Carteret County Schools (CCS)
High School Athletic Code of Ethics and Standards
(Interscholastic Athletic Teams, Club Teams, and Cheerleading Squads)

CCS recognizes the value of extracurricular athletic activities in the educational process and the values that students develop when they have the opportunity to participate in organized activities outside of the traditional classroom. Participation in high school extracurricular athletics is a privilege - not a right. Student athletes are considered leaders, role models, and representatives of their schools and, therefore, have additional responsibilities to conform their conduct to very high standards.

Students who earn the opportunity to participate in athletics will be expected to adhere not only to the specific rules, regulations, policies, and procedures in this policy, but also to additional rules set forth by their school’s Athletic Department and their specific coaches.

More than one section of this policy may apply to a single violation.

I. School Discipline

A. Should any student-athlete be involved in an infraction of the CCS discipline plan that results in placement in In School Suspension (ISS), he/she will not be allowed to practice or play on the day(s) that he/she serves the ISS obligation. Suspensions will be carried out expeditiously regardless of the sporting event schedule.

B. Should any student-athlete be involved in an infraction which results in Out of School Suspension (OSS) or assignment to alternative classes off campus (i.e. Boys and Girls), he/she will not be allowed to participate in practices and/or games for five school days, beginning on the day of the infraction.

C. A second Out of School Suspension or assignment to alternative classes off campus during the same sports season will result in dismissal from all athletic activities for the remainder of the current sports season or for 20 school days, whichever is longer. The suspension will begin on the day of the infraction and may carry over to the next sports season in which the student-athlete participates. The student must serve the suspensions during a sports season in which he/she participates as a member of a team.

D. A third Out of School Suspension or assignment to alternative classes off campus in one school year will result in dismissal from all athletic activities for 90 school days. The suspension will begin on the day of the infraction and will carry over to the next school year, if applicable.

II. Criminal Charges and/or Drug and Alcohol Offenses
Student-Athletes will be governed by this section beginning the day they complete the 8th grade.

A. Any student-athlete charged with a misdemeanor criminal offense or infraction, other than a minor traffic infraction, or suspended from school for a drug or alcohol infraction shall be suspended from all high school athletic contests for fifty percent (50%) of regular season games scheduled and any playoff games that occur during the period of suspension beginning in the athletic season of the charge or infraction. Students will remain on the team and may practice and attend games after they serve their suspension in Section I: School Discipline; however, such students will not be allowed to wear their uniforms at the games. All team rules will continue to apply to the student-athlete.

Suspensions will be served in consecutive games.
If there are insufficient numbers of games remaining in the season of the charge/infraction for the student-athlete to complete his/her period of suspension, suspensions will carry over to the next athletic season(s) in which the student-athlete participates. The number of games a student-athlete must sit out will be recalculated based on the remaining percentage of unserved suspension time using the student-athlete’s next regular season sports schedule. For example, if a football player is suspended for an alcohol violation with 25% of the football season remaining, and if he tries out for and makes the basketball team, he will also have to sit out the first 25% of the games in the basketball season. If the student-athlete is a one sport player, and cannot serve his/her full period of games suspension in one year, the period of suspension will be carried forward to the next year.

Students on team game suspensions for criminal charges or alcohol/drug infractions will be allowed to try out for teams as long as they are not also on suspension from school during the try outs. Coaches may consider the suspension in choosing team rosters.

During a period of game suspension as a result of criminal charges, if the charges against the athlete are dismissed, or the athlete is acquitted, the games’ suspension required in this policy shall immediately end and the dismissed charge shall not be considered in regards to any future punishments resulting from additional criminal charges or school suspensions thereafter. (This exemption will not apply to pleas of nolo contendere, Alford pleas, or deferred prosecution agreements where the student is required to perform community service in exchange for concessions from the court.)

Additionally, school principals, with the written consent of the superintendent, shall have the authority to delay the imposition of this section of the policy in unique and rare situations where there is substantial evidence that the student is not guilty of either the criminal charges brought against him/her, or related charges, and time is needed to arrange a dismissal of the charges. An example of such substantial evidence would be compelling evidence that the student was charged as a result of mistaken identity. Conversely, by way of example, a student charged with under-aged possession of alcohol at a party the student attended would not be entitled to relief under this provision.

Student-Athletes receiving criminal charges during the summer or off-season will be suspended from athletic participation during the first sport season in which they participate following the charge.

A player who receives a criminal charge must notify his/her coach, athletic director, or school administrator prior to the next game or practice or within 48 hours of the offense, whichever is sooner. If a student-athlete fails to notify his/her coach within the allotted time, he/she will be suspended from athletic participation for 365 days. The suspension will begin when the coach, athletic director, or school administrator becomes aware of the criminal charge or drug or alcohol infraction.

Cheerleading consists of a fall and winter season. The fall season will begin on the last day of cheerleading tryouts. The winter season will begin on the “Date of First Practice” for basketball as directed by the NCHSAA. Fifty percent (50%) of a cheerleading season will be based on the number of games and events in which the cheerleading squad is scheduled to participate.

B. Any student-athlete charged with a misdemeanor criminal offense or infraction, other than a minor traffic infraction, or suspended from school for a drug or alcohol infraction for a second time during his/her high school career shall be suspended from all high school athletic participation for 365 days from the day the student-athlete
notifies his coach. A player who receives a criminal charge must notify his/her coach prior to the next game or practice. If a student-athlete fails to notify his/her coach within the allotted time, he/she will be suspended from athletic participation for the remainder of his/her high school career.

C. Any student-athlete charged with a misdemeanor criminal offense or infraction, other than a minor traffic infraction, or suspended from school for a drug or alcohol infraction for a third time during his/her high school career shall be suspended from all high school athletic participation for the remainder of his/her high school career.

D. Any student-athlete charged with a felony will be suspended from participation in all high school athletic contests for at least the number of games specified for misdemeanor criminal offense charges. The school principal, with the written consent of the superintendent, may extend the period of games suspension for a student-athlete in his/her discretion depending on the severity of the felony charges. Regardless of the severity of the felony charges, if such charges are dismissed or the student is acquitted, he/she will have his/her game participation eligibility immediately restored. (This provision will not apply to pleas of nolo contendere, Alford pleas or deferred prosecution agreements where the student is required to perform community service in exchange for concessions from the court.)

III. Athletic Expectations

A. Absences
   1. It is the player’s responsibility to inform his/her coach in the event that he/she must be absent from a practice or game. The school administrator, athletic director, and/or head coach will determine what disciplinary action will be taken for the student-athlete’s first unexcused absence.
   2. The second unexcused absence will result in the player being removed from the team by the head coach and the athletic director.

B. Quitting a Sport
   1. No student-athlete may quit one sport for the purpose of participating in another sport until the season of the sport he/she quit is completed.
   2. This rule applies to playoff participation as well as regular season contests.

C. Transportation
   1. Athletes must travel to and from away contests in transportation provided by the school.
      Exceptions
      a. Injury to an athlete that requires an alternate means of transportation.
      b. Prior agreement made between the athlete’s parent/guardian and the coach. Proper forms must be in the coach’s possession prior to leaving a game or match. The forms can be obtained from the coach or the school’s main office.
      c. In county athletic contests, students may be exempt by school administration.