

Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District



Athletics & Extracurricular Code of Conduct

August 2020

Introduction

At John F. Kennedy High School, we believe there are many physical, social, and emotional benefits for students who participate in sports and extracurricular activities. Our student-athletes are leaders within the school, on-field representatives of their families, and members of a larger community of student-athletes across the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). Yet, participation in these extracurricular activities is certainly a privilege, and we do hold our students to a high level of accountability.

This handbook cites information including, but not limited to: rules for eligibility; minimum academic, behavioral and attendance standards; and specific consequences for violations. Student-athletes are expected to read through this entire handbook and after signing the contract, hold true to its guidelines and standards. Additionally, parents/guardians should take time to go over the entire handbook with their children.

In Cheektowaga-Sloan, we are part of the Erie County Interscholastic Conference (ECIC). ECIC is part of Section VI, the western most Section of New York State. As both a League and a Section, we are a part of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), and are subject to all of its rules and regulations, as per the Executive Director and the Commissioner of Education. The complete NYSPHSAA handbook can be found at: <http://www.nysphsaa.org/Resources/Handbook>.

The following pages of this handbook have been reviewed and approved by the Superintendent and Board of Education. It is of utmost importance that each and every student-athlete uphold their obligation once the contract at the end of this document has been signed. You will then become a member of an elite group held to a higher standard than most. Congratulations on your decision and commitment to becoming a Cheektowaga-Sloan Student-Athlete!

Go Bears!

Daniel Reiford
Athletic Director
Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District
(716) 897-7880
DReiford@cheektowagasloan.org

Sports Teams

The following is a list of the current sports offered at JFK Middle and High Schools:

FALL:

Football – Varsity, JV, Modified (7/8)

Cheer – Varsity

Cross Country (Boys and Girls) – Varsity, Modified (7/8)

*Soccer (Girls) – Varsity, Modified (7/8/9)

Volleyball (Girls) – Varsity, JV, Modified (7/8)

WINTER:

Boys Basketball – Varsity, JV, Modified (7/8)

Girls Basketball – Varsity, JV, Modified (7/8)

Cheer – Varsity

Boys Bowling – Varsity

Girls Bowling – Varsity

Swimming (Boys and Girls) – Modified (7/8)

SPRING:

*Baseball – Varsity, Modified (7/8/9)

*Softball – Varsity, Modified (7/8/9)

Track and Field (Boys and Girls) – Varsity, Modified (7/8)

Tennis (Boys) – Varsity

*In (ECIC) some schools have been approved to play certain modified sports with 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. However, they are still considered to be Modified, and follow the Modified Standards set out by ECIC.

Student Eligibility

The following document is intended to communicate general rules and code of conduct expectations in effect for students. For the remainder of this document “student” will refer to any student who participates on an athletic team or in an extracurricular club/activity. “AECC” will refer to the Athletic and Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Questions regarding any part of this document should be directed to the Athletic Director or Building Administration.

Understandings of the AECC

- 1) Applies to all athletic teams and extracurricular activities/clubs, but not co-curricular events. (i.e. concerts)
- 2) Applies to events that are held on/off campus.
- 3) Applies to activities/clubs that may fall under one of two categories:
 - a) Not board approved/student-led
 - b) Board approved
 - i) those with competitions/performances (i.e. Drama Club)
 - ii) those without competitions (i.e. Student Council)

Rules & Expectations

All school rules apply at all times. All students are accountable for following school district regulations throughout their school year as well as during the summer months.

It is the Athletic Director’s/Building Administrator’s responsibility to declare a student ineligible due to:

- 1.) lack of acceptable performance in school
- 2.) conduct unbecoming a student

Academic Eligibility for Students

Participating members must be bona fide students in the CSUFSD. He or she must also be enrolled in (and passing) a minimum of four (4) courses plus physical education in order to participate in interscholastic athletics and activities. The Athletic Director and Building Administration will determine final eligibility based upon the student’s posted quarterly grades. Students who do not meet these minimum requirements may be required to get extra help before or after school a minimum of three days per week. To become eligible, a student must improve their grades prior to the next 5-week review period in accordance with the minimum standard set forth above (passing four courses plus physical education). They may attend practice or club meetings on a limited basis,

but cannot participate in any game, contest or performance during this ineligible period until they are declared academically eligible by the building administrator or appropriate designee.

Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to attend all practices, rehearsals, competitions, meetings, games, and team affairs unless legally excused by the advisor, coach and/or school official.

Excused absences include the following:

- Advisor/Coach permission
- Administration permission
- Legal absence from school
- Family emergency

Penalties for an illegal or unapproved absence from practice, rehearsal, competition, game, or team affair may include, but not be limited to:

- Disciplinary action by the advisor/coach
- Short/Long term suspension from competition
- Dismissal from the team/activity.

It is the responsibility of the players to notify the coach/advisor **in advance** if he or she cannot attend a practice, game, meeting, competition, etc. Written documentation of the absence may be requested by school officials.

Students who are suspended from school on the day of a practice, rehearsal, competition, game, or team affair are not eligible for participation. Students suspended on a Friday shall not be eligible for weekend contests.

In order for students to participate in practice or contests, students must attend at least 5 class periods on the day of the activity. The Athletic Director/ Building principal may review unusual circumstances if necessary.

All student-athletes must attend and participate in P.E. on the day of a practice or game if they are scheduled for P.E. that day. Students are exempt from this requirement if they have a written legal excuse from school for a portion of the day in which their P.E. class falls, as long as they attend at least 5 other class periods on that day.

Team/club members are required to travel to and from an away contest on the school bus or on transportation provided by the school district. *They cannot drive themselves or others to the competition.* Requests by parents/guardians for exemptions to this rule

must be made to the advisor/coach in writing. These exemptions may be granted at the discretion of the advisor/coach, with approval of the Athletic Director/Building Principal.

Behavioral Eligibility for Students

These expectations apply whether on or off school property. Any student observed engaging in unbecoming conduct at any time on or off school grounds must be referred to the Athletic Director/Building Administration. All reported incidents, in or out of season, will be investigated by the Athletic Director and/or Building Administration to determine if there is a cause for school discipline. Evidence from a CSUFSD employee, parent, student or law enforcement unit shall be considered in the investigation. Such violations may be reported by any student or adult. The Athletic Director/Building Administration will investigate the alleged violation and determine what disciplinary action, if any, should be imposed.

Stage	Action
1	Athletic Director/Building Administration is made aware of an incident
2	Athletic Director/Building Administration investigates incident, speaks with student, and determines the discipline, if appropriate.
3	Athletic Director/Building Administration contacts student's parent(s) with disciplinary decision. Parent(s) have the right to an informal conference, if requested.
4	Parent(s) concur with decision or appeal
5	If an appeal is submitted in writing within 3 business days of the decision to the Athletic Director/Building Administration, he/she will summon the Appeals Board. During this time the student may return to practice, competition, or participation in the athletic team or extracurricular activity pending the outcome of the Appeals Hearing.
6	Following the Appeals Hearing the Appeals Board makes a decision, and any consequence will go into effect immediately.

Students are accountable for violations of the AECC for a period of one year from the date of the violation. The discipline for that violation will be administered during the current activity/club/sport season. If the violation occurs outside the season a student

participates, discipline will be administered during the next activity/club/sport season.

Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy

Possessing, consuming, selling, attempting to sell, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages, electronic cigarettes, electronic cigarette/vaping paraphernalia, e-juice, electronic cigarette pods/cases, chewing or smokeless tobacco, tobacco, tobacco products or illegal and/or controlled substances, counterfeit and designer drugs, or paraphernalia for use of such drugs or being under the influence of any such substances on school property or at a school function. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs." This also includes inappropriately using, sharing, selling, attempting to sell, distributing or exchanging prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and possessing, consuming, selling, attempting to sell, distributing, or exchanging "look-alike drugs"; or, possessing or consuming (without authorization), selling, attempting to sell, distributing or exchanging other substances such as dietary supplements, weight loss pills, etc.

CHEEKTOWAGA-SLOAN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITY DRUG/ALCOHOL POLICY:

Participation in any school related activity in the Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD is considered a privilege. All students are held to a high standard of behavior that demonstrates respect for their school and community. The use of drugs and alcohol are detrimental to the objectives of any school related activity. The following procedures will be strictly enforced by the school district. Parent/guardians are advised to read the policy carefully as all students will sign and be held accountable to these terms.

- 1). The use, sharing, selling, buying or possession of tobacco products, alcohol, inhalants, other drugs or controlled substances, electronic cigarettes/vaping devices or drug/vaping paraphernalia by students is prohibited at all times. This policy does not prohibit the lawful and appropriate use of over-the-counter medications or those prescribed for the student for a medically necessary purpose.
- 2). Any violation of the preceding paragraph that occurs at school or during any school related activity, or any violation that occurs outside of school that is observed by a school official (including faculty, staff, coaches, and administrators), law enforcement official, or creditable witness will result in suspension from all school related activities. Any alleged violation will result in an immediate referral to the Review Team.

3). The Review Team will consist of any or all of the following members, as determined by the Superintendent: the Superintendent or his or her designee; the School Principal; the activity advisor or coach; and any other person providing information related to the incident. The Review Team will review the case and determine whether a violation has occurred.

4). Notification/Informal Hearing/Appeal Process: If the Review Team has made a preliminary decision that there was a violation, the School Principal will, as soon as possible, verbally notify the student of his or her violation of the Drug/Alcohol Policy.

School related activities include, but are not limited to: clubs, field trips, assemblies, prom, graduation, dances, pep rallies, sports contests, practices, use of weight room, concerts, drama productions, and class office. This Policy covers all school related activities regardless of whether they occur during or outside of school "classroom" hours.

A written notice must be delivered to the parent/guardian(s)' last known address by personal delivery, express mail delivery, or some other means that is reasonably calculated to permit receipt of the notice within 24 hours of the decision to propose suspension. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the school has been provided with a telephone number for the purpose of contacting the parent/guardian(s). Notice to one parent/guardian whom the School Principal reasonably believes to have or share legal custody of the student will be sufficient for all purposes set forth in this policy.

The imposed written notice will provide a description of the violation for which suspension is proposed and inform the parent/guardian(s) of the right to request an informal conference with the Review Team. At the informal conference, the parent/guardian(s) may ask questions of complaining witnesses under such procedures as will be established by the Review Team so as to promote fairness to all interested parties.

The suspension from school related activities will begin immediately upon the decision of the Review Team. Parents/guardians have 3 business days from the date of notification to request an informal conference with the Review Team.

5). Scope and Duration of Suspensions: If the Review Team finds the student in violation, the student will not be permitted to participate in any school related activities for one year from the date of the violation or suspended indefinitely, depending on the nature of the offense. For first and second offenses, the Review Team can offer, with support of the student support staff, the option to participate in a treatment and/or counseling program to reduce the length of the suspension.

A. First offense – suspension from all school related activities for **30 calendar days** from

date of violation.

B. Second offense – suspension from all school related activities for **60 calendar days** from date of violation.

However, the Review Team may decline to reduce a student's one-year suspension unless any and all criminal or other legal charges against the student related to the violation have been resolved without conviction or other adverse disposition against the student.

Violations and/or suspensions imposed upon a student while he or she is in middle school will not necessarily prohibit the student from participating in school related activities in high school. For example, the Review Team may, at its discretion, impose a 30-day suspension in response to a student's first offense as a high school student even though the student had a prior offense while he or she was in middle school.

6). If applicable, the Review Team will make recommendations to the parent/guardian(s) and student as to what needs to be done to enable the student to meet the conditions necessary for the student to be allowed to participate in school related activities following the suspension. Finding a treatment program that satisfies the Review Team is the responsibility of the student and his or her parent/guardian(s). Treatment programs will not be pursued or funded by the school district.

7). A student may try out for a sport or extracurricular activity while suspended, but may not participate in practices, games, or other aspects of the extracurricular activity/sport until the suspension ends.

8). Anytime there is a suspicion of drug or alcohol use or possession by a student at any school sponsored activity or function, the police may be called and permitted to assist in the evaluation of the charges against the student.

9). Students are encouraged to seek assistance from their school if they believe they have a drug or alcohol problem. Students who self-report prior to committing a violation of this policy will generally not be subject to the suspensions set forth above. Instead, the Review Team may be called on to evaluate the student's situation and recommend treatment and/or counseling as a condition of the student's right to participate in school related activities.

Penalty Carry-Over

Beginning July 1st of the school year prior to students entering grade 9, offenses will carry over from year to year. If disciplinary requirements are not completed during the season in which they occurred, they will be carried over to the next season for that

student. For example, if all the disciplinary action imposed on a spring sport athlete is not completed, the remaining percent to be completed will be carried over to the next sport season in which that athlete participates. Students in a “carry-over” situation are able to try out and practice but will not compete until the full discipline is completed. The carry over clause also applies to extra-curricular programs.

In addition, for Middle School students, offenses carry over from July 1 before entering Grade 6 to June 30 of Grade 8. They do not carry over to the High School.

NOTE: Middle School students who are selectively classified to compete at the High School level will be treated as High School students. The CSUFSD strongly recommends that any student who has violated our substance abuse regulations participate in a professional counseling program. The District will assist in locating outside counseling options if needed. Participation may impact the disciplinary sanction. The academic and behavioral records of transfer students will be reviewed and may impact eligibility.

Suspension begins from the date a determination of guilt is made and is inclusive of all days beginning with the first day of school in the fall through the official end of the school year. Students whose suspension carries over into a subsequent season may try-out for an activity/club/sport in this new season, but are ineligible to participate in any contest until their suspension period is complete. Summer weeks may not count in the suspension should there be a carry-over in the event the school year ends before the suspension is completed.

Sportsmanship

Students are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner toward each other, their opponents, officials and fans before, during and after athletic or extracurricular contests.

A student may be suspended from participation by the advisor, athletic director, coach, and/or the principal for inappropriate behavior including but not limited to:

- Use of profanity or exhibition of unsportsmanlike conduct
- Verbal or physical abuse, bullying, harassment
- Willfully damaging facilities or property at John F. Kennedy or at another school (vandalism)
- Theft of items from an individual or school
- Acts of insubordination or endangering the safety of others

A suspension shall be determined by the advisor, coach or administrator based upon the severity of the actions and/or repeated offenses. All disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the school principal. If a student, parent or guardian should wish to appeal this decision all appeals will be handled in the manner discussed above (the

Review Team).

If a student is dismissed from or quits a club/activity, all awards earned shall be forfeited (i.e. Varsity Letter, Bar, Championship T-shirt, certificates, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to inform the coach/advisor if he or she desires to leave or quit a team or club/activity. The coach/advisor can additionally make the determination that a student has left the team based on nonparticipation.

Athletic Note: An automatic one game suspension will result for player(s) or coaches for the next scheduled contest following ejection from competition by game officials for unsportsmanlike conduct. An extended suspension may result from repeated acts of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Violence Prevention

The following actions are against the law and will not be tolerated by the CSUFSD:

- Hazing
- Sexual Harassment
- Aggressive Behavior
- Verbal or Physical Abuse, Harassment/ Bullying

Any student found guilty will be sanctioned accordingly by the School Superintendent, Building Administration, Athletic Director, Advisor, Coach or legal authorities.

Spectator Sportsmanship

The CSUFSD team bench or team sideline area is off limits to all spectators. Only authorized school personnel are permitted. (Example: coaches, advisors, statisticians, chain crew, scorekeepers, clock operators, media, volunteer coaches, and managers.)

The school reserves the right to remove any spectator from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior. The school also reserves the right to refuse attendance to those whose conduct is not appropriate to the spirit of good sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is the responsibility of all people involved in the school district.

NYSPHSAA SECTION VI

SPORTSMANSHIP PHILOSOPHY

- 1) We believe that interscholastic athletics is an important part of education and support the ideals and values embodied in good sportsmanship.
- 2) We believe that sportsman-like behavior is essential if interscholastic competition is to contribute usefully and constructively to the broad goals of education and to the quality of life of those involved.
- 3) We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to encourage and support the development and maintenance of a sportsman-like atmosphere for athletic competition.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1) A genuine interest in and enjoyment of interscholastic competition requires conduct that reflects the understanding that contests, as a part of the overall school program are intended to be enjoyed. Behavior that reflects a winning at all cost attitude violates this standard.
- 2) Interscholastic competition provides valuable lessons and learning experiences that are not possible in the regular classroom setting. All involved must support the need to develop the ability to compete with enthusiasm and to accept winning with grace and losing with dignity.
- 3) Coaches, players, and fans should know that participation is an honor and privilege which requires them to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and pride to their school and community.
- 4) Respect for the cultural and ethnic diversity of one's opponents, their school, and community is a fundamental tenet of wholesome athletic competition. This standard suggests that planned activity is needed to demonstrate a warm and friendly welcome, mutual respect, and a genuine readiness to participate in a sportsman-like manner.
- 5) Players should demonstrate both knowledge of the rules and respect for game officials and their decisions. Coaches and school officials have the responsibility to teach and encourage these attributes.

Athletic and Extracurricular Contract

The remaining pages of this document are The Cheektowaga-Sloan Contract and Eligibility Form. By signing the last page, you have indicated, as parents/guardians as well as students, that you have read and agree to all of the rules and regulations described in this Handbook as well as the Contract.

Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District Athletic and Extracurricular Contract and Eligibility Form

The Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District recognizes that interscholastic athletics and extracurricular opportunities are a significant part of the educational process and we encourage students to participate as much as possible in order to provide a well-rounded educational experience.

It should be recognized that participating in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities is a privilege and with that comes the need for student responsibility and leadership. Students who participate have an obligation to their teammates, coaches, school, community, parents, and most importantly themselves. Students who are involved are expected to conform to the standards which meet or exceed the requirements of the District's general Code of Conduct which can be found on our District website.

An extremely important part of this document is under **Section VI**, which is titled, "*Prohibited Student Conduct.*" Under this section, it is important to note the Drug/Alcohol Policy, which prohibits the use and/or possession of any type of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products (including electronic cigarettes). Penalties are also described in this section.

The student's personal conduct at all times throughout the school day should be exemplary and will be considered part of the responsibility for participating and representing the District during events.

The following regulations must be maintained by all members of an interscholastic team in order to be eligible for participation:

- A student-athlete **must be enrolled in the proper number of courses** determined by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). This means four classes including Physical Education.
- The Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District Athletic Program is governed by all of the rules and regulations of NYSPHSAA.
- Every student-athlete must have a valid **updated physical** on file in the health office of their respective building before participation of any sort.
- Maintain **satisfactory classwork** as outlined by the Academic Eligibility Policy. This means passing four courses plus physical education.
- Maintain **daily school attendance**. Any student who is absent for the day, or not attending school for at least 5 periods, will be INELIGIBLE to participate in practice, or a contest that day. Furthermore, if it is a Friday and the contest is on a Saturday or Sunday, the student will be INELIGIBLE to participate on that Saturday or Sunday. If certain extenuating circumstances exist, a student may receive approval from the Building Principal and/or Director of Athletics to participate before the absence occurs. Written documentation of the absence may be requested prior to or following the absence. This rule also applies to a student that has In-School or Out-of-School Suspension.
- Students **must be on time** to school. If a student is tardy more than three times during the season, the Athletic Director will ask the coach to take action. If improvement in tardiness is not seen after this happens, the Athletic Director may take further action (suspensions or removal from the team in severe cases). This rule also applies to a student that has In-School or Out-of-School Suspension.
- Demonstrate **good sportsmanship and fair play** toward everyone at all times – this includes during practices as well as contests.
- **Follow all team rules** as set up by the coach in charge and approved by the Athletic Director. Any determination of a violation will be made by the coach, and reported to the Athletic Director. The coach will make the determination of any denial of privilege, and inform the student in person. The Building Principal will also be notified of such denial of privilege.
- All team members **must ride the bus to and from** athletic contests. A coach, at his/her own discretion, may accept a written note for an athlete to ride with a parent/guardian prior to the trip. A student may ONLY ride with a parent or legal guardian.

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONTRACT

My signature below acknowledges my receipt of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District Athletic and Extracurricular Contract and Eligibility Form. I have read and understand the code in its entirety. I am aware that compliance with this contract and the Student Code of Conduct is necessary if I wish to participate on a JFK sports team or in an extracurricular activity. I promise to comply with all of the contract's provisions and I am aware of the penalties if I do not.

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND COMMITMENT

This material has been presented to you because your child has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and/or an extracurricular activity and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to participate. We request that you carefully read all of the materials and discuss them with your child before signing below.

Additionally, as a parent/guardian you must maintain your composure and a positive attitude no matter how many games the team wins or loses, or how many minutes each child plays. Playing time is at the discretion of each coach/advisor. If you have a legitimate concern, we request that you discuss the matter with the coach/advisor during a formal meeting. Under no circumstances should a coach/advisor be confronted before or after a game or practice. The coach/advisor should be contacted via phone or e-mail to set up an appointment. If the coach/advisor cannot be reached, you may contact the Athletic Director at 897-7880 to arrange a meeting.

John F. Kennedy Bears



JFK Athletics & Extracurricular Activities

Please sign and return this page to your coach/advisor!

I have read, clearly understand, and agree to abide by all of the regulations of the Athletic & Extracurricular Handbook and the Contract

Print Student's Name

Print Parent/Guardian's Name

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date Signed

Date Signed

Sport(s):

Level

Sport

Extracurricular Activity:
