student athletes engaging in illegal activity, using drugs, alcohol, tobacco or conducting in any behavior that may be damaging to the program, will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, a two (2) contest suspension, extra conditioning, and a discipline contract. This includes, but is not limited to, e-mails, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook and Tik Tok, as well as any other form of social media.

Profanity

This will result in disciplinary action. **Profanity directed to an administrator, campus staff director, teacher or coach may result in removal from the program.**

Stealing

This will not be tolerated. Punishment may result in suspension or expulsion from the athletic program. This also includes school equipment not returned in after the season has completed.

Class and Respect

Adults should receive a Sir/Ma'am response from athletes. Failure to show class and respect will result in disciplinary action.

Promptness

Always be on time to all classes. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

Attendance and Practice Regulations

Do not miss class, practice, or games due to unexcused reasons. A coach must be consulted with ahead of time if an athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing practice without permission will directly affect playing status. If attendance becomes a habitual problem, suspension or removal from the team may result. Excused and unexcused attendance will be determined by the coach and/or athletic director.

- Excused missed practices - make-up conditioning; weights, etc., no consequence
- Unexcused missed practices - conditioning and consequence; playing time consequences.
- Excused missed games - make-up conditioning; possible playing time consequences. Common sense rule (family emergency, etc.).
- Unexcused missed games - make-up conditioning and at least a one game suspension. Playing time consequences.

Unexcused absence from school on the day of contest, student will not be allowed to participate or attend the activity.

Follow and obey all guidelines set by the coach. Poor effort will not be tolerated. If you do not want to work hard and be a team player, then you should not be in athletics.

Multiple Sports

Athletes are encouraged to participate in more than one sport. Participation in school sports takes precedence over any league/club sport. No athlete will be permitted to miss school workouts or games for club or individual workouts or games. Conflict in several school extracurricular activities will be up to the sponsors and coaches to work out a solution for the student athlete to participate in all activities (if possible). If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on relative importance of each event (district vs non-district games/playoff vs non-playoff games etc.), relative contribution the student can make, how long each event has been scheduled, and talk with parents.

Vacations

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged. 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 conflicts (i.e., Spring Break for baseball, soccer, softball, and track). In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, the athlete will assume responsibility. *See Attendance and Practice Regulations.* **If an athlete skips a game for reasons listed above, there will be consequences and possible removal from the program. Someone else was practicing in that spot.**

Athletic Period

In order to participate in Athletic team sports, **athletes are required to be in the athletic period and go through the strength and conditioning program the semester prior to the sport they wish to participate in. The only sports that do not require an athlete to be in the athletic period are Golf, Powerlifting and Tennis. These sports are after school only. Extenuating circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the Athletic Director.**

Quitting

Think hard before you decide to participate in a sport. Athletics requires hard work, time and dedication. Any athlete who quits a team or is dropped from the team, will not be permitted to participate in another sport until the sport they quit is completed. They still must continue in the off-season program if they plan to continue to participate in Athletics. This athlete will forfeit his/her award in the sport he/she left, or was removed from. Any athlete that quits or is removed from the program/athletic period will receive a grade no higher than a 50.

*Any exception must be discussed and agreed upon by all coaches involved and approved by the Athletic Director.

Equipment and Facilities

The athletic budget provides sufficient money to field well-equipped teams in all sports. While this equipment is not always the most expensive available, it is always good equipment that provides the utmost protection.

With proper care and inspection, it can be kept in use for extended periods of time. Proper care of equipment relies basically on the use of common sense and mandatory inspections. This includes keeping equipment as clean as possible at all times, repairing equipment as soon as possible, and discarding equipment beyond repair and age limits of protective head gears.

Do not take equipment or clothing home. Return equipment that you are not using to your coach. To reduce the spread of infection, do not use other players' equipment.

ATHLETES ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN ISSUED TO THEM. DO NOT TAKE IT HOME!

Equipment should be hung in lockers as instructed. You are to clean your equipment as needed. When you change into your workout gear, your street clothes should be hung in the same manner. Latrines and toilets are to be flushed, showers and faucets turned off, and all trash picked up and thrown in the trash. Do not leave towels on the floor. We are classy and professional athletes because we practice the same image we promote.

