



## ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

### Code of Conduct for Athletes in Grades 7-12

#### COBLESKILL-RICHMONDVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Guardian & Student Athlete:

Participation on a Cobleskill-Richmondville Athletic Team is a privilege which should elicit great pride in both the athletes and their families. It is also a responsibility which demands extra commitment once a student decides to wear the school colors and represent their teammates, coaches, school and community. Standards of behavior are high and a willingness to live up to them is part of being a member of a team. For this reason, each athletic team member and parent/guardian is required to sign this statement of personal commitment indicating the athlete and his/her parent/guardian recognize and understand their responsibility and are willing to adhere to the basic concepts of good citizenship, sportsmanship, proper training regulations and positive examples that every athlete is expected to know and observe.

The accompanying Code of Conduct identifies those rules and expectations which the Board of Education has adopted for all athletes participating in the grade 7-12 Athletic Program.

Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School is a member and follows the rules and regulations of the Colonial Council, Section 2, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA).

These rules and regulations may be viewed or downloaded at the NYSPHSAA website: [www.nysphsaa.org/](http://www.nysphsaa.org/). Copies are also available at the Athletic Director's office.

#### **Responsibilities and Ethics for the Athlete**

Becoming a member of a C-RCS athletic activity carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. As a member of an interscholastic team of the Cobleskill-Richmondville schools, you have inherited a tradition of respect for yourself, family, school, and community. By trying the best you can, and following all of the rules set up by your coaches and advisors, you can feel justifiably proud of yourself no matter what the win-loss record indicates. The Board of Education has approved an academic eligibility code for students in grades 7-12, and student behavior codes and student handbooks for students in grades 7-12. It is the responsibility of all athletes to honor those rules and expectations. Disciplinary action by the Building Principal shall prevail over all matters involving athletic participation.

## **Responsibilities To Yourself**

The most important responsibility is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experience. Your studies, and participation in other extra curricular activities as well as in athletics, prepare you for life as an adult.

## **Responsibilities To Others**

Younger students look up to you, and it is your responsibility to set a good example for them. They may seek your attention and guidance, so always take a few minutes to encourage them in whatever way possible.

## **Responsibilities To Your School**

Another responsibility you assume as an athlete is to your school. As such, you are subject to the rules, regulations and consequences of the Athletic Code of Conduct as well as the Student Code of Conduct. Cobleskill-Richmondville will maintain its position as an outstanding school only when you do your best in whatever activity you engage. By participating in athletics to the best of your ability, you contribute to the reputation of your school. Any behavior that may cast an adverse reflection on our program is prohibited.

## **Responsibilities For School Citizenship**

The Code of Conduct for Athletes is a standard that the community, school, parents, and students have developed and which acknowledges to others that Cobleskill-Richmondville athletes are held to a high standard.

Homework, class participation, and conformance to school regulations are as important as personal conduct in both practice and interscholastic contests. Behavior that may be construed as unbecoming of a participant on our teams may cause him/her to be denied membership on a team. Behavior such as drinking, smoking, illegal use of drugs, insubordination, larceny, or any disobedience to the law or school regulations could be just cause for the student to be denied the privilege of participating in interscholastic sports as a participant and/or spectator.

## **Responsibilities For Sportsmanship**

Cobleskill-Richmondville athletes should exhibit the ideals of sportsmanship, ethics, conduct, and fair play. Athletes are to be respectful to visiting teams, officials, and all spectators, and thus establish a respectful relationship with one another. Respecting the integrity and judgment of the officials is critical to fostering sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of all team members to strive to develop leadership, initiative, and good judgment.

Athletes must have a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility. They must also recognize that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life and death for the player, coach, school, official, fan, or community. The purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players. In addition to following C-RCS rules, they must also comply with any rules/regulations of the institution they are visiting. As a member of a team your appearance reflects on self, school, and community. Accordingly, coaches will

work with you to establish an image that conveys the pride and tradition of our athletic program. Being a member of the team representing your school is a privilege. Athletes must be proud of the opportunity to play on a team and the school expects to be proud of their players. Students must attend all scheduled meetings unless excused by the coach/advisor.

## **Definition of an Athlete**

As soon as you begin participating in C-RCS athletics you are by definition an athlete. From your first try-out or first practice you are representing C-RCS and are subject to all of the expectations stated in the Athletic Code of Conduct. You are held accountable throughout your current and future athletic endeavors.

