

COWETA COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETE PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are a requirement. These regulations take precedence over all others and may be revised, interpreted, or changed without notice.

Purposes

- A. The purposes of athletics are to promote and uphold school spirit, to encourage a sense of good sportsmanship among students, to build better relationships between schools during athletic events, and to develop basic athletic skills.
- B. A student athlete must be a positive reflection of the school, both in and out of uniform.

Requirements for Tryouts-Eligibility

- A. Candidates must have a written permission form, a completed physical form, proof of valid insurance coverage, a signed athletics contract stating full understanding of the guidelines, and a completed emergency release form before being allowed to tryout or practice.
- B. The student must pass five of the six following subjects: literature, language arts, math, science, social studies, and connections classes. The final grades in the connections subjects will be averaged to obtain a final grade for the connections sequence.
- C. At the conclusion of each semester, eligibility will be reviewed. Team members who have not met eligibility requirements will be dismissed from the team.

I. Participation

- A. Student athletes are expected to be at all athletic activities. When one person is absent, the entire practice and/or game is adversely affected.
- B. All members must attend every activity, practice, or game as specified by the coach except in extreme cases of emergency or illness, in which case the coach should be notified prior to the event.
- C. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, or a pre-approved school-related activity. (If another school-related activity conflicts with the athletics schedule, the coach must be informed prior to the event and provide approval for the event.). These are the only reasons a student athlete may be excused from any function. Absences related to illness may require verification by a note from a doctor, and you must notify the coach before missing a scheduled event.
- D. After two unexcused absences, the student athlete may be dismissed from the team at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and/or administrator.
- E. Tardiness to any function or leaving early from any function may result in additional physical conditioning or probation, at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and/or administration. All punishments must be satisfied before the athlete will be allowed to participate in the next function, including practices, games, or other events. If this is a frequent problem or if late notice is given, the amount of time being late to/leaving from practice can add up to an unexcused day of practice and may result in dismissal from the team at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and/or administrator.
- F. All student athletes must be present for at least one half of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in any function that day, including practices, games, or other events.

Appropriate Behavior

Inappropriate behavior is not acceptable and may result in additional physical conditioning, probation, and/or dismissal from the team at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and/or administration.

Inappropriate behaviors may include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Talking excessively during practices or games
- B. Chewing gum at practices or games
- C. Using personal cell phones without permission during practices or games

- D. Holding hands, kissing, or any other show of public affection at school, athletic events, or any other school-sponsored activity
- E. Cursing or vulgar language
- F. Unsportsmanlike conduct
- G. Disrespect to other team members
- H. Smoking or use of alcohol or drugs on or off campus

Misbehavior at school, discipline referrals, or suspensions from school, may result in probation or dismissal from the team at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and/or administration. If a student athlete is placed on probation, he or she must sit with the coach the entire length of the activity with no socializing.

Purchases

- A. Any additional athletic equipment or apparel required for a sport that the school does not provide must be purchased before the student is allowed to participate in practices, games, or events.
- B. If a student is dismissed from a team by the coach, athletic director, and/or administration or chooses to no longer participate on the team, the student will not be refunded any money paid for uniforms, equipment, dues etc.

II. Appearance, Uniforms, and Equipment

- I) For safety purposes, long hair must be pulled back for all practices and games.
- II) Jewelry of any kind may not be worn to any practice or game.
- III) Student athletes may not have nails that can be seen over the fingertips (No acrylic or gel nails).
- IV) All uniforms are property of Coweta County School System unless purchased by the participant in advance.
- V) Uniforms, whether county property or purchased by the participant, will not be worn except for games and designated activities.
- VI) Lost or damaged uniforms are the responsibility of the student athlete. If uniforms are lost or damaged, the participant must pay for the cost of replacing the uniform before being allowed to participate in any other athletic event.
- VII) Coaches may require participants to dress in a uniform manner at school on specified game days. The dress may include the team uniform, t-shirt, shirt and tie, nice pants, etc.

III. Transportation

- A. For away games, all team members will be transported to athletic events away from school in the transportation provided by the school. Transportation may or may not be provided after the event. Participants must be picked up from games at times designated by the coach. Parents must sign their child out before they are allowed to leave. If a parent does not sign a child out at an away athletic event, the child may be placed on probation or dismissed from the team.
- B. For home games and practices, parents are to be at school to pick up their child at the time designated by the coach. Athletes should NOT plan to call a parent at the end of an event in order to schedule a ride. Parents should be waiting on students, not students waiting on parents.
- C. Participants may not ride home with anyone other than their parent or guardian unless a written note is presented to the coach.
- D. Failure to be picked up on time may result in verbal warnings, written warnings, or possible probation or dismissal from the team.

COWETA COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETE CONTRACT

I have read the *Student Athlete Guidelines* and agree to abide by the outlined policies. I also understand that I must abide by policies outlined in the *Coweta County Middle School Student Handbook* and the *Coweta County Board of Education Student's Code of Conduct* while on campus and at all school/athletics events. I realize that failure to adhere to the policies outlined in these three documents could jeopardize my continued participation in the Middle School Student Athlete Program.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date