Travel

All athletes in middle school and high school represent the community and school district. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with this code. Violations will result in suspension from the next contest, and any incident of a serious nature may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team or program.

1. If an athlete misses the bus, they will not be allowed to start the contest and possibly not participate that day depending on the circumstances for missing the bus. Punctuality is imperative and tardiness will not be tolerated.
2. Dress appropriately as directed by the coach.
3. Show respect for opposing teams' facilities. Make sure not to abuse dressing rooms in any way. Leave the dressing rooms cleaner than when we arrived.
4. Be mannerly in all eating establishments. All student participants will sit in restaurants or at other special events as a group.
5. Do not take personal valuables on road trips, and avoid the possibility of losing these items or having them stolen. The athlete is responsible for their valuables.
6. All athletic personnel making the trip on the team bus will return on the team bus unless an emergency situation arises, or when parents have made prior arrangements with good cause for not returning on the bus. The utmost effort should be made for teams to travel to and from contests together. This builds the "team" concept.

7. Post-Game Sign-Out sheets will be provided by the coach, sponsor or teacher for students to go with their parents after the event. Parents can only sign out their child with the coach. It is the coach's decision whether to allow their players to ride home with parents. At visiting events, students will remain in one group at all times. It will be the parents' responsibility to provide transportation from school to home.

Injury or Illness

All injuries should be reported to a coach and/or trainer on a daily basis. If you are injured, you will be required to attend daily treatment(s) at times designated by the Athletic Trainer. Remember, there is distinct difference between injury and pain, and this will be determined by the athlete, athletic trainer, and physicians when needed. Due to insurance purposes, we ask that you consult with the Athletic Trainer before going to the doctor. If you must leave school because of illness, come by the coach's office and check with one of the coaches to ensure an excused absence. If you are ill or injured, we do not expect you to work out. However, if you are at practice, we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group from station to station unless given special permission by the head coach.

Emergency Procedures for Athletes Who Have Received Severe Head Injuries

Student athletes who have received a severe blow to the head will be handled in the following manner:

- The student will be kept still and not moved.
- EMS will be called for evaluation of the injury and transportation to the local emergency room.
- Parent or guardian will be notified of the injury at the same time EMS is called to the scene of the injury.

Suspension from School

If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason, they will be ineligible to participate in games during the entire period of suspension. A second suspension in the same school year may result in the total expulsion from the athletic program for a time period ranging from the remainder of the school year to one calendar year. Any off-season workouts missed due to suspension must be made up prior to competing in any contest. This includes on and off campus suspension (AEP). ISS athletes are still expected to show up for after school workouts, and punishment.

Classroom Progress and Conduct

Athletes who are habitual problems in the classroom and receive repeated poor conduct and grades may be suspended from a team on a temporary basis or permanently if the problem continues, and will perform any punishment assigned by their coaches. Athletes will be expected to treat all teachers, administrators, and coaches with the utmost respect. Athletes must meet the minimum grade standards established by T.E.A. and U.I.L.

Discipline of Athletes

A student is not required to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. Therefore, athletics is a privilege; and consequently, when these expectations and standards are violated, this privilege can be revoked. Cleveland athletes will act with respect, pride, and dignity at all times, in and out of school. Or, expect removal!

The general philosophy of the Cleveland ISD Athletic Department is that we will make every attempt to help an individual who makes a “mistake”. However, if a “mistake” is repeated (habitual), the welfare of the program and team must take priority. All mistakes will result in disciplinary action and hopefully not repeated.

Coaches have the right to discipline athletes on their individual teams but should exercise sound judgment in evaluating specific penalties, keeping in mind the welfare of the student.

A coach will not dismiss an athlete from a team until it has been discussed in detail with the athletic director and parents. A twenty-four (24) hour evaluation period will exist before the final decision will be made. Also, the student will not be able to participate in any athletic contest and may be excluded from all other athletic activities (practice, trips, pep rally, etc.) during this 24 hour period.

Off Campus and Out of School Offenses

If a student athlete is arrested and charged with a felony crime or the use of or distribution of drugs, they will automatically be suspended from athletic activities until guilt or innocence is determined. If the student is found guilty, they will be suspended from all athletic activities for one calendar year from the date of the first suspension. At the end of one calendar year from date of the violation, the case may be reviewed by all parties concerned to determine reinstatement procedures.