## **Guidelines**

### **Transferring/Quitting Team**

An athlete who requests a transfer to another team may be permitted to join another team with the permission of the Athletic Director after consultation with the coaches involved. An athlete who quits a team will not be permitted to join another team during that same season. A season commences when the athlete attends his/her first practice session. A student that has made a commitment to more than 50% of a season will not be eligible to begin the next season's sport until the team they were on has completed their season.

### **Attendance Requirement**

A participant who is not in school for a full day is ineligible to participate in contests or practice, unless the student enters before 8:30am with a legal excuse or after 8:30am with a Doctor's note. Extenuating circumstances such as doctor appointments, college visitations, and inclement weather will be dealt with on an individual basis. Activities or competitions on the days following snow days or on Saturdays are not included in this restriction. Students missing Physical Education classes for athletic contests will not be penalized. The building Principal has the responsibility for final decisions in cases of eligibility.

### **Student Eligibility**

According to the New York State Commissioner's Regulations, "A pupil shall be eligible for inter-scholastic competition in a sport during a semester, providing that he/she is a bona fide student, enrolled during the first 15 days of the semester, registered in the equivalent of four regular courses, is meeting the physical education requirement and has been in regular attendance 80% of the school time, bona fide absence caused by personal illness excepted." Detailed eligibility requirements are outlined in the section of this handbook entitled "Academic Eligibility - Extra-Curricular Activities."

C-RCS Policy calls for a student to be taking 5 units of credit and Physical Education. Individual coaches/advisors may have their own additional regulations concerning daily attendance at practices and the minimum number of practices before being eligible for competition. Your coach/ advisor will inform you of these rules.

## **Discrimination and Harassment**

Respect is the cornerstone of all our interactions and behaviors. We appreciate the dignity and worth of one another, and strive not to hurt another by our words, actions and our attitudes. The district is committed to safeguarding the right of all students within the school district to learn in an environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment.

Conduct is deemed to be sexual harassment when the student perceives such behavior as unwelcome, such as inappropriate touching, verbal comments, sexual name-calling, spreading sexual rumors, gestures, jokes or pictures.

Conduct is considered discrimination when such behavior is based on race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, family background, or physical or mental disability. These can take the form of name calling, physical, verbal or written threats, hate literature, or any other act intended to hurt, scare, or put down another based on who they are. These words and acts are unacceptable even when used as jokes.

Discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated. Whether the act is deliberate, intentional or unintentional, discrimination and harassment are unacceptable in any school setting including the school bus and all school events. For further information refer to the section (Prohibitive Student Conduct) in the C-RCS District Code of Conduct.

## **Athletic Harassment and Bullying**

The Board of Education is committed to providing an educational and working environment that promotes respect, dignity and equality. The Board recognizes that discrimination, such as harassment, hazing and bullying are detrimental to student learning and achievement. These behaviors interfere with the mission of the district to educate its students and disrupt the operation of the schools. Such behavior affects not only the students and/or staff who are its targets but also those individuals who participate and witness such acts.

To this end, the Board condemns and strictly prohibits all forms of discrimination, such as harassment, hazing and bullying on school grounds, school buses and at all school-sponsored activities, programs, events and school functions. Discrimination, harassment, hazing or bullying that takes place at locations outside of school grounds which can be reasonably expected to materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school or infringe on the rights of other students and/or staff are prohibited, and may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

### **Definitions:**

#### **Bullying**

Bullying is understood to be a hostile activity which harms or induces fear through the threat of further aggression and/or creates terror. In order to facilitate implementation of this policy, provide meaningful guidance and prevent behaviors from rising to a violation of law, this policy will use the term bullying (which is usually subsumed under the term "harassment") to describe a range of misbehaviors such as harassment, hazing, intimidation or discrimination. The accompanying regulation provides more guidance regarding the definition and characteristics of bullying.

## **Discrimination**

Discrimination is the act of denying rights, benefits, justice, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to all others, to an individual or group of people because of the group, class or category to which that person belongs (as enumerated in the *Definitions* section, under Harassment, below).

## **Hazing**

Hazing is an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment which produces public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule or creates a situation where public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule is likely to occur.

