

CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



**HANDBOOK FOR GRADES 7-12
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
& INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**



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DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Clinton Central School District proudly educates and empowers all students to realize their potential in becoming thoughtful, empathetic, and contributing members of a global society.

INTRODUCTION & PHILOSOPHY

Welcome to Clinton Central Schools Extracurricular Activities and Interscholastic Athletics Program.

Extracurricular activities and Interscholastic Athletics are vital parts of the District's educational program. The District's primary objective is to offer meaningful and rewarding learning experiences that encourage both individual and group development



in a safe, supportive environment outside of the regular school day. Involvement in afterschool activities is a privilege, one that fosters lifelong skills and personal growth not always found in the traditional classroom setting.

By choosing to take part in extracurricular programs, students accept a set of responsibilities and expectations. This handbook is designed to help students and their parents or guardians understand those expectations by clearly outlining the rules, policies, procedures, and guidelines that govern participation.

The rules outlined here are in effect throughout the calendar year and apply to all students in grades 7–12. Participation in these activities is a privilege, not a right. Students must follow the expectations set forth in this handbook in order to participate.

In addition to this Handbook and all associated District policies and regulations, the Interscholastic Athletic Program as well as all coaches, students, and parents involved, must comply with the policies, bylaws, and regulations of the Center State Conference, Section III Athletics, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA).

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS - SCHOOL AND ACTIVITY SPECIFIC

The following will apply to athletic practices, competitions, and all extracurricular activities:

- In order to participate in a practice or an activity/contest on any given day, a student is expected to be in school all day. Students may participate in after school activities during the same day as a physician's appointment or an approved college visit provided documentation from the appropriate party (college or physician) is presented.
- Late arrivals or early dismissals without a valid, documented excuse (e.g., medical note) will result in ineligibility for that day's extracurricular or athletic activity. The school day begins promptly at 7:48 AM.
- Students who arrive late to school following a morning practice or club meeting will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled activity, including games, performances, or meetings.
- Students must be in class on time after lunch. On time after lunch in the High School is 11:22 AM, when 6th period class begins.
- Students may not participate in after school athletics or extracurriculars on the same day as an absence due to illness or an unexcused absence.
- Repeated violations will result in progressive consequences.
- Students who are suspended from school on a day of an athletic contest, practice session, club event, party, meeting, school dance, or any other school affair scheduled after the regular school day are not eligible for participation or attendance at such events.
- Extenuating circumstances can, and do, arise. Such incidents may be evaluated by the Athletic Director and Principal.



Team / Activity / Club specific attendance requirements.

- Student participants are expected to be at every scheduled practice and activity/contest unless the student has a medical or legal excuse from the office, a teacher, or parent or guardian.
- Students who plan to be absent must personally notify the advisor/coach prior to the practice or activity/contest that they expect to miss.
- Students who are absent from practice or practices may result in a loss of conditioning, cohesiveness, or gaps in concept awareness of team/group strategies - which is likely to impact “playing time”.
- Students are expected to be in attendance the day after an activity/contest.

Point of clarification from the NYSPHSAA handbook: “A practice session conducted on the same day as a game cannot be counted to meet the minimum practice requirement to be eligible for that day’s contest. All required practice sessions shall be organized and planned for a reasonable length of time and shall include vigorous activity specific to the sport for the purpose of improving the physical condition of the players. Warm-ups prior to a game/ contest are not considered “practice.” Each of the required number of practices for an individual must include vigorous activity; however, practice sessions required for the team beyond those needed by the individual may be used solely for meetings, film review and similar activities.”

Withdrawing from a Team / Group / Activity

Extracurricular and Athletics:

- No student shall quit a team/group without first talking with the coach/advisor to explain the reason for leaving the team/group. Students who quit or are dismissed from a team/group will forfeit all school-supported awards associated with the group, and may risk consequences associated with participation in other current or future activities. The student must meet with the coach/advisor within three (3) school days from the last day of participation. Students in need of support should meet with the Athletic Director or Principal.

Athletics:

- A student may withdraw from a team at any time prior to the first competition (regular season game) without consequence. The student must personally meet with the coach in order to inform the coach of their decision.
- A student who withdraws from a team after the first competition without permission/consent of the coach will be ineligible to participate in an upcoming interscholastic sport season (typically the next sports season). The Sports seasons will be defined as Fall, Winter, and Spring.
- Exceptions for withdrawal after the first interscholastic competition will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director after consulting with the coach and meeting with student athlete and parent.



TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES

Transportation details for Extracurricular Activities separate from Athletics will follow similar principles, and will be communicated in advance by the Advisor for the activity. Where the District provides Transportation for Extracurricular Activities, Field Trips, and Interscholastic Athletics, students are required to ride to and from events in the vehicle(s) provided by the Clinton School District.

a. Exceptions may be granted as follows:

i. Transportation to the contest involving parents/guardians

1. The parent/guardian may request permission from the Athletic Director (for Athletic events) to transport the student to the contest, but the parent/guardian of the student athlete must be the driver, and it must be an exceptional circumstance.
2. Requests must be made 24 hours prior to the day of the contest.

ii. Transportation home from the contest involving parents/guardians

1. The parent/guardian may request permission from the Coach to transport the student home from the contest, but the parent/guardian of the student athlete must be the driver.
2. For record keeping purposes, the parent/guardian must sign a sign-out sheet indicating that they are transporting their child. Coaches will maintain a sign out sheet for away events.