It is impossible to outline each and every disciplinary problem and the possible outcome that can arise from such distractions to the overall athletic program. However, the following Disciplinary Procedures for Extracurricular Activities covers additional scenarios with resulting consequences. Furthermore, infractions that are not spelled out specifically in the Cleveland ISD Student Athletic Handbook will be reviewed and treated with similar consequences.

Harassment, Hazing, Intimidation

Any type of harassment, hazing, or intimidation directed toward fellow team members or students is forbidden and may result in suspension, dismissal from the team and/or dismissal from the entire athletic program.

Social Media Guidelines

As indicated in the CISD Student Athlete Handbook, we have high expectations for our student athletes and others participating in extracurricular activities. Because each of you represent the school district, it is imperative that both your academic and athletic performance be impeccable and meet the highest of standards. This is true of conduct occurring at both home and away performances, as well as community events and other public venues, including social media.

If your public conduct or use of social media diminishes the reputation of Cleveland ISD, you will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, removal from participation in extracurricular activities. Should you elect to use social media, you are solely responsible for the content on your social media page. This includes all content added by you, your friends, or members of the public who can access your page. You are also responsible for all web links associated with your social media page, including likes, shares, and tags.

Because participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and something you take part in on a voluntary basis, once you elect to participate, it is CISD expectation that you will be supportive of the program and behave in a manner that best represents CISD both in public and online. CISD is dedicated to your success and growing each of you into accountable, responsible, committed young adults who excel in your current role as student leaders.

UIL Eligibility Guidelines: Cleveland ISD will follow all guidelines of the University Interscholastic League (UIL), including but not limited to, Constitution, Contest and Rules (CCR), each manual for the individual sports, and the parent information manual. Students who are not eligible can practice with the team as long as they have permission from the Head Coach. The student/athlete can practice but they are not permitted to play in a game or travel with the team.

MULTI-SPORT STUDENT ATHLETES

The athletic department will always encourage athletes to compete in multiple sports. **THIS MAKES THE OVERALL PROGRAM STRONGER.** Coaches will not discourage any athlete from competing in multiple sports. All sports are classified in one of three seasons: fall (Football, Volleyball, and Cross-Country), winter (Basketball), or spring (Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Track, Tennis, and Golf). Athletes are permitted to participate in more than one sport at one time. An athlete may not start a winter season sport while still participating in a fall sport. An athlete may not start a spring sport while still participating in a winter sport. Coaches will work together in scheduling contests to ensure minimal conflict. Selection of the team will be at the discretion of the coach. The head coach in each sport has the absolute total discretion as to who plays, how long they play and under what circumstances they play or do not play. It is highly recommended that parents be flexible when letting their children play multiple sports, yet be realistic about spreading their time too thin. Academic performance should be a students' first priority.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Civil and/or criminal prosecution may occur

Profane language by a student during a contest.

- 1st offense: Extra conditioning/drill work
- 2nd offense: Extra conditioning and sit out the next contest
- 3rd offense: Removal from the team for the remainder of the season and a written contract to follow in order to participate in other sports in the same school year.

Profane language by a student directed towards an administrator, sponsor or coach or referee.

- 1st offense: Removal from the program for the remainder of the school year. If the student is an underclassman, a contract may be written if the person that the verbal assault was addressed to agrees to such contract.

Participant walking off or out of contest area for non-emergency reasons without consulting a sponsor.

- 1st offense: One game suspension, meeting with parent(s), written contract to follow and abide by.
- 2nd offense: Removal from the program for the remainder of the school year.

Unsportsmanlike actions or antics during a contest by a participant (i.e., taunting, fighting, and/or verbal actions. This does not include roughing, flagrant, etc.)

- 1st offense: Immediate removal from the contest with a possible one game suspension, meeting with parent, and a written contract to follow and abide by for the remainder of the year. Extra conditioning drills will be administered.

Unexcused absence from school on the day of a contest.

- 1st offense: The student will not be allowed to participate or attend the activity.

School extracurricular opposed to non-school extracurricular.