## **Harassment**

Harassment has been defined in various ways in Federal and State law and regulation. The Board recognizes that these definitions are important standards, but the Board's goal is to prevent misbehavior from escalating in order to promote a positive school environment and to limit liability. The Dignity for All Students Act (Section 10-18 of Education Law) defines harassment as the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonable be expected to cause a student and/or staff to fear for his or her physical safety. The harassing behavior may be based on any characteristic, including but not limited to a person's actual or perceived:

- Race,
- Color,
- Weight,
- National origin,
- Ethnic group,
- Religion,
- Religious practice,
- Disability,
- Sex,
- Sexual orientation, or
- Gender (including gender identity and expression).

In some instances, bullying or harassment may constitute a violation of an individual's civil rights. The district is mindful of its responsibilities under the law and in accordance with district policy regarding civil rights protections.

## **Smoking/Tobacco**

A complete Board of Education policy regarding use of cigarettes and other tobacco products is available from the High School office. \* Possession or use of tobacco will not be permitted at any time during the season. Cigarette smoking, E-cigarette smoking, and possession of tobacco products is prohibited by all students of the District on all school property including school buses whether or not school is in session.

## **School Property**

Students are responsible for all school-owned equipment issued to them. This equipment is to be used only for the purpose it is intended in practices, contests, and at the direction of the coach/advisor. Students who carelessly or willfully damage or misuse equipment, facilities, or property of the Cobleskill-Richmondville School District or another school district are required to make restitution, the amount to be determined by the full cost of repair or replacement. School issued equipment/uniform must be turned in at the end of the season or the student will not receive any equipment/uniform for the following season(s). Seniors must turn in their equipment/uniform to meet graduation requirements. No athletic, or other awards, will be made to members who damage or misuse equipment, facilities, or property unless restitution has been made. In addition, a list of violators will be sent to the Middle School Principal (for students in grades 7 & 8), or the Assistant Principal/High School Principal (for students in grades 9 through 12) for disciplinary action.

## **Athletic Cuts (Removal)**

An athlete who is “cut” from a team shall be allowed to compete on another team with the permission of the coach/advisor of the initial team and the advisor/coach of the second team for which the athlete is considering joining. Denial of such a request is subject to appeal to the Athletic Director and High School Principal.

## **Reporting Infractions**

Infractions for any of the codes of conduct, regardless of where they may have occurred, may be reported by any person to the coach or advisor of the team, the Athletic Director, or School Principal. It is the responsibility of the coach/advisor and Athletic Director for investigation and enforcement of all rule violations.

## **Transportation To and From Activities**

Parents/guardians may take their son(s)/daughter(s) home after away contests or scrimmages. The coach/advisor of that team will make available a permission form that needs to be signed by the parent. An athlete seeking permission to travel with anyone other than his/her parent/guardian must have approval of the coach and Athletic Director/school administrator prior to the day of the contest/scrimmage. The coach shall provide that form to the athlete.

## **Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties**

Any athlete found to be guilty of hosting or attending a party at which drugs, including alcohol, are provided or used will be treated as having violated the intent of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

## **Images and/or Written Information in the Public Domain**

Any information that appears on the Internet (for example: Facebook, Twitter, etc...) or other printed materials that brings embarrassment or unfavorable views to the student athlete, team, coaches, family, school or community is subject to penalty by the Principal and/or Athletic Director.

## High School Academic Policy

A student must maintain a full schedule of five (5) classes and physical education in order to participate in any activity or sports program. A course schedule below five (5) classes/credits is considered part-time. Exceptions are at the discretion of the High School Principal.

**Academic Probation:** Failing two or more subjects **requires 2 contacts** with teachers. Student Athlete can participate in practice and games during this time.

**Definition of Contact:** Meeting with the teacher of failed class, attending peer tutoring study hall.

**First 10 Days:** The student is required to make 2 contacts for each class failed over the next 10 school days. On the 10<sup>th</sup> day the student would have their academic probation grading sheet signed by all of their teachers to determine if the student is failing, progressing, or passing their classes.

- If the student is passing all classes they are removed from academic probation status.
- If the student is failing one class and/or progressing in one of more classes the student will remain on academic probation under the same terms for 10 more days. The student can participate in all games and practices.
- If the student is still failing 2 or more classes the student will remain on academic probation and would only be allowed to participate in practice, not games.