Note: individual team/group rules may require all students to ride home with the team/group.

iii. Transportation home from the contest not involving parents/guardians

1. Transportation to or from events that do not involve a parent/guardian as the driver may be granted by the Athletic Director (for Athletic events).
2. The parent/guardian may request permission from the Athletic Director (for Athletic events) to have another family member or friend transport the student home. This request must be made in writing, addressed to all parties (Athletic Director, Coach, and person responsible for transport) no less than 24 hours prior to the event.
3. For record keeping purposes, the person responsible for transport must sign a sign-out sheet indicating that they are transporting the child. Coaches will maintain a sign out sheet for away events.

Transportation to and from practices not held on school grounds will be determined and communicated by the Athletic Director, in consultation with the Transportation Department, Superintendent, and Coaching Staff.



FACILITY USE AND ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON SUNDAYS & HOLIDAYS

Sundays and Holidays

- The District does not schedule *regular* Extracurricular or Athletic activities on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day to allow families uninterrupted time for rest and celebration.
- Sunday or Holiday activities are *exceptions*, not the norm. Any event scheduled on a Sunday or Holiday must receive prior approval from the Athletic Director and Superintendent (for Athletics) or the Principal and Superintendent (for Extracurricular Activities).
- The District is committed to respecting religious observances and will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling events on major religious holidays whenever possible.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT POLICY

Clinton CSD prohibits discrimination, harassment, or intimidation based on race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or any protected category. This applies to all school-sponsored events and locations

Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Clinton Central School District is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all students - on the field, on the stage, in the classroom, and beyond. The district strictly prohibits harassment, hazing, bullying, and discrimination in all forms, as outlined in Board Policy 0115-R and the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA).

These expectations apply to all athletic teams, clubs, performing arts groups, and extracurricular organizations.

Harassment

Harassment is any behavior—verbal, physical, written, or online—that creates a hostile environment for a student. This includes threats, intimidation, or abuse that:

- Interferes with a student's academic performance or participation in activities
- Makes a student feel unsafe or targeted
- Causes emotional or physical harm
- Targets a student based on their identity

Protected characteristics include (but are not limited to):

Race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression.



Harassment may occur during practices, meetings, travel, performances, competitions, or digitally (e.g., group chats, social media).

Hazing

Hazing is strictly prohibited. It is any action intended to humiliate, embarrass, demean, or physically or emotionally harm a student as a condition of joining or continuing membership on a team or in a group. This includes but is not limited to:

- Forced or coerced activities (physical, sexual, illegal, or demeaning)
- Pressure to participate in rituals that cause embarrassment or fear
- Public shaming, name-calling, or unwanted attention
- Assigning degrading tasks to new or younger members
- Creating a culture of silence or fear around reporting inappropriate behavior

Consent is not a defense for hazing. Even if a student agrees to participate, it is still a violation.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

Bullying includes repeated acts of aggression or exclusion intended to cause harm or fear. It may be:

- Verbal – teasing, name-calling, rumors, slurs
- Physical – pushing, tripping, hitting, damaging personal items
- Social – exclusion from group chats, teams, or social activities
- Cyber – threats, harassment, or humiliation through text, social media, or other online platforms

Cyberbullying is treated with the same seriousness as in-person conduct, especially if it disrupts the school or team environment.

Consequences and Reporting

- Any student, staff member, or coach who observes or experiences harassment, bullying, or hazing must report it immediately** to the coach, advisor, school administrator, or the building's Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC).
- The district will investigate all reports thoroughly and confidentially.
- Retaliation against anyone who reports or participates in an investigation is prohibited** and will result in disciplinary action.
- Students found responsible for harassment, hazing, or bullying may face consequences ranging from suspension from activities to disciplinary measures as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

A Culture of Respect and Accountability

Participation in extracurricular and athletic programs is a privilege. Students are expected to:

- Treat teammates, opponents, coaches, advisors, and officials with respect.



- Speak and act in ways that reflect the values of integrity, inclusion, and leadership.
- Support a safe team culture where all students feel they belong.

If you see something that doesn't feel right, say something. Students have the right to learn, compete, and perform in environments free from fear, harassment, or abuse.

For more information or to report an incident, contact your building's Dignity Act Coordinator, your coach/advisor, or the Athletic Director.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS CODE OF HONOR & CONDUCT

Participation in Extracurricular Activities or Interscholastic Athletics requires a high degree of sacrifice, self-control, respect, and leadership. It requires a great deal of responsibility on behalf of students, coaches, and parents to ensure that rules are observed and met. Students are expected to "live by a code" - to take responsibility for one's actions, to lead by model, and to place the focus and emphasis on the team, rather than self.

All Students must:

- Adhere to all State, Section, League, District, and Team rules and procedures..
- Demonstrate respect for others, including Officials, Coaches, Teammates, Spectators, Opponents, Chaperones, Supervisors, and Persons in Authority.
- Take responsibility for one's own actions.
- Be a positive representation - of Self, Group, Family, School, League, Section, and Community.

Violations may result in suspension from activities. Repeated or serious offenses can lead to longer-term consequences.

SPECTATOR AND AUDIENCE CONDUCT

Throughout the school year, students, parents, families, and community members are invited to attend a variety of school-sponsored events, including performances, activities, and athletic competitions. In alignment with the District's philosophy, policies, and code of conduct, all attendees are expected to demonstrate respectful and appropriate behavior. At no time should performers or contest participants be singled out in any negative manner.

Spectators and audience members are responsible for helping create a positive, welcoming environment for everyone present. This includes treating all individuals - students, staff, coaches, officials, performers, and fellow spectators - with courtesy and



respect. Disruptive behavior, including the use of profanity, verbal or physical intimidation, or the use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substances, is strictly prohibited.

Any individual who fails to follow these expectations may face disciplinary action. Consequences may include a verbal warning, removal from the event, or a permanent ban from attending future school-sponsored activities. All individuals are expected to comply with staff directions and event policies. School administrators, staff, and coaches in attendance have the authority to monitor and address inappropriate conduct. If necessary, they may seek assistance from the police to ensure safety and compliance.

This applies to school sponsored activities and events on and off of school grounds.

Clinton is a member of the Center State Conference, Section III, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. NYSPHSAA Spectator Expectations are the following: Spectators are expected to “Be Loud, Be Proud, and Be Positive.” Any negative, inappropriate, derogatory comments or actions that draw the direct attention of a supervisor or school administrator by a spectator or group of spectators are required to be addressed by the host school, Sectional, or NYSPHSAA representative.

SPORT AND ACTIVITIES OFFERINGS

Current Interscholastic Athletic Offerings:

All offerings are subject to annual review. Factors that impart offerings include but are not limited to participation and overall balance of programming offered.

	UPDATED JUNE 2025	
<u>FALL</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
Football	Boys Indoor Track	Boys Baseball
Modified and Varsity	Varsity	Modified, JV, and Varsity
Girls Field Hockey	Girls Indoor Track	Girls Softball
Modified and Varsity	Varsity	Modified and Varsity
Girls Soccer	Girls Volleyball	Girls Lacrosse
Modified, JV, and Varsity	Modified, JV, and Varsity	Modified and Varsity
Boys Soccer	Boys Basketball	Boys Tennis
Modified, JV, and Varsity	Modified, JV, and Varsity	Varsity
Boys Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Golf (Boys / COED)
Modified and Varsity	Modified, JV, and Varsity	Varsity
Girls Cross Country	Bowling (Boys / COED)	Boys Outdoor Track and Field



Modified and Varsity	Varsity	Varsity
Sideline / Game Day Cheerleading	Girls Ice Hockey (Combination)	Girls Outdoor Track and Field
Varsity	Varsity	Varsity
Girls Tennis	Boys Ice Hockey	
Varsity	Varsity	

Extracurricular Activities / Clubs:

This list can be obtained from the Building Principal.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS PHILOSOPHY AND STRUCTURE

5210-R COCURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS AND CLUBS REGULATION

Recognizing that student activities are a part of the school program, the Superintendent has established the following criteria, which student activity programs must meet.

1. Student activities are those school activities that are voluntarily engaged in by students, have the approval of the school administration and do not carry credit toward promotion or graduation.
2. Proposals for new clubs must be submitted by March 1st for the following year.
3. If supported by the District, new clubs will be approved by April 1st.
4. The attached form should be used when submitting a request to create a new club.
5. In an attempt to gauge interest and commitment, new clubs must be organized, established, and active for a year prior to compensation being approved for the advisor(s).
6. Advertising for advisorships of new clubs will follow the requirements of the CTA collective bargaining agreement.
7. Activities should be held after classes are dismissed, or at an appropriate time during the school day.
8. Activities at any level should be unique, not duplications of others already in operation.

ATHLETICS PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND PHILOSOPHY

Program Philosophy

A core belief of the Clinton Central School District is that education should support the personal, academic, social, and cultural growth of every student. A well-rounded



program of student activities plays an essential role in achieving this goal. In this context, the purpose of the District's interscholastic athletics program is to encourage and uphold the following:

- Physical, social, and emotional development appropriate to each student;
 - A strong sense of school spirit and loyalty among students, families, coaches, and the wider community;
 - The values of healthy competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship;
 - The integration of mind and body, fostering lifelong habits of physical fitness and wellness;
 - Growth in self-confidence, self-discipline, organization, decision-making, and goal setting;
-
- The development of self-worth and a positive self-image for all participants, regardless of their role on a team;
 - Full compliance with Board of Education policies, regulations, and procedures governing interscholastic athletics; and
 - A commitment to integrity in athletics—Clinton Central School District does not support a “win at all costs” mentality and actively discourages pressures that compromise sportsmanship or mental well-being.

Program Structure

Clinton Central School District believes that a strong extracurricular and athletic program is essential to student growth. Athletics complement our physical education and health programs, offering students in grades 7–12 meaningful opportunities to develop physical skills, character, and lifelong habits of wellness.

Participation in interscholastic sports teaches responsibility, teamwork, dedication, and respect. Students are expected to commit to their teams, embrace continuous improvement, and demonstrate leadership, sportsmanship, and school pride. These experiences help students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our program is designed to match students with opportunities suited to their skill levels, while emphasizing effort, discipline, and growth. The following guidelines support students, families, and coaches in understanding expectations and goals at each level of competition.