It should be understood that school extracurricular activities take precedent over non-school extracurricular activities. For example, a child should not miss a school practice or contest to attend a non-school practice or contest. Ex. Club sports, AAU, individual coaching/instruction shall not take the place of school practice time or games. It is not acceptable for an athlete to miss, arrive late, or leave early from a practice or contest for a club sport or select team. If an absence from practice does occur, then it is an unexcused absence and the unexcused absence procedure will be followed. If an athlete misses a contest for a club sport or select team, then the unexcused absence from a contest procedure will be followed.

All violations will be documented and parents will be notified. Also, this form must be completed by both parties and returned before the student is allowed to participate in an athletic contest.

**Cheerleading Guidelines and Procedures for
Cleveland High School Cheerleading Program
2020-2021**

**REQUIRMENTS FOR ALL CHS CHEERLEADERS AND MASCOTS
PARTICIPATION IN PRE-TRYOUT CLINIC AND MOCK TRIALS**

- It is mandatory that all candidates attend each day of the pre-tryout clinic offered by their campus to be as well prepared as possible for tryouts.
- Candidates participating in other UIL sports are excused from a pre-tryout clinic day with a signed note from that coach. Should a candidate not be present at a clinic session, he/she is responsible for learning any missed material on his/her own time from other participants; clinic leaders are not permitted to provide make-up instruction.
- Candidates **must attend** the day designated for mock tryout practice unless they have a school approved absence such as a personal illness, death in the family or UIL sanctioned event.
- Candidates must contact coaches for instructions regarding tryouts in the rare event that mock tryouts must be missed.
- Spectators (including parents, coaches, friends and non-involved school personnel) are not permitted to watch or video the clinic practice or tryouts.

PARENT MEETING

- Each candidate and his/her parent or guardian must attend an orientation to cheerleading meeting when offered either prior to tryouts or as a member of the new cheerleading team.
- Any parent/guardian who is unable to attend this meeting must contact the cheerleading sponsor prior to the date of this orientation meeting.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- Parents/students are responsible for costs associated with cheerleading.
- Maximum REQUIRED expenditures may not exceed \$1200 per year.
- Payment is due on the date specified by the cheer coaches.
- Inquiries regarding financial responsibilities should be directed to the campus cheer.
- **FAILURE BY THE PARENTS/STUDENT TO MEET FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES WILL RESULT IN STUDENT BEING REMOVED FROM THE TEAM.**
- The uniform design is at the discretion of campus cheer coaches/administration. If the uniform/uniform components are to be worn at school during the class day, it/they must be in compliance with Cleveland ISD student dress code.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP WITHIN CHS CHEERLEADING TEAM

Membership is from the announcement of new squad members after tryouts until the last day following the school year. Membership may be terminated at any time for unacceptable standards of conduct. For the purpose of appropriate supervision and financial considerations:

CHS Cheerleading & Mascots

1. The Varsity Squad will consist of up to twenty-two (22) squad members who are declared by the school records as an enrolled 9th through 12th grade student at Cleveland High School for the 2019-2020 school year. The Junior Varsity Squad will consist of up to sixteen (16) squad members who are declared by the school records as an enrolled 9th-11th grade student at Cleveland High School for the 2019-2020 school year. Depending on the number of candidates, a Freshman Squad will consist of twelve (12) squad members who are declared by the school records as an enrolled freshman at Cleveland High School for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. Males trying out for CHS cheerleader will not take the place of a female candidate. Squad placement will be determined by where the male candidates' score falls in the range of scores for female candidates. (i.e., if the score falls in the top 22 female candidates, the male candidate will make the squad.)
3. The CHS mascot who is declared by school records as an enrolled student at Cleveland High School for the 2019-2020 school year.
4. The school mascot is a student who promotes school spirit on campus and at school athletic contests by assuming the identity of the school mascot. The mascot is required to attend all games, events and community service projects that the squad members do. The mascot will adhere to all rules and regulations of the squad members.
5. In the event of a tie during the tryouts, an additional member may be added to the appropriate squad. There will not be call backs. After the candidate's tryout, they are required to leave the school until results are posted.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHEERLEADING TEAM MEMBERS

TIME COMMITMENT

- Cheerleading is a time consuming activity and it is the responsibility of the cheerleader to be present at each activity and perform to the best of his/her ability.
- Prior to scheduling outside of school activities such as dance, gymnastics, softball, etc., a cheerleader must carefully evaluate the time demands of schoolwork and cheerleading.
- Students are able to participate in campus Fine Arts and/or athletic programs and be a cheerleader. However, students and parents must carefully evaluate the time commitments of all school activities and school work.
- Competition team members must commit to additional time and may not be able to participate in athletic events during competition season.