**Second 10 Days:** For a student who is failing one of more classes and/or progressing in one or more classes they remain on academic probation. The student would be required to make **2 more contacts** over the next 10 days. A student failing 2 or more classes would be allowed to participate in practices but not games.

**Definition of Progressing:** Seeks help, completing assignments, participating in class.

## Middle School Academic Policy

Middle school student athletes failing one or more subjects will be placed on a ten (school) day probation. During said ten days the student athlete is required to attend "Teacher Contact Sessions". \* The student athlete will be assigned two (2) teacher contact sessions for each subject failed. During the ten day probation the student athlete will be allowed to participate in practices and contests. If the student athlete is passing his/her subject(s) at the conclusion of the probation period they are removed from probation and receive a commendable letter. If the student athlete has attended all of the teacher contact sessions assigned during the probation period and is still failing he/she will remain on probation and will be assigned additional teacher contact sessions. If the student has not attended all of the assigned teacher contact sessions and he/she is still failing he/she will then sit-out contests until the assigned number of contacts has been completed. If the student athlete does not make an attempt to go to the Teacher Contact Sessions he/she is in jeopardy of being dismissed from the team.

\* Teacher Contact sessions are arranged by the student athlete and a teacher and can occur before and after school, during flex time, study hall or noon hour.

## **Violation of Athletic Code of Conduct and Outlined Guidelines**

Violation of the rules, regulations, and expectations will be determined by the coach/advisor of each team with the Athletic Director having final authority, unless appealed. Coaches/advisors are encouraged to discuss each incident with the Athletic Director prior to determining what action is taken by the coach/advisor.

Any athlete believed to be in violation of the rules shall be notified by the Athletic Director. The parent/guardian will be notified by the Athletic Director, and at that time a conference may be requested by the Athletic Director and/or parent/guardian. The coach of the team may be included in such meetings, at the discretion of the Director of Athletics. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified by the Athletic Director or Principal. Attendance or participation in such a meeting by the parent/guardian shall be voluntary. After such a conference, any team member found to have violated any of the rules will be subject to disciplinary action.

Penalties may range from a discussion between the coach/advisor and athlete to a permanent suspension for the rest of the season. The starting date for any disciplinary action shall be the date that determination has been made that a violation occurred.

## **Drugs, Alcohol, Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs**

### **Drugs, Including Alcohol**

Possession or use of illegal drugs, misuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs, including alcohol is not permitted at any time.

#### **Drinking**

Drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages is prohibited at any time. Wine consumed in traditional religious celebrations is not a violation of this code.

## **Course of Discipline for Violations of Drugs (Prescription and Non-Prescription) & Alcohol Policy**

### **Initial Conference with Athletic Director and Principal**

A conference with the athlete, Athletic Director, and Building Principal shall be held to determine the penalty and to decide the fate of the athlete who has been found by the Athletic Director and Principal to have violated the Drug/Alcohol Policy. The Athletic Director shall invite the parent/guardian of the athlete, and if the Athletic Director believes it is appropriate, the athlete's coach, shall also attend this meeting. Parent/guardian attendance shall be mandatory. The conference shall determine the penalties and decision regarding the fate of the athlete during the period of the suspension. In addition to the District Drug/Alcohol Policy (see section on Due Process) an athlete found to have violated the Drug/Alcohol Policy shall be subject to the following:

#### **First Violation of Drug/Alcohol Policy and Regulations**

- The athlete shall lose eligibility to participate in a minimum of one-third of the team's contests that season. If the athlete is found to be guilty of hosting a party the loss of eligibility will be a minimum of one-half of the contests. This includes postseason events such as sectionals, states, etc. The starting time for such disciplinary action shall be the date the Athletic Director/Principal concludes a violation occurred. In the event of injury or other circumstances, the disciplinary penalty shall be applied from the date the athlete would be capable to begin play.
- Any athlete wishing to remain on the team must practice with the team during the loss of eligibility to participate.

