

# The Cairo-Durham School District Athletic Philosophy/Mission Statement

The administration, athletic staff, and coaches in the Cairo-Durham school district will ensure that anyone who attends this high school and wears the Cairo-Durham uniform will make this "privilege" among their highest priorities. They will not treat the opportunity as an "entitlement." We fully expect our student-athletes to accept the responsibilities: academically, athletically, and socially that come with representing Cairo-Durham. Our athletes will be held to a higher standard than the general high school population.

**5305.1 ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS  
AND CHEERLEADING**

I. Preface

The Cairo-Durham Central School District Board of Education seeks to offer proper guidance and direction to students who participate in interscholastic sports and cheerleading. The Board anticipates that each individual who takes part in interscholastic athletics will expand her or his talents to the maximum. In order to accomplish this goal all participants must recognize their responsibilities and be willing to meet the discipline associated with the total athletic program.

Therefore, with these principles in mind, the Board establishes the following rules and procedures in order that all who have an interest in the program can be familiar with the goals that are necessary for the successful future of interscholastic athletics in the District.

II. Eligibility Rules for All Interscholastic Sports and Cheerleading

- A. New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and Cairo-Durham cheerleading handbook regulations regarding eligibility to participate, all practice and game standards must be complied with.
- B. The academic eligibility standard shall be met by each member of an interscholastic sports team and by each cheerleader (see Board Policy 5305, Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities).
- C. All participants in interscholastic athletics and cheerleading shall have a medical examination, performed by a licensed physician, at the beginning of each school year, and a medical interview with the school nurse before each sports season.
- D. Parent consent and Athletic Code of Conduct forms provided by the District shall be signed and submitted for each sport in which a student participates.
- E. Any student injury shall be reported to the coach of the student's sport and to the school nurse as soon as it occurs, so that proper forms may be completed.

- F. Proper care of school athletic equipment and uniforms shall be the responsibility of each student. Practice or game uniforms shall not be worn in physical education classes. Lost or damaged equipment shall be replaced at the player's expense.
- G. A student who is excused from participating in physical education for a medical reason shall be prohibited from participating in any athletic event or practice on the day of such excuse.
- H. Student transportation after games and practices shall be the responsibility of the student and her/his parent or guardian. Responsibility for game transportation shall be explained on the signed parent form described at 2.D, above.
- I. Proper behavior shall be observed by all students when being transported by the District to or from a game, at home or away.
- J. Sportsmanship and respect for each individual shall be the goal of all students, as well as of athletics.

III. Special Disciplinary Rules for Students Participating in Interscholastic Athletics and Cheerleading

- A. Smoking by any student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading is strictly prohibited. Any violator shall be dismissed from participation for the remainder of the sport's season, or the consequences may exceed such seasonal suspension, upon the recommendation of the building principal and athletic director.
- B. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages by any student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading is strictly prohibited. Any violator shall be dismissed from participation for the remainder of the sport's season, or the consequences may exceed such seasonal suspension, upon the recommendation of the building principal and athletic director.

- C. Use of any drug or controlled substance, except as prescribed by a licensed physician, and except as used in the manner and for the purpose prescribed, is prohibited for any student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading, and shall result in the violator's dismissal from participation for the remainder of the sport's season, or the consequences may exceed such seasonal suspension, upon the recommendation of the building principal and athletic director.
- D. Any student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading shall observe rules of proper conduct and shall manifest good citizenship while in school.
- E. Any student who wishes to participate in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading shall be required to meet the academic eligibility criteria for such participation.
- F. Regular attendance at school and at each class in which she/he is enrolled shall be required of any student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading.
- G. Attendance at all practices is expected of each student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading. Failure to attend practice shall be excused only by the sport or activity's coach, and only upon the presentation to the coach of a proper excuse.
- H. Each player or participant in each interscholastic sport or activity shall ride the team bus to and from each game or competition. The sole exceptions to this rule shall be if a student's parent or guardian is present at the contest or event, in which case (i) the student participant may be transported from the contest or event by her/his own parent or guardian, or (ii), with a note from the student parent or guardian a sibling may transport the student participant, or (iii), with a note from another student participant's parent or guardian granting permission, that other student participant may be transported from the contest or event by the parent or guardian who is present.

- I. Appropriate dress, which conforms to the District's student dress code, shall be required at all home and away games, contests or events of any student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading. Conduct in conformity with the student code of conduct shall likewise be expected of any such student at home or away.
  
- J. Any student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading shall maintain appropriate personal hygiene and grooming while participating in any cheerleading or interscholastic athletic event, contest, event or practice.

#### IV. Penalties

Penalties for infractions of the rules and requirements stated previously when the occurrence of such infractions has been duly ascertained shall be determined by the building principal. Factors to be included in determining an appropriate penalty for any such infraction shall include severity of the infraction, repeated incidence of the infraction, the time of the season in which the infraction occurs and other circumstances in which the infraction took place. Penalties may be incurred for violation of sportsmanship rules, as well as other infractions.

- A. Penalties can always be more severe than those stated, but never less severe.
- B. A second offense, resulting in the athlete's dismissal for an entire sports year, will also require enrollment in an approved counseling program. Upon completion of the approved program, the student athlete will be permitted to compete in a subsequent sports season.
- C. Input from the Athletic Director and Coach in such matters can be requested.

#### V. EXAMPLES OF BEHAVIORS THAT VIOLATE THE CODE

- **Possession and/or Use of Drugs or Alcohol** – The possession or use of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol or the consumption of drugs or alcohol at any time is strictly prohibited.
- **Possession and/or Use of Tobacco Products** – The possession or use of tobacco products is strictly prohibited.
- **Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties** – Student athletes are prohibited from hosting a party that involves alcohol, drugs, marijuana or other controlled substances.
- **Attendance** – The practice of students staying home on school days to rest for events that day or night is unacceptable. Student must be in attendance for 2 full blocks of school. College visitations and field trips would exempt the athlete from this rule.

N.B. Approval by the principal or designee for any other circumstance must be received 24 hours prior to the day of absent.

- **Cairo-Durham Code of Conduct Violation** – Any violation of the Cairo-Durham Code of Conduct resulting in an internal or an out of school suspension, will result in progressive levels of discipline under this code.
- **Hazing/Initiation Ceremony** – Cairo-Durham interscholastic coaches will not permit, nor will Cairo-Durham student athletes stage, any type of “initiation ceremony” or hazing for athletes making a team for the first time or any time, any level. This prohibition includes any athlete giving other athletes haircuts, shaving other athletes, locker/shower pranks, etc.
- **Poor Sportsmanship** – Student athletes, whether participants or spectators, will observe courteous behavior during all sporting events. Booming, whistling, name-calling, obscene gestures, use of profanity, fighting or arguing with the referee etc. will not be tolerated.
- **Stealing** – Stealing of any kind, including athletic clothing belonging to Cairo-Durham or our opponents will not be tolerated. It will result in dismissal from the team for that sports season, which is congruous with substance and tobacco violations.

#### VI. Additional Matters

- A. Any student participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading shall be expected to get proper rest and follow a proper diet. The Board states its expectation that students' parents or guardians shall be of assistance in ensuring that these basic health and training requirements are observed.
- B. The Board encourages each student's parents or guardians to support their son or daughter in her/his interscholastic athletic or cheerleading activities, and to support the District's policy and regulations.

- C. **Playing Time** - A student athlete who has enjoyed success in his/her sport in outside programs may experience difficulty accepting a team role that does not include large amounts of playing time. Playing time is based on several factors and is part of the coach's responsibility. Sulking, complaining or creating an uncomfortable environment for your teammates and coach is not the answer. If a student athlete is unhappy with the amount of playing time h/she is receiving it is recommended that the athlete request a private meeting with the coach to address the situation. In athletics (as well as in life) each individual has a role to play and each role is valuable.
- D. Students participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading are expected to understand and comply with all rules relating to eligibility for such extracurricular activities. Any such student shall sign and return to the District the "Cairo-Durham Central School's Athletic Code of Conduct" (see 5305.1 - Form 2 for this Policy) prior to and as a condition of participation in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading.
- E. Parents or guardians of students participating in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading are expected to understand the rules relating to their student's eligibility for such participation. The parent or guardian must sign and return to the District the "Parent Consent: Athletic Participation and Medical Treatment" form (see 5305.1 - Form 1 for this Policy) prior to participation in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading.

VII. Application of The Code

The Athletic Code of Conduct will apply to each student athlete for one calendar year from the date of his/her most recent signature and will be in effect at all times, in all locations, including non-school activities.

Violations of the Code will result in penalties stated herein. Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and put into effect additional guidelines specific to his/her particular team.



Offenses Resulting in Arrest or the Filing of Formal Charges in Court

Athletes who participate in activities resulting in their arrest or formal charges being filed in Court may face additional penalties under this Code. If the District has adequate and competent evidence that the student participated in the offense for which he or she is charged, a penalty may be imposed according to this Code prior to completion of the criminal proceeding. If the district does not have such evidence and the student is convicted of a crime, the penalty pursuant to this Code will be imposed upon conviction. In those cases, the athlete will continue to participate in his/her sport until resolution of the matter by the judicial system.

**DUE PROCESS** – Prior to imposition of the penalty, the Director of Athletics will notify the athlete of the nature of the infraction and the student will be given an opportunity to explain his or her side of the story.

**APPEAL PROCEDURE** – THE STUDENT AND/OR PARENT/GUARDIAN HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ATHLETIC PENALTIES TO THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS. APPEALS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING WITHIN THREE DAYS OF ASSIGNMENT OF A PENALTY FOR A CODE VIOLATION. WITHIN THREE SCHOOL DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE LETTER BY THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, HE WILL RESPOND TO THE APPEAL.

References

- Policy 5020.3, Rights of Students Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Policy 5305, Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities
- Policy 5309, Student Conduct
- Policy 5310, Student Discipline
- Policy 5311.5, Dress Code
- Policy 5312.1, Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Policy 5320, Student Conduct on School Buses

**5305.1-Form 1 PARENT CONSENT: ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION  
AND MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child has expressed an interest in participating in the Cairo-Durham Central School District's interscholastic athletic program. It is important that you and your child understand the goals of the program and agree to abide by the rules established by the District for the benefit of those who participate.

**WARNING:** Participation in athletics includes a risk of serious injury, permanent paralysis, infectious disease and death. These risks increase in such programs as gymnastics and in contact sports such as football and wrestling. Athletic participation will also involve travel in District vehicles. Except as expressly permitted by Board of Education policy, no travel will be permitted other than in District vehicles, and all travel include serious risk of injury. You and your child will be provided with information concerning these participation risks, and these risks should be carefully discussed and considered before you sign this form.

1. Purpose of Athletic Program. Interscholastic sports are part of a broad extracurricular program designed to teach students certain skills and to reinforce certain concepts of self-worth (achievement), cooperative efforts (teamwork), and ethical decision making (sportsmanship).

2. Physical Exams and Medical Conditions. All participants must receive a **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FROM THE TEAM PHYSICIAN PRIOR TO THE START OF PRACTICE.** We will make these arrangements on a team basis, and your child will be notified when and where this exam will be administered. Please consult your own physician regarding your child's protection against tetanus. If there is a question about your child's eligibility for physical reasons, then it will be discussed with you prior to the start of the program.

3. Insurance Coverage. Parents will be primarily responsible for the costs of any medical expenses. School insurance for the medical treatment of sport-related injuries is applicable only after the parents' health insurance has been used. The District's insurance is called scheduled excess coverage and generally will not pay the full cost of treatment. The cost of medical benefit insurance on a total basis would be so costly as in effect to eliminate the program.
4. Training, Behavior and Academic Performance Expectations. Students who participate in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading are expected to understand and comply with Board policies relating to such eligibility. Within the first three team meetings, the coach will explain the attendance, training and athletic code rules as well as eligibility rules for participation. In addition to the strict observance of these rules, your child will be expected to continue to meet all regular school obligations of citizenship and academic achievement.
5. Equipment. School equipment issued to your child for participation in athletic activities is her/his responsibility and must be returned promptly upon request. Reimbursement from the student will be expected for loss or destruction beyond ordinary wear and tear.
6. Student Injury or Illness. In the event that your child becomes sick or receives an injury during athletic participation, all reasonable efforts will be made by District personnel to contact you and obtain required consents for medical care. IN SITUATIONS WHERE YOU CANNOT BE CONTACTED FOR SPECIFIC CONSENT TO TREATMENT, AND WHERE DELAY CREATES A RISK TO YOUR CHILD'S LIFE OR HEALTH, THE DISTRICT'S REPRESENTATIVES WILL USE THE AUTHORITY YOU GRANT THEM BY THIS FORM TO OBTAIN APPROPRIATE MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT FOR YOUR CHILD.

**By signing this form (5305.1 –Form 1) the student-athlete and parents/ guardians acknowledge they have read and understand the provisions of Board Policy 5305.1 and will adhere to the conditions stated within.**

**Your signature indicates you have read and understand the Cairo-Durham Athletic Code of Conduct.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Athlete/Date