CHEERLEADER ACTIVITIES

Cheerleaders are expected to attend a variety of events as specified by the campus. In general, cheerleader activities may include:

- Scheduled weekly practices after school
- Attend one athletic event a week (football, basketball or volleyball game)
- Participate in campus pep rallies as scheduled by campus administration
- Participate in community events as specified by campus administration/cheer coaches (parades or community service events)
- Participate in all fundraising activities
- Attend weekly summer practices
- Attend summer camp

Per UIL guidelines, cheerleaders who participate in a concurrent athletic activity are allowed to cheer one night and play one night. **FAILURE TO COMPLETE ACTIVITIES AS DESIGNATED BY THE COACH/ADMINISTRATION MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE TEAM.**

PRACTICE

- After school practice is scheduled by the cheer coach at each campus.
- There will be no scheduled practices during STAAR testing days.
- Summer practice is held at the discretion of the coach.

CAMP

- Cheerleaders and mascots will attend summer camp as a team.
- Camp dates are published as soon as confirmed to facilitate family summer plans.
- Extenuating circumstances, which would prohibit a cheerleader from attending camp, must be approved by the campus administration/cheer coach.
- **PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FULL COST OF SUMMER CAMP EXPENSES.**

ATTENDANCE

A. Attendance at Scheduled Events is a requirement of being a cheerleader.

- If a cheerleader is unable to attend an assigned activity, the sponsor must be notified in advance of the absence with written verification provided.
- Cheerleaders with unexcused absences from events (including practices), are subject to discipline and restrictions established by the campus or UIL guidelines.

B. Attendance at School

- In order to participate in any cheerleading event, a student must be present at school for classes at least half a school day on the day of the event, per UIL guidelines.

CHS Awards Policy for Members of the Cheerleading Team

- Any member of the Varsity team that completes football season, competition season, and basketball season;
- Recommendation by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team.

No one athlete is bigger than this program. This program is a privilege. When this Student Athletic Handbook is broken, there will be disciplinary action. If breaking of this Student Athletic Handbook becomes habitual and begins to take away from the integrity of this program, then removal from the program will be the final result.

ALL ATHLETES ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN ATHLETICS AND GO THROUGH THE OFF-SEASON STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAM THE SEMESTER PRIOR TO THE SPORT THEY INTEND TO PLAY.

Cleveland High School Awards Policy

All awards will be made on the recommendation of the Head Coach of each individual sport and the Athletic Director. The following are suggested guidelines.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFYING FOR A LETTER JACKET

FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, SOCCER, SOFTBALL, and VOLLEYBALL: Participate in 1/2 of the varsity games scheduled. Be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

TRACK

Anyone who places in the district meet or scores an amount of points as determined by the Athletic Director in non-district meets. Be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

CROSS COUNTRY

Score less than 200 points in 5 meets. Be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

POWERLIFTING

Participate in every scheduled powerlifting meet or qualify for regionals. Be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

TENNIS/GOLF

Participate in the varsity district tournament or have won at least 1 varsity tournament during the year. Be recommended by the coach as having made a valuable contribution to the team, or be a senior in eligibility.

All athletes must complete the season (no quitting, ISS, removal, etc.) in order to letter with the exception of an injury. **They cannot miss part of the season due to academic ineligibility and still qualify for a letter jacket or awards.**

***All lettering is at the discretion of the Head Coach with the Athletic Director's approval. If a student does not meet all criteria, they may still letter because of their effort and positive contribution to the TEAM.**

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS AND/OR PARENTS

- 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 ALL 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 (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 censoring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.
- DO NOT post distasteful or negative comments or pictures on any social media network (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, and Tic Tok, etc.) about our school, our coaches, or any athletes. Disciplinary actions may be taken by the coaches and/or school.

CLEVELAND ATHLETICS

I have read and understand the 2020-2021 Cleveland ISD Student Athletic Policies and agree that I will abide by them. Please return this sheet with student's name (printed), student's signature, parent/guardian signature and date.



Student's Name: _____
(Printed)

(SIGNATURE OF STUDENT)

(DATE)

(SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN)

(DATE)