Modified Athletics

(7th, 8th -or- 7th & 8th combined, -or- 7th, 8th, & 9th combined - sport dependent)

- A. Student athletes will be able to explore and expand interests and abilities.
- C. Basic skills and fundamentals of activities will be emphasized.
- E. Instruction will be differentiated based on student athlete ability.
- F. Improvement of skills, not wins and losses, is the sign of a successful season.



G. Playing time is determined / guided by modified rules - all participants play, but not equally.

H. Generally, there will be no cuts, CCS recognizes there is a balance between open participation and development for maximum competition. When sign-up numbers are large, CCS will carefully assess the situation, and explore potential options such as but not limited to hiring an additional coach, adding contests to the schedule, and / or limiting the numbers of athletes who may dress for competition (*possible example: a roster of 21 baseball players may result in only 14 students “dressing” on any given game day, with an increased schedule of 16 games*).

Junior Varsity Athletics

(7th - 12th, but “generally” 9th & 10th - sport and circumstance dependent)

A. The program calls for a balance between participation and competition / winning.

B. This level indicates a need for coaches to communicate with athletes regarding areas for needed improvement and the possibility of other opportunities in the activities program.

C. The major focus continues on the teaching of basic fundamentals to further develop the skill levels of the participants.

D. Ultimately, players at this level are preparing for varsity competition.

E. More emphasis will be placed on competition. Playing time is not guaranteed, but should always be considered by the coach.

Varsity Athletics

(7th - 12th, but “generally” 11th & 12th - sport and circumstance dependent)

A. Varsity competition leads to an emphasis on winning. Although winning is important, rules governing play, good sportsmanship and the welfare of team members are the components of a strong athletic team and program.

B. Varsity athletes are encouraged to participate in demonstrations and clinics initiated by the CCS coaching staff.

C. Individuals should make maximum contributions within the limits of their abilities.

D. More emphasis is placed on the team than on the individual.

E. Playing time is determined by ability and what is best for the team based on the coach's assessment.

F. There is full commitment to the team and sport in-season, both on and off the field.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

All Clinton Central School District requirements shall conform to the current requirements of the New York State Education Department and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.



Athletic Eligibility Requirements:

- Parental consent and medical clearance
- [Clinton Schools use FamilyID \(online\) for registration purposes.](#) FamilyID allows for form submissions, parental permissions, and student / parent agreements to be submitted online.
- A physical examination by a licensed medical doctor or medical practitioner is required for all levels (modified, junior varsity and varsity), and must declare the student fit for the appropriate sport and level.
- All forms must be submitted and approved prior to any participation in physical activities, inclusive of an understanding of and agreement to the rules and procedures outlined within this Handbook.

Extracurricular Eligibility Requirements:

- Follow procedures set forth by the individual club.
- All required forms must be submitted and approved prior to any involvement, inclusive of an understanding of and agreement to the rules and procedures outlined within this Handbook.

TRYOUTS

Interscholastic Athletics:

While the aim is to offer a wide range of athletic opportunities and meaningful experiences for all students, there are times when this may not be feasible due to financial limitations, high participation numbers, and the structure of the sport itself. As a result, tryouts may become necessary at various levels of our athletic program, although it is not the District's philosophy or intention to make cuts at the Modified Level.

Coaches will also make decisions in regards to placement of individuals on teams within the program (Varsity, JV, Modified). *Example: at times, an 11th grader may be placed on JV or be asked to be a "swing" player (utilized at JV and Varsity) and an 8th grader may be placed on Varsity.* Coaches may move athletes between JV and Varsity throughout a season (note that this is not allowed at the Modified Level) Regardless of team placement, a student athlete may not participate above the maximum number of contests allowed for any particular sport.

- **Varsity Level:** Tryouts are most common at the Varsity level, where there is a greater focus on competition. Team size is primarily determined by the nature of the sport and is decided by the coach in consultation with the Director of Athletics. Students can expect a fair and comprehensive tryout process that includes both objective data and at times, subjective evaluation. Final decisions will be based on what is best for the makeup of the team and program,



considering each athlete's skill and overall athletic ability.

- **Junior Varsity (JV) Level:** Tryouts may take place if the number of interested students creates a safety concern during practices or games. As with Varsity, the tryout process will be equitable and include a mix of measurable performance and coach observation. The coach will make selections that best support team dynamics and program goals, while also considering individual skill development.
- **Modified Level:** This level is intended to help students discover and develop new interests and abilities. Therefore, tryouts at the Modified level should not occur. Circumstances where high numbers are present may lead to a unique approach including but not limited to adding contests to the season, hiring an additional coach, and / or limiting the roster size on game days. These determinations, when applicable, will be communicated with the team in advance.

At every level, fairness and respect for each student are central to the try-out process.

Students will have the opportunity for a face-to-face conversation with the coach, which will include feedback on strengths and areas for growth.

Extracurricular Activities:

Generally, all students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities (there will not be cuts). The district may make a decision on a yearly basis with regard to how to accommodate the number of students who desire to participate in a particular extracurricular activity.

DUAL SPORT ATHLETES

Dual Sport Athletes are students who have chosen to participate in two Clinton sponsored sports in the same season.

Athletes at Clinton are allowed to participate in more than one sport during a particular season. (There are currently only two exceptions; Ice Hockey, and Indoor Track & Field.) If a student decides to participate in more than one sport at a time, a coach will not discourage this decision. Rather, the coaches involved will work together and coordinate to make the situation as smooth as possible.

- Clinton students are allowed to be members of two teams within the same season provided that NYSPHSAA, Section I and the Center State Conference regulations, requirements and restrictions have been met.
- Students should be aware that committing to more than one team is time consuming and also impacts other teammates, coaches and programs.



- Students should also be aware that tryouts, practices and contests may conflict. Communication and planning ahead is very important.
- A student/athlete may NOT be "penalized" for choosing this path but MUST be aware that different sports require different preparation and that practice time may impact playing time.

A potential Dual Sport Athlete must declare a Primary Sport and a Secondary Sport. The Student is responsible for notifying each coach, and the Athletic Office.

Coaches shall coordinate a plan that best suits the intentions of the student's wishes considering all other factors that may be involved.

Should conflicts arise, refer to the following:

[Clinton CSD Dual Sport Athlete](#)



Dual Sport Athletes:

Athletes at Clinton are allowed to participate in more than one sport during a particular season. (There are currently a few exceptions; Ice Hockey, and Indoor Track & Field.) If a student decides to participate in more than one sport at a time, a coach will in no way discourage this decision. Rather, the coaches involved will work together to make this situation as smooth as possible. Realizing that there is potential for conflicts arising when an athlete is participating in two sports at the same time, the following general guidelines will be adhered to:

- Dual sport Athletes will register for each sport separately and declare their **Primary Sport** through the registration process.
- A **contest** will take precedence over a **practice** in the other sport.
- If non-league contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will *typically* participate in the primary sport.
- A **league contest** will *typically* take precedence over a **non-league contest**.
- If league contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will *typically* participate in the primary sport.
- **Sectional contests will take precedence over non-league or league contests.** In the event that two Sectional competitions are held on the same day, the primary sport will *typically* take precedence.
- In the event that it would be possible for an athlete to participate in both sports on the same day, the athlete will **not** be allowed to drive to the second contest. Only an athlete's parent or guardian will be allowed to transport the athlete.
- Coaches are not to discipline an athlete for a missed practice on a day that the athlete is competing in the alternate sport. (*This is not to be confused with rewarding other team members who were present for practices / contests.*)
- On days that an athlete is not in competition, the athlete should attend practice in both sports. If only one sport can be practiced, it should *typically* be the primary sport. *All required practice sessions shall be organized and planned for a reasonable length of time and shall include vigorous activity specific to the sport for the purpose of improving the physical condition of the players. Each of the required number of practices for an individual must include vigorous activity.*
- All eligibility rules will remain the same.
- An athlete must begin practicing in each of the two sports at the beginning of each sport's season.
- Concerns, questions, points of clarification, and disputes must be presented to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will work to provide a resolution / determination when necessary.
- All aspects of the Athletic Handbook and Code will apply without modification. Dual Sport Athletes have made a decision to take on additional responsibilities.

ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS (APP)

Purpose - Clinton CSD APP



The Athletic Placement Process (APP) is a selective protocol authorized by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for students in grades 7–12. It is designed to assess a student’s physical, emotional, and athletic readiness to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at an appropriate level, either by “playing up” or “playing down” - based upon ability and other factors, not solely on age or grade.

The APP is not intended to:

- Fill team rosters
- Provide additional experience or exposure,
- Reward individual students, or
- Replace a lack of modified programming.

Instead, the APP is reserved for exceptional student-athletes whose maturity, skill, strength, and citizenship suggest that competing at a different level is both safe and appropriate. Each case is reviewed individually and thoroughly to ensure alignment with the district’s commitment to safety, equity, and academic success.

District Prerequisites

- The Clinton Central School District maintains a board-approved APP regulation in compliance with NYSED regulations.
- The regulation is reviewed every two years by district administration, with proposed updates presented to the Board of Education through the formal policy amendment process.
- The district reserves the right to deny APP access for reasons including but limited to safety, developmental readiness, or program integrity.

Eligibility Notes

- Students in grades 7–8 may be considered to move up to a higher level of play.
- Students in grades 9–12 may be considered to move down based on developmental readiness and safety.
- Participation by 7th graders should be extremely rare and is reserved for only the most exceptional circumstances. These students must clearly demonstrate extraordinary physical and athletic maturity and readiness. While they are not categorically ineligible, participation by a 7th grader must be approved with careful consideration by the APP Review Panel and Athletic Director.

APP Steps & Criteria

1. Initial Recommendation



The initial recommendation for a student to enter the APP process should be made by a certified coach / staff member or physical education teacher employed by Clinton CSD. This recommendation must be based on:

- Observed exceptional skill and physicality
- Demonstrated commitment, maturity, and experience
- The student's potential to make an immediate and meaningful contribution (e.g., participate in 50% or more of contests).

2. Parent/Guardian Permission

Once recommended, the student's parent or guardian must complete and sign a Parent/Guardian Permission Form before the process can proceed.

(with parental permission, steps 3-6 may occur in any order)

3. Administrative Review Panel

A multi-member APP review panel, consisting of the Middle School Principal, a School Counselor, a Physical Education Teacher, School Social Worker, Teacher Leader, School Nurse, the Athletic Director, and others who know the student, will consider but will not be limited to reviewing the following:

- Academic performance - should be above grade level (as determined at the local level)
- Social-emotional maturity and readiness,
- Behavioral readiness and citizenship,
- Attendance history - has the student demonstrated excellent attendance

If the panel denies the student's readiness, the process ends.

4. Medical Clearance

The District Medical Director will make a determination based on NYSED recommendations and additional information as present.

5. Sport-Specific Skill Evaluation

A member of the coaching staff of the target sport will evaluate the student's athletic skill, game understanding, and projected contribution (e.g., likely to participate in 50% of games). The coach may consult previous coaches or observe the student in a physical education setting.



The Coach's Skill Evaluation Form must be submitted to the athletic director.

6. Physical Fitness Testing

The student must meet or exceed the 85th percentile in 4 out of 5 components of the President's Physical Fitness Test, administered by a certified physical education teacher who is not coaching the sport in question.

- Retesting Limit: Students have up to two (2) opportunities to achieve the required scores.
- Swimming Exception: Students may substitute the 500-yard swim for the 1-mile run.
- Golf and Bowling: Fitness testing is not required.

7. Final Approval

Students recommended (with obtained parental permission) who successfully complete:

- Step 3: Administrative Review Panel,
- Step 4: Medical Clearance,
- Step 5: Sport Skill Evaluation, and
- Step 6: Fitness Testing,

will be approved to try out for the higher or lower-level team.

If the student does not make the team, they return to the appropriate modified or JV/varsity team based on grade level.

8. Recordkeeping

The Athletic Director will maintain complete records of all APP evaluations, including:

- Parent/Guardian Permission Form,
- Panel Review Notes,
- Medical Maturity Evaluation,
- Physical Fitness Testing Results,
- Coach's Sport Skill Evaluation,
- Final Determination Letter.

9. Notifications

Following tryouts, the Athletic Director will send a Notification List to:



- Competing schools' athletic directors, as required, and
- The governing athletic section office, as required.

Appeals

Under Education Law §3208(a), a student or parent may petition the courts if they believe a student has been unfairly excluded from athletic participation. District personnel must inform families of this right if a disqualification occurs.

MIXED COMPETITION PROGRAM

For a girl to play on a Boys team or for a boy to play on a Girls team

- The Student and the Parent/Guardian must submit a written request to the District Superintendent and gain approval from the Superintendent
- Must have an up to date physical
- The Student's Primary Care Physician and the school's Physician must give their consent
- Must successfully complete the NYS Mixed Competition Program

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Purpose and Expectations

Participation in Extracurricular Activities and Interscholastic Athletics is a privilege extended to all students. These activities including, athletics, performing arts, clubs, and academic competitions - enhance student growth and support the development of social-emotional and leadership skills. However, the primary purpose of school is academic achievement.¹

To maintain eligibility for participation in school activities, students are expected to maintain a passing average (65 or higher) in each enrolled course.

Academic Monitoring and Eligibility Determination

Students and parents have the ability to monitor grades and progress at any time, via Parent Portal (SchoolTool). Students are responsible for knowing their standing/average throughout the course of the school year.



Eligibility is evaluated twice per marking period, and monitored in an ongoing basis as follows:

Eligibility Process

- At the end of 4 weeks and at the end of 9 weeks (typically on or around Friday midday), a Grade Report will run via SchoolTool.
- Students with an average of 64 or lower will be in jeopardy of becoming ineligible, but will be granted a one-week grace period from the report date. During the grace period, the student may continue to participate in events and activities. Students should make extra time outside of their class period to meet with teachers with the goal of improving their overall performance, standing, and outcome.
- Attempts to notify students with an average of 64 or lower will be made via direct messages, in person conversations, and / or through coaches /advisors.
- It is the student’s responsibility to collect the Eligibility Form, complete it with their teacher, and return it to the Main Office or Athletic Office by the following Friday, and every subsequent Friday as determined, by 2:15 PM. (Two consecutive “passing” reports will restore the student to good standing.)
- If the student does not return the form on time, or obtain a “passing” or “positive” report, they become fully ineligible starting the next Monday.

For example: September 26, 2025 will be the end of the 4th week in the First Marking Period. A report will run on September 26th. Students not passing according to the report will need to return an Eligibility Form on Friday October 3, 2025. Students who do not return a form at all, and students who return a form that does NOT indicate passing or positive, will then become ineligible for the week beginning Monday October 6th through Sunday October 12th.

- Situations where students return the form late or in the middle of the week that they are deemed ineligible will be handled on a case by case basis.

Passing report = The student is earning a passing grade (65+) as indicated by the teacher via the Eligibility Form, YES to #1

Positive report = The student is demonstrating appropriate academic effort and engagement, YES to #2, #3, #4, and #5

<p>1. Is the student currently passing your class? <i>(ONLY complete the questions below if you have selected ‘no’ for this question.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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2. Have the required homework assignments been completed on time?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Has the student's behavior been appropriate and productive in class?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Has the student met with you outside of regular class time for support?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Has the student attended all classes this week (no unexcused absences)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Ineligibility Consequences

Students who become ineligible may not participate in:

- Athletic contests
- Academic competitions (e.g., Science Olympiad, Model UN)
- Performing arts events (e.g., School Musical, Drama performances)
- School dances or similar school-sponsored events

Ineligible students must still attend practices, meetings, and rehearsals unless excused by the advisor/coach for academic improvement purposes, but they may not participate in contests, games, performances, or events.

Special Grade Situations

- Incompletes are considered failures until a final numerical grade is submitted, unless extenuating circumstances are verified by a teacher and administrator.
- Dropped Courses recorded as "WF" (Withdrawn Failing) are considered failures for one week unless the move is from an AP/Honors to a Regents course, or from a Regents to a non-Regents course, and is approved by the principal without penalty.
- Fourth Quarter Failures may affect fall eligibility. Students may regain eligibility by either:
 - Passing failed courses in an approved summer school program, or
 - Submitting two consecutive positive weekly progress reports during the first two full (5-day) weeks of school in September.

Communication and Distribution



- The school will distribute these guidelines to all students interested in extracurricular participation.
 - It is the responsibility of the student and their parent/guardian to review and understand these regulations prior to participation.
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TRAINING AND BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS

Violations of Athletic, Behavioral, or Training Standards

Academic Suspension

Students may not participate or be in attendance for team events (practices, games, meetings) on days they are suspended (in-school or out-of-school). In this case, a student also may not attend as a spectator or an audience member.

Team-Level Infractions

These infractions will be handled by the coach or advisor and reported to the Athletic Director or Building Principal as needed.

All team rules and procedures relating to practices, training, and game conduct are set forth by the coach of each sport, clearly establishing expectations for that sport. Team rules may be stricter, but not more lenient, than district guidelines. Team rules must be written and approved by the Athletic Director.

Training Standard Violations that include Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Banned Substances, etc.

These violations will be referred to the Athletic Standards Violation Committee which will include an Administrator, Athletic Director, and at least one impartial staff member.

- Banned Substances for Students

Students may not use or possess the following (also not limited to the following):

- Tobacco and related products
- Illegal drugs and alcohol
- Performance-altering substances (unless prescribed)
- Inhalants, including e-cigarettes (except when medically prescribed)
- Misused over-the-counter or prescription medications



- *Use of Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco*

To participate in any Extracurricular Activity or Athletic Team a student must completely abstain from the use and/or possession of tobacco, tobacco products, illegal drugs and alcohol, other drugs including, but not limited to e-cigarettes, and the intentional misuse of any over-the-counter or prescription drugs.

In addition, Constructive Possession (attendance at a party) applies. This is when a student athlete is found to have been voluntarily associating with others who are illegally using, possessing, or distributing drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol, and who do not attempt to remove themselves in a reasonable amount of time. This regulation applies to circumstances that take place ON or OFF school grounds and at ANYTIME after the student athlete has participated in Activities or Athletics. What's outlined in the Handbook will remain in effect for the duration of the Student's Clinton experience, through their graduation date. Constructive possession shall not apply to circumstances where the student is present at places where alcohol is being legally consumed by others (e.g., at a family gathering where persons of age may be consuming).

- Alleged Violation (Reported)

- Meeting with the student. Inform the parent and coach.
- Investigation conducted to confirm or dismiss allegation
- Student may participate during investigation

Observed Violation (by Coach, AD, Principal, or Staff Member)

- Same protocol as above
- Immediate suspension from participation may occur depending on severity

Carryover Suspension

- Penalties not completed during one season will carry over to the next sport season.

Appeals Process

- Appeals of Athletic Director decisions must be made in writing within 5 school days to the Athletic Violations Committee
- The committee may uphold, modify, or overturn the decision
- Final appeals may be made in writing to the Superintendent within 5 days of the decision
- The Superintendent may also uphold, modify, or overturn the decision, which can then be appealed to the Board of Education



- Appeals do not delay enforcement of penalties

Penalties / Consequences:

Students will enter 9th grade with no disciplinary or academic record carried over. All violations from the beginning of 9th grade will be considered throughout a student's Extracurricular / Athletic High School experience, through graduation.

1st Violation

- Parent/guardian and coach notified by Athletic Director
- Suspension from 25% of scheduled contests (including postseason)
- Suspension may carry over to the next season if not completed
- Required completion of an educational/counseling program as directed

Example: Varsity Soccer Season is 16 games + at least 1 postseason contest = 17. No matter when during the season the violation occurs 25% of 17 = 4.25, which will be assessed as a 4 game penalty. If the student is a Dual Sport Athlete, the same rationale will be applied to each individual sport.

2nd Violation

- Same notification procedure as above
- Suspension from 50% of contests (including postseason)
- All awards, honors and postseason recognition may be forfeited.
- Required meeting with the Violations Committee to develop a support plan
- Possible community service and mandatory participation in relevant seminars as directed
- Athletes may try out and practice for future seasons but may not compete until penalties are served

3rd Violation

- Dismissal from current team and ineligibility for the remainder of the school year, and potentially future years if applicable.
- The Student Athlete will forfeit all awards, honors and postseason recognition.
- Participation in recommended educational programs as directed

Note: The committee's goal is to support struggling athletes in becoming productive team members.

All circumstances and or determined violations not explicitly mentioned or outlined within this Handbook will be at the discretion and determination of Administration.



HEALTH AND SAFETY, INJURIES AND CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

- All injuries, as well as suspected injuries, must be reported immediately
- Accident reports must be completed by coaches, and submitted immediately
- When applicable, coaches must also complete the concussion checklist
- Return to play requires medical clearance

Clinton CSD follows NYSED and NYSPHSAA concussion protocols. A student with symptoms will be removed immediately from play in order to be assessed. Students who have sustained a concussion must be cleared by the school physician before returning.

5421-R OVERVIEW of and RATIONALE for RETURN to PLAY PROTOCOL

Please refer to BOE Policy 5421, 5421-E.1, 5421-E.2, 5421-E.3, 5421-E.4 for more information.

I. The following protocol has been established in accordance with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) guidelines.

II. The information contained below is to be used as a mere guideline to be implemented following a concussive event. The information is not to be considered as all inclusive or all encompassing.

A. When a student shows any signs or symptoms of a concussion:

1. The student should not be left alone. The parent/guardian will be notified and advised of appropriate medical action.
2. The student will not be allowed to return to play in the current game or practice. (see below)

B. Following the initial injury, the student must complete these steps:

1. Follow up with their primary care physician or Emergency Department within the first 24 hours (**Doctor Visit One**). The student **must have** the initial Physical Evaluation filled out completely, signed and dated when reporting to the School Concussion Management Team (CMT) Leader.
2. Follow up with their primary care physician (or a concussion specialist) when asymptomatic for clearance to begin the Return to Play protocol (**Doctor Visit Two**). The student **must have** the Second Physician Evaluation filled out completely, signed and dated when reporting to the School CMT Leader
3. Return to Play **must follow** a medically supervised process, including clearance by a physician (**Doctor Visit Three**) before step five, "Full contact training in practice setting." The student **must have** the Third Doctor Visit filled out completely, signed and dated when reporting to the School CMT Leader.



RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

The cornerstone of proper concussion management is rest until all symptoms resolve and then a graded program of exertion before returning to sport. The program is broken down into six steps in which only one step is covered per day. If any concussion symptoms reoccur, the athlete should drop back to the previous level and try to progress after 24 hours of rest. In addition, the student should also be monitored for recurrence of symptoms that affect academic performance.

1. No exertion activity until asymptomatic for 72 hrs. (3 days)
2. Light aerobic exercise such as walking or stationary bike, etc. No resistance training.
3. Sport specific exercise such as skating, running, shooting, etc.
4. Non-contact training/skill drills.
5. Full contact training in practice setting. (medical clearance required)
6. Return to competition.

****Final clearance is at the discretion of the School Physician or Chief Medical Officer even if the player is cleared by another physician.****

CARE OF EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS, AND FACILITIES

- Each student is responsible for the care of the uniforms and equipment provided by the District
 - Replacement of lost or destroyed uniforms and equipment provided by the school is the sole responsibility of the student and the parent/guardian
 - Facilities provided by either the home school or away school or neutral facility are to be used properly and with respect
 - All uniforms and equipment provided by the school must be returned to the school at the conclusion of the sports season
-

BOOSTER CLUBS & RECOGNITION

The Clinton Sports Boosters Is a parent organization designed to aid the Clinton Athletic Department through engagement and financial support. The Boosters seek to assist all programs and the athletes that are a part of them.

The Boosters accept donations, organize fundraising activities, and dispense money as needed through a procedural process designed by the organization and the group bylaws.



The Boosters will solicit the assistance of parents and other organizations to aid in their goal of enhancing programming, often through supporting experiences and purchases not immediately available in the School's Athletic budget.

Current Executive Board Members:

President: Amy McFadden

Vice President: Matt Bronner

Secretary: Michelle Leonard

Treasurer: Tom Squires

The organization is seeking members. If you are interested in joining or know someone that would be - or want to know more about the organization, email sportsboosters@ccs.edu and / or attend a meeting. The Sports Boosters meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the High School Media Center at 7:00 PM. (Typically no meeting in July and August)

The Boosters have helped to provide and update the Clinton Athletic Records Board located in the Atrium of the High School, have recently purchased and donated a new Media Backdrop for the Athletic Department and District, and have organized many on campus experiences in recent years, including the Harlem Wizards events and various Food Truck Nights.

Additionally, the Clinton Sports Boosters maintains an active Facebook page which serves as a celebration and communication platform for Clinton athletic experiences and highlights.

The Sports Boosters is a difference making organization and past and present members are greatly appreciated for their time and contributions.

CONTACT DIRECTORY

Any initial questions can be directed to the Athletic Office:

- **Athletic Office:** Robert Bentley, rbentley@ccs.edu, (315) 557-2397
Secretary: Mary Heintz, mheintz@ccs.edu
- High School Office (315) 557-2233
- Middle School Office (315) 557-2260
- HS Nurse Brandi Turczyn (315) 557-2238
- MS Nurse Jennifer Mitchell (315) 557-2230
- Attendance (315) 557-2232



CLINTON COMETS

[Home - Clinton Central School District](#)

[Clinton — ScheduleGalaxy](#)

[High School Sport Stats](#)

[CSC Track/XC](#)

[NYS Section III Boys Ice Hockey Page](#)

[NFHS Online - Stream Live \(subscription required\) - HS Gym, MS Gym, Track / Grass Stadium](#)

[HUDL Online Stream \(anticipating Fall 2025 - Turf Facility\)](#)

[Live Streaming \(Ice Hockey - subscription required\) LiveBarn](#)

[romesentinel.com](#)

[The Waterville Times | News and Sports](#)

[Syracuse NY Local News, Breaking News, Sports & Weather](#)