- The athlete must meet any intervention program determined to be appropriate by the Principal, Athletic Director and consenting parent/guardian.
- If the athlete is a team captain, the captain shall lose that privilege for the remainder of the season.
- Any student who has completed or is completing a disciplinary action as a result of a violation of any rules, may be denied an Athletic Letter and/or any other award(s).
- At the end of the season, any student who is completing a disciplinary action as a result of violation of any rules shall be sanctioned the remaining penalty(ies) in the next subsequent sport played. The Athletic Director shall determine the remaining contest(s) to be missed.
- Any student carrying a disciplinary action/consequence or sanction must complete the season they enter. If they quit or are removed from the team, the disciplinary action will begin anew.
- Students in grades 7 and 8, except those who have qualified for inclusion on a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team, shall enter grade 9 without prior disciplinary action/record carrying forward into the ninth grade. Students in grades 7 and 8 who are on a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team shall carry forward into the ninth grade any disciplinary action/record recorded during the time on the freshman, junior varsity or varsity team(s).

### **Second Violation and/or Subsequent:**

On the second and/or subsequent violation, an athlete violating the Drug/Alcohol Policy while in grades 7-12 shall be removed from any participation on an interscholastic team for a minimum period of one calendar year. This shall commence at the time the Principal and Athletic Director determine that a violation has occurred.

A conference including the Athletic Director, Principal, athlete, and parent/guardian shall be held in a manner and for the same purpose as stated in the section pertaining to first violations.

### **Due Process Procedures**

Any student found to have violated this Athletic Code of Conduct shall have the right to appeal the decision of the coach, Athletic Director, or Principal. The process shall be:

- Within three (3) school days following a disciplinary action by a coach/advisor, an appeal must be made in writing to the Athletic Director which states the basis for that appeal. The decision of the Athletic Director shall be rendered to the student in writing with the reasons for denial stated should the appeal be denied. That decision to deny the appeal shall be made in writing within three (3) school days following receipt of the appeal.
- The student may appeal the decision of the Athletic Director with reasons for the appeal stated in writing within three (3) school days of that decision being rendered by requesting an appeal to the Principal.
- The Principal shall render his decision in writing to the student with reasons stated for denial of the appeal within three (3) days of receiving the appeal.
- Appeal of the Principal's decision must be made in writing with reasons stated to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) school days following the decision of the Principal.
- The Superintendent's decision shall state his reasons in writing within ten (10) calendar days of receipts of the appeal request, should the decision of the Principal be upheld. The Board of Education shall have final decision in any appeal of the Superintendent's decision.
- Appeal of the Superintendent's decision must be made in writing within five (5) school days of his decision and must state the basis for the appeal. The Board of Education shall render its decision

within ten (10) school days following receipt of the appeal request. The decision of the Board of Education shall be the final level of an appeal.

### **School Accident Insurance**

The Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District does have insurance that will cover any athletic related injuries above and beyond personal coverage. Accident **Claim** Forms are available at any of the School Nurse's offices throughout the district.

**Any injuries should be reported to the COACH, and SCHOOL NURSE within ninety (90) days.**

PLEASE SIGN TO INDICATE THAT BOTH PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT HAVE READ, HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF AND ACCEPT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. INCLUDING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF SECTION 2 AND THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

### **RISK OF INJURY STATEMENT ALL SPORTS**

I am aware that competing or practicing in any athletic activity can be a dangerous activity involving risk of injury. I understand that the dangers and risks of competing and practicing in the activity include, but are not limited to, death, neck and spinal damage; head, neck or brain injury, injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons, and other aspects of a muscular-skeletal system and injury or impairment of future abilities to earn a living, to engage in a business, social, and recreational activities, and generally to enjoy life.

If I am a participant in baseball, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track & field, volleyball, or wrestling, I specifically acknowledge that a contact sport involves even a greater risk of injury and the potential for contracting communicable diseases.

Because of the possible dangers of participating in all athletic activities, I recognize the importance of the following of the coaches' instructions regarding playing techniques, training, and other team rules, and agree to obey such instructions.

In consideration of the School District's permitting me to try out for and engage in all activities related to the team including, but not limited to, trying out, practicing or participating in that activity, I hereby understand the risks associated with participation.

\* BASIC RULE: "NEVER DO ANYTHING WHICH WILL BRING EMBARRASSMENT OR AN UNFAVORABLE VIEW TO YOURSELF, YOUR TEAMMATES, COACHES, FAMILY, SCHOOL, OR COMMUNITY". PENALTIES MAY RANGE FROM A DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE COACH/ADVISOR AND ATHLETE TO A PERMANENT SUSPENSION FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON.