Clymer Central School
Interscholastic Athletics Handbook
For
Student-Athletes & Parents/Guardians

Expectations of Excellence

8672 East Main Street
Clymer, NY 14724

Main Office: 716-355-4444

Athletic Director:
Mr. Scott Neckers (sneckers@clymercsd.org)

Principal:
Mr. Corey W Markham (omarkham@clymercsd.org)
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOSOPHY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS PROGRAMS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOALS OF THE MODIFIED PROGRAM</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOALS OF THE JUNIOR VARSITY PROGRAM</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOALS OF THE VARSITY PROGRAM</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPECTATIONS OF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPECTATIONS OF THE COACH</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPECTATIONS OF THE FAN / SPECTATOR</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTSMANSHIP</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREEED FOR COMPETITORS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CLYMER ATHLETE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITY</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT CITIZENSHIP</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAZING</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHAT MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE?</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRESS CODE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT POLICY</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRACTICES AND CONTESTS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY VACATIONS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION TO AWAY CONTESTS</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHANGING SPORTS &amp; CROSS-OVER STUDENT-ATHLETES</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC LETTER AWARDS</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODE OF ETHICS AND ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLYMER CENTRAL SCHOOL’S STUDENT-ATHLETE &amp; PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHILOSOPHY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The interscholastic athletic program in the Clymer Central School District is an integral part of the total educational process. Participation in athletic programs results in:

- Growing the athletic skills
- Understanding the concepts of work, sacrifice, achievement
- Cooperating with others to achieve a goal
- Reacting with grace under pressure
- And understanding the importance of the relationship between athletics, the school, home and the community.

The interscholastic athletic program is available to the student after the regular school day. As a participant, the student assumes responsibilities in addition to those required for academic growth. These include:

- balancing athletic participation with academic achievement
- promoting good sportsmanship through personal example
- and complying with rules and regulation established by the coaches, administration, and the Board of Education

All students willing to accept these additional responsibilities are encouraged to participate in interscholastic athletic programs.

In addition to developing athletic skills, coaches and participants are expected to demonstrate appropriate appearance, manners, citizenship, conduct and sportsmanship at all times in the school, the community and at all contests.

SPORTS PROGRAMS

Fall Season
Football (Varsity & JV) with Sherman & Panama
Girls Volleyball (Varsity & JV)
Cross Country (Varsity & JV) with Sherman & Panama

Winter Season
Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV, and Modified)
Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV, and Modified)
Boys Bowling (Boys & Girls) with Sherman

Spring Season
Boys Baseball (Varsity & Modified) with Sherman
Girls Softball (Varsity & JV)
Track & Field (Boys & Girls) with Sherman & Panama
GOALS OF THE MODIFIED PROGRAM

The Modified program is designed to lend itself to the development of a competitive spirit tempered by an emphasis on player participation. For many student-athletes, this is the first introduction to competitive sports, different from recreation in its demands and philosophy.

- Gaining experience through training and play should be paramount, not the win/loss record.
- Focus is on learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, social emotional growth, and healthy competition.
- Learning the basic skills of each sport will be stressed upon all players.
- All players will receive playing time, as safety and positive participation in practice allow.

GOALS OF THE JUNIOR VARSITY PROGRAM

The Junior Varsity program is designed to lend itself to increased interscholastic competition and winning. It provides an increased level of competition with an emphasis upon team play, physical conditioning, and refinement of basic skills.

- Although being successful on the JV level is important, winning is not the sole objective.
- Athletic abilities, commitments, and positive attitudes will be rewarded and tested in competitive game situations.
- An attempt will be made to allow as many participants as possible to play but not all will play equally. At the JV level, playing time will be based on the degree of effort, skill improvement, ability to compete and execution of skills at game speed demonstrated by the student-athlete in practice and during games.
- A major focus continues to be the teaching of basic fundamentals of the game and the development of game skills and sportsmanship.

GOALS OF THE VARSITY PROGRAM

The Varsity program is designed to lend itself to an emphasis on winning. The program will never emphasize winning at the expense of the rules of the game, good sportsmanship, or the health and safety of the student-athlete.

- The Varsity level presents a higher level of competition including a more rigorous schedule.
- A major focus continues to be the teaching of higher-level skills particular to each sport.
- A sound attitude and advanced level of skill are prerequisites for a position on a varsity team, as is the realization that a varsity sport requires a six-day-a-week commitment. This commitment is often extended into vacation periods for all sport seasons.
- While contests and practices are rarely held on holidays or Sundays, the dedication and commitment needed to conduct a successful varsity program should be taken seriously.
- Roster size at the varsity level is limited. The number of participants on any given team is a function of the number needed to conduct an effective and meaningful practice and to play the contest.
- It is vital that each team member have a role and be informed of its importance. The number of roster positions is relative to the student-athletes, acceptance of their individual roles in pursuit of the team’s goals. While constant participation over the course of a season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time at the varsity level is never guaranteed. It is the coach’s responsibility to make clear to the student-athlete what one’s role is on the team.
- Each student-athlete’s performance is constantly assessed on the basis of improvement both during a practice or contest.
EXPECTATIONS OF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

The parents/guardians of Clymer Central School student-athletes will communicate fairly and openly with coaches by:

- Communicating openly, honestly, and with respect
- Communicating issues and concerns in an appropriate and timely manner. (For example: Coaches are not to be approached immediately preceding, during or immediately following competition.)
- Following an appropriate chain of communication such as
  1. **Team Coach** - The team coach is the best source of information. The parent/guardian should address concerns directly with the student-athlete’s team coach.
  2. **Athletic Director** - If, after speaking with the coach one is not satisfied, the next step would be for the parent/guardian to speak to the athletic director. Please be advised that anonymous concerns will not be addressed.
  3. **High School Principal** – If, after speaking with both Team Coach and the Athletic Director, the next step would be for the parent/guardian to arrange a meeting with the High School Principal.
- Attending parent/guardian meetings and reading information disseminated by the school and coaching staff.

The parents/guardians of Clymer Central School student-athletes will demonstrate good sportsmanship by:

- Providing support for coaches and officials in order to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all student-athletes.
- Understanding the game is for the student-athletes and not for the adults.
- Recognizing that student participation in athletics is a privilege.
- Using good sportsmanship as a spectator and conducting themselves in a manner that reflects well on both the team and the school.
- Promoting the team by being supportive and helpful of the school athletic program.
- Refraining from coaching their student-athlete from the stands or the sidelines.
- Expecting consistent student-athlete attendance at practices and games.
- Cheering at sporting events, but never becoming belligerent and arrogant towards players, coaches, opponents or officials.

The parents/guardians of Clymer Central School student-athletes will create a positive and supportive environment to promote their student-athlete’s well-being by:

- Being positive and letting their student-athlete know that something good is being accomplished simply by being part of a team.
- Expecting their student-athlete to play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Insisting on an academic commitment from their student-athlete while providing supporting planning how to meet their academic responsibilities given the demands of training and practice.
- Encouraging their student-athlete to work hard and to do their best while not criticizing coaches or offering excuses if their student-athlete is not playing.
- Supporting good conditioning and healthy lifestyle habits.
- Placing the emotional and physical well-being of their student-athlete ahead of any personal desire to win.
- Being a role model for other parents/guardians by remaining positive at sporting events.
- Assisting their student-athlete in adhering to all policies and rules set by the school and team.
## EXPECTATIONS OF THE COACH

The coaches of Clymer Central School will maintain a role of coach as professional and will keep the role of coach in proper perspective by:

- Creating a safe, secure, and well-supervised environment for all student-athletes.
- Establishing high expectations while developing and communicating clear and specific goals for the team and individual players.
- Maintaining open and honest communication with students, parents/guardians, faculty, staff and other coaches.
- Providing leadership that includes discipline, respect, and praise.
- Supporting student-athlete academic expectations, responsibilities, and achievements.
- Developing and demonstrating a good knowledge base of best practice specific to their coaching arena.
- Supporting and collaborating with coaches in other athletic programs — encouraging student-athletes to participate in as many athletic activities as they may desire. No student-athlete will be encouraged to participate in one sport over another.
- Taking advantage of any professional development opportunity when school funds are available for such.
- Developing the knowledge and understanding all policies and rules set by the school.

The coaches of Clymer Central School will be positive role models in personal management, appearance, ethics and behavior by:

- Instilling an enthusiastic commitment to excellence.
- Being a living example of sound personal values and good sportsmanship both on and off the playing arena.
- Leading with dignity. Being modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Not using, or allow the use by others, of profanity, abusive language or gestures.
- Avoiding behavior in game situations that will incite players, opponents or spectators.
- Understanding and abiding by the rules and regulations of the game and respecting the integrity and judgment of the officials.
- Promoting and teaching only ethical, aggressive and fair play, while stressing good sportsmanship at all times.
- Providing an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration among coaches and players.
- Properly using and caring for school owned equipment associated with their sport.
- Becoming an integral part of, and developing rapport with, the Clymer Central School community including administration, faculty, staff, coaches, parents/guardians, and students.
- Creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for student-athletes.
- Understanding their leadership style and its impact on student-athletes.
- Following the appropriate purchasing procedures to procure goods and services for their program.
EXPECTATIONS OF THE FAN / SPECTATOR

The fans/spectators of Clymer Central School will be an example of positive encouragement while supporting our student-athletes’ coaches and officials by:

● Knowing and demonstrating the fundamentals of sportsmanship and good behavior.
● Respecting, cooperating and responding enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches and student-athletes of all teams.
● Censuring fellow spectators whose behavior is inappropriate.
● Being positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
● Respecting the judgment and the professionalism of the officials, coaches and players and extending all courtesies to them.
● Refraining from feet stomping, disrespectful remarks/chants/signs, and the use of noisemakers.
● Being quiet when players need total concentration such as a free throw in basketball or a serve in tennis/volleyball.
● Obeying the regulations of the school. Those who do not conform will be brought to the attention of the school authorities.
● Understanding that schools are responsible for the conduct of their respective spectators, whether at home or away.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Keys to Sportsmanship

● Know the rules of the game.
● Recognize good play by both teams.
● Respect your opponent and spectators.

CREED FOR COMPETITORS

● **PLAY HARD** - After the contest is over, you can say, "I gave everything I’ve got physically. I fought my heart out."
● **PLAY SMART** - Keep your poise. Be intent. Stay focused. Concentrate only on the game.
● **PLAY FAIR** - Fight clean. Obey both the letter and the spirit of the rules.
● **NEVER QUIT** - Never concede. Never give up or give in. Maintain your self-respect, and respect your opponents by giving an all-out effort.
● **HAVE FUN** - Don’t shrink from the fear of defeat or let the bitter taste of defeat destroy your love of the game.
● **KEEP PERSPECTIVE** - After it is over, it makes no ethical difference whether you won or lost. Self-worth is not predicated on the vagaries of victory or defeat. What does matter most is that you love the challenge of the game, savor the camaraderie of your teammates, and earn the respect of your opponents; namely, that you have been true to your best self.
ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A student’s academic progress is the primary reason for their attendance in school. This policy states that no student may participate in extracurricular activities or interscholastic athletics unless the student is demonstrating satisfactory academic progress. Participating athletes must be passing all classes.

Steps to Monitor Academic Eligibility
1. At the beginning of the activity or season, the advisor or coach shall formally set the academic expectations required for participation.
2. Academic performance will be continually evaluated by all classroom teachers. Each all teachers Grades 7-12 shall have their PowerSchool grades updated by the deadline stated by the Guidance Office.
3. The Guidance Counselors shall review the names of students failing with the Building Principal to determine if there are any extenuating circumstances that should be considered regarding the placement of a student on the Ineligibility List.
4. Student failing two or more subjects at the beginning of the five-week marking period will be subject to five weeks of extracurricular suspension. Students are automatically ineligible for two weeks.
   a. Ineligibility means that the student cannot participate in competitions, including scrimmages.
   b. However, the student may continue to practice, attend fundraising activities, meetings, etc. At the discretion of the coach/advisor AND submission of weekly progress report(s) to the Main Office.
5. Weekly progress reports will discuss the student's academic progress and their efforts to improve in the failing class over the course of the past week. This will be signed by the teacher of that particular course and submitted to the Main Office by 3:10 Friday.
   a. This is the student-athlete’s responsibility to have their weekly progress report completed.
6. If the weekly progress report is not completed nor submitted to the Main Office at the particular date and time, the administration will extend the ineligibility for another week.
7. Student may be removed from the Ineligibility list at any time during the five-week period by:
   a. Raising and maintaining their grade point average to a passing mark
   b. Teacher verifying passing grade in writing to the Main Office
RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CLYMER ATHLETE

Being a member of a Clymer athletic team is a privilege and honor. To participate carries a certain tradition, pride, and responsibility. Hard work of many community members over the years has formed the sports culture of Clymer. As a member of an athletic squad at Clymer, you have inherited this great tradition of Pirate Pride. For the privilege of participating in athletics, all student-athletes must realize that more is expected from them than of other students in our school. As a student-athlete, you will make many sacrifices that will benefit yourself, your team, and your school. Your actions will reflect not only on those who you are associated with now, but those who have contributed so much to our school’s past. In the long run, your sacrifices and dedication that you have put forth will be recognized not only by your family, but the community. Regardless of success on the field or on the court, hard work, dedication, and discipline will be rewarded with fond memories and personal achievements.

ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITY

When as a student athlete you make a team, you have committed yourself to an obligation for the full season:

1. If a player quits one sport he/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport in the same season unless previous agreement has been made by both coaches.
2. If a player does not make a team he/she will be allowed to try out for another sport in the same season.
3. If a player is suspended or dismissed from a team he/she will not be allowed to try out for another sport until the next season.
4. If a player leaves a team, no matter what the reason may be, he/she is responsible for turning in all equipment and meeting all other obligations to the team and coach.
5. It is the responsibility of the players to report all injuries, no matter how small, to the coach.
6. After a regular sports season starts, all athletes are expected to complete the season. The season begins at the first official practice.
7. The athlete is responsible for following the Athletic Code of Ethics/Training Rules.
8. The athlete is responsible for showing respect to his/her coaches.
9. The athlete is responsible for representing their school with pride.

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP

A. MAJOR FORMS OF DISCIPLINE

Every participant must demonstrate good citizenship in the school and community. Participants who are arrested or violate the rules of the Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook of Clymer Central School will be subject to consequences.

NOTE: Student-athletes and their parents/guardians are under obligation to report an incident that they were involved in that resulted in their arrest. When a student-athlete is arrested during or out-of-season, the principal, athletic director, and coach will decide on consequences not specifically outlined in the athletic code.

B. MINOR FORMS OF DISCIPLINE

Coaches have the authority to discipline a student-athlete for violations of team rules (example: coming late to practice). This necessary discipline is not to be taken lightly by either coach or student-athlete. Our philosophy is that student-athletes are an integral part of the total education program and every effort will be made to make each situation a learning one.
C. RESERVE CLAUSE
Building administrators reserve the right to rule on any other infraction not covered above that is related to athletic participation or that affects the educational process.

D. SEVERITY OF THE VIOLATION
There is no distinction in the severity of the offense (example: one sip of alcohol is treated the same as intoxication). If the rules are broken in any manner the Athletic Code will be applied fairly and consistently.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Athletic Participants will not be permitted to participate on a given day for the following reasons:

● If they are absent from school for illness or illegal reasons for all or part of the school day.
● If they are not demonstrating satisfactory academic progress. This means the student-athlete must be passing all classes.
  o At the beginning of each activity or sports season, the advisor or coach shall formally counsel student participants on the expected academic progress required for participation in extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics.
● If serving office detention for disciplinary reasons, the student may not participate in any scheduled events that day, but will be required to attend practice.
  o Enforcement of this provision rests with the coach of that activity. Special situations over which the student has no control will be decided by the coach and either the Athletic Director(s) and/or the Principal.

Any athletic participant who is guilty of stealing, possession or use of any tobacco product, alcohol or any non-prescription, illegal drug whether on or off school grounds, will be subject to a review by the Athletic Council that will determine the status of the individual. The consequences listed below will be applied.

● Misconduct not covered above including, but not limited to, vandalism, violent conduct, exhibition of poor sportsmanship, evidence of a lack of responsibility or respect to the coach, any other staff member, the team or the school will result in consequences determined by the Athletic Council.

HAZING

Hazing, in any form, including initiation which is degrading, is strictly forbidden by New York State law and Clymer Central School. No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed at Clymer Central School or in our athletic program. It is further understood that we have a duty to report any acts of hazing we see or know of to a coach or administrator. Participation in or failure to report any hazing will result in a disciplinary review and possible suspension and/or dismissal from the athletic program.
STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR

If a Student-Athlete is suspected to be in violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct or the Student Code of Conduct Handbook, the Athletic Council [High School Principal, Athletic Director, Student’s Advisor or Coach & one other out of season Coach or Advisor] will meet to discuss the said violation(s) and may elect to administer a consequence from the following:

Consequences for Student-Athletes:

- **FIRST OFFENSE:** Suspension from competition equal to 50% of the remaining regular scheduled contests. This percentage can be reduced to 25% with an agreement from the athlete and parents that they will attend counseling that will be set up by the school.
- **SECOND OFFENSE:** Suspension from competition for the rest of the season. At the end of the season the decision will be made between the Athletic Director and Principal on the suspension carrying over into the next season. The athlete will be required to attend more intensive counseling set up by the school.
- **THIRD OFFENSE:** Suspension without exception for one calendar year from the date of the offense.

Any student who has been suspended under this portion of the Student-Athlete Code of Behavior of must:

1. Get approval from the Principal to return to the sports program.
2. The student and parent/guardian must re-sign the athletic code pledge before reinstatement is completed.

**Athletic Review:** All suspensions and dismissals are subject to review by the Athletic Director, the Principal, the Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education and Commissioner of Education upon request of the student’s parents.

**Community Service Option**

- **First offense only**— Students may request a reduction in suspension time for a first violation only. If approved, a community service project may be substituted for up to 50% of the penalty time assessed for a first violation. Upon application by a student, approval may be granted by the Athletic Council. The student must initiate, organize and conduct this community service project. Progress and final reports must be submitted by the student as directed by the Council which shall have final authority as to the value and successful completion of the project. If the Council determines the student not to be truthful in any part of the process, the full penalty (30 days) shall be assessed in addition to any penalty already served. All offenses carry over from previous grade levels (i.e. first offense may occur during the ninth-grade year resulting in a 25% suspension and the second offense may occur during the eleventh-grade year resulting in a 50% suspension). The exception to this will be between the middle and high school years. A “clean slate” is given once a student enters ninth grade. Students are also considered for suspension if they are present at said offenses.
## ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

A. This policy shall remain in effect from the onset of participation or the beginning of the school year, whichever is earlier, through the end of the school year to include off season times. All participants in all interscholastic athletic programs and activities shall be governed by this policy.  
B. All Board of Education approved Coaches are required to report any and all violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct to the Athletic Director(s) and/or Principal. Coaches are required to do this as soon as a violation is brought to their attention.  
C. The Principal shall investigate any alleged violation of this Policy upon receipt of credible first-hand information. Oral reports must be reduced to writing and signed by the witness prior to any Athletic Council action. The Principal must advise the student and his/her parents/guardians of any accusation and must provide the student and his/her parents/guardians an opportunity to review the evidence and to provide any additional information for consideration.  
D. The Principal shall present all information to the Athletic Council, which shall make a determination as to whether a violation of the Athletic Guide has occurred. The decision shall be rendered by the Athletic Council within a reasonable time period generally not to exceed two weeks. The Principal will mail said written decision to the parent/guardian and student.  
E. Any consequence involving event forfeiture will have that consequence applied to the appropriate number of regularly scheduled events in consecutive order immediately following the determination by the Council.  
F. A student/athlete has the right to appeal a decision of the Athletic Council to the Superintendent, the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education of New York State, in that order. In order to file an appeal with the Superintendent or Board of Education, the student/athlete must set forth the grounds for the appeal in writing and must submit the appeal to his/her Principal within five school days of receipt of the determination that is being appealed. The filing of an appeal shall not affect the imposition of an event forfeiture penalty while the appeal is being considered.

## ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

The school and the coaching staff feel it is vital for students to have excellent school attendance. Therefore, a student will not be allowed to participate in that day’s practice or game if he/she:  
A. Is absent all day from school. (With the exception of verified full day medical appointments, court appointments, funerals, or situations previously agreed upon, consistent with the attendance policy.)  
B. Leaves school during the day. (With the exception of verified medical appointments or permission of an administrator.)  
C. Leaves school due to illness during the school day.  
D. If a student-athlete has an assigned detention or In-School-Suspension (ISS) on the day of a scheduled athletic event, that student-athlete cannot participate in that athletic event. However, the student-athlete is still expected to attend the athletic event with the team. The student-athlete may also receive additional consequences per coach’s discretion.
If for some reason, other than an illegal excuse, a student is tardy for school, the following procedures will take place:

- **1st Unexcused Tardy (1st Warning)** – Athlete will meet with the High School Principal and a written agreement will be put in place to avoid future unexcused tardiness.
- **2nd Unexcused Tardy (2nd Warning)** – A meeting will be held between the student-athlete, the athlete’s coach, athletic director(s), and the High School Principal. The result of this meeting will be a severe warning against any future tardiness, as well as, written documentation of the meeting. In addition, parental/guardian notification will be given by the Athletic Director(s).
- **Excessive Tardiness (Beyond a 2nd Warning)** - This will be considered blatant disregard for school procedures and will result in the student-athlete “being benched for the next game or athletic event”. Again, parents/guardians will be notified by the Athletic Director(s).

### WHAT MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE?

The following items are to be completed by the student-athlete and parent/guardian before the first practice with any team:

- Take and pass a health examination (physical) and have record of exam on file in the health office.
- Meet academic eligibility requirements.
- Attend pre-season, all-sport meeting as well as team meeting. This must be done before each season of participation. If this cannot be done, a meeting with the coach must take place before practice begins.
- Complete the **ALL** athletic forms and return to the coach before practice begins.
- **Transfer students** must have athletic transfer paperwork filed in the athletic office and academic transfer paperwork filed in the appropriate school guidance office. Transfer students new to the Clymer Central School District cannot participate in any athletic activity until an athletic transfer is complete.

### DRESS CODE

The Board of Education approved “Dress Code” applies both in the classroom and in athletics. Student/Athletes represent the District and Community and as such may be held to a higher standard than other students. The Dress Code is as follows:

- All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions.
- Students and their parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance.
- Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.
- A student's dress, grooming, and appearance, including hairstyle/color, jewelry, make-up and nails shall:
  - Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
  - Recognize that extremely brief garments such as tube tops, net tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines (front and/or back) and see-through garments are not appropriate.
  - Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
  - Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
  - Not include the wearing of hats in the classroom except for a medical or religious purpose.
- Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
- Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

Each District Administrator, and their designee, shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents/guardians of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year, and of any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension.

**ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT POLICY**

Players are responsible for the equipment and uniform they have been issued. Players will be financially responsible for any item that they fail to turn in at the end of the season or return items in a condition unsuitable for future use. Players will not be allowed to participate in upcoming sports until uniform and equipment have been turned in or paid for by the student.

**PRACTICES AND CONTESTS**

Each athlete is required to attend all practices and/or contests unless excused by the coach. Please, whenever possible, make all of your other plans around your sport season. Communicate with the coach, well in advance, all known conflicts. Unexcused absences could/may result in a suspension from participation by the coach and/or athletic department. An athlete who is injured or ill but still able to attend school is also required to attend practice even though they will not be actively participating. Any student-athlete failing to abide by this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action could range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the team.

All practices are to be conducted as “closed” practices. Only persons (students, adults, etc.) associated with the specific sport should be permitted to be at practice. For the benefit of all parties involved, students who are not on a team’s roster may not be at practice. Also, younger siblings waiting for rides are not to attend practices. Parents/guardians are expected to contact the coach, in advance, if they would like to attend a practice. Guests must be pre-approved – by the coach.

Remember, once you have been placed on a team roster, you are making a commitment to that team for the full season. Any student-athlete who considers quitting a team is encouraged to first talk with the respective coach and communicates his/her concerns and/or reasons for wanting to leave the team.

**FAMILY VACATIONS**

When a family chooses to take their vacation during sport seasons, it must be understood that the time missed by the student-athlete can affect team chemistry and personal conditioning. Student-athletes who miss practices or competition for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted. Coaches shall make every effort to inform parents/guardians and student-athletes of the season’s schedule as far in advance as possible.
TRANSPORTATION TO AWAY CONTESTS

All student-athletes and team personnel will ride to and from all athletic contests on transportation approved and provided by the school district. A student-athlete may ride home with his/her parent/guardian with the approval of the coach and the parent/guardian signing the transportation release form provided by the coach. Permission for a student-athlete to leave with any other individual(s), other than another parent/guardian will not be given. Please note, a student-athlete may receive permission to ride home with another team parent/guardian provided he/she presents a written permission slip from his/her respective parent/guardian and gets this approved by the Athletic Director and MS/HS Principal in advance before leaving for the away contest. The student-athlete will present this permission slip with the Athletic Director’s signature and MS/HS Principal’s signature of approval to their respective coach. In special cases, parents/guardians may request to provide transportation to a contest for their child only. In such cases, the request must be made in writing in advance to the Athletic Director and MS/HS Principal. If a student violates the rules as stated above, he/she may be suspended from upcoming games.

CHANGING SPORTS & CROSS-OVER STUDENT-ATHLETES

It is important that the student-athlete try to go out for the right sport, particularly at the varsity and junior varsity levels. A student-athlete may not change from one sport to another once a team has been selected (5th Practice or for Football 5th Practice with full contact), without permission from the coaches involved and the athletic director. If for some reason, a student-athlete decides to “quit” a team after the above mentioned 5th practice, one will be restricted from participating in athletic teams in the following manner:

- The student athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport based on the percentage of time spent playing the previous stated-sport. For example, student athlete “resigned” 75% into the season for a fall sport, the student athlete will NOT participate in 25% of the next season sport (winter or spring).
- The percentage of the season that the athlete participated with a team prior to their “resignation” will be determined by the Athletic Council. The number of practices and athletic events that the athlete will not be allowed to participate in will be determined by the Athletic Council.

If they have been cut from one team, it is legitimate to try-out for another sport. The athlete must understand that practices are sport specific and cannot count from one sport to another.

Student-athletes wishing to try and play multiple sports in the same Athletic Season will follow all Section 6 Guidelines regarding Cross-Over Athletics. The student must meet the practice requirements for both sports in order to be eligible. The student athlete must, when possible, declare which sport is their major sport before the 1st practice in either sport. If there are any scheduling conflicts between the two sports, the declared major sport will have priority. Coaches of each respective sport may decide playing time based on factors including ability, sportsmanship, and time spent in practice. This should be down with the prior consent of both coaches.
# ATHLETIC LETTER AWARDS

All student-athletes may receive an athletic letter upon the following criteria:

1. A student must complete the current season in the sport in which he/she is endeavoring to earn an award and must be a squad member in good standing at the end of the season. By current season is meant all regularly scheduled games and playoffs and not just league games.

2. Players shall be eligible to receive an appropriate award if they have been a significant participant.

3. For the varsity awards an 8” maroon “C”, an appropriate insert designating the sport, a service bar, and a certificate will be awarded.

4. For all junior varsity awards a 6” maroon “C” and a certificate will be awarded. For sports with no junior varsity team a J.V. letter and certificate may be awarded to any freshman or sophomore that contributed significantly to the team but has not been able to earn a varsity award. In case of a student moving up from a J.V. to a Varsity squad he/she takes with him/her earned games participated in and applies them to the higher award.

5. It is possible for an athlete to receive three letters in their high school career – a J.V. letter, a Varsity maroon and a Varsity gold letter.

6. If a person earns more than one J.V. letter in their high school career they will receive only one J.V. letter and certificates for the remaining J.V. letters.

7. If a person earns more than one Varsity maroon letter in their high school career they will receive only one Varsity maroon letter and receive certificates and appropriate inserts for the remaining gold letters.

8. In all cases where teams or individuals attain the position of league, sectional, or state champions a varsity award of a gold “C” will be awarded. In cases where cheerleaders are attached to the sport in which team are awarded gold letters, the same gold award will presented to the cheerleading squad involved.

9. Managers, statisticians, scorekeepers, timekeepers, announcers, line judges, student assistants, etc. connected with teams must do so for two seasons in that sport to be eligible for an appropriate award.

10. The final decision in any case under question rests with an agreement between the coach and athletic director.
We sincerely believe that the following training rules will help to keep each participant physically fit for the strenuous practice sessions and games that lie ahead. We also believe that team spirit, loyalty, cooperation, and unity come about when a group of young men and women follow a definite training rule pattern. Our athletic program operates on the premise that athletics, although important, is still only a game. We, as a coaching staff, are vitally interested in each participant's academic achievement, and feel that "training" for the athlete begins in the classroom. Therefore, we want to cooperate with you, especially in this vital area, and are more than willing to help each participant in any way that we can. We want you to know what the school expects of those who participate in competitive sports. We also want you to know that we are counting on your cooperation in aiding your son/daughter to abide by the Code of Ethics/Athletic training rules listed below.

After having read these requirements carefully, please sign the accompanying athletic pledge and send it back to school.

1. Participants must pass a physical by the school doctor or family doctor with a report sent to the school nurse.
2. Report any injury or illness to the coach immediately.
3. Report for practices and games as directed by the coach.
4. Participants will wear presentable attire for away contests. The coach has the right to refuse passage to any athlete not correctly dressed.
5. In-school and out-of-school suspension results in nonparticipation in practice or game until readmitted to the regular classroom.
6. Failing to turn in or pay for all issued equipment from a previous sports season will prevent further participation until that obligation is satisfied.
7. A student athlete must be in school by 11:30 AM for participation in either practice sessions or interscholastic competitions. (Check handbook for exceptions)
8. Participants are expected to be in by 11:00 PM during the week. Each participant should get eight to ten hours of sleep each night.
9. Participation on athletic teams in Clymer Central School is a privilege and as such we feel that they should conduct themselves in an exemplary manner as an athlete. We expect more from our athletes as they set an example for many of the younger students. Actions on and off the courts or field, affect the entire school community.
SPORT:_________________________________COACH:__________________________________

1. **Risk of Injury**: “I understand that interscholastic athletic participation carries the risk of injury, including severe injuries such as fractures, brain injuries, paralysis, or even death.

2. **Emergency Medical Care**: “I authorize the school to obtain, through a physician of its own choice, any emergency medical care that may become reasonably necessary for the student in the course of such athletic activities or such travel.”

3. **Medical Payments**: “I agree to accept responsibility for payment of all bills accrued because of injury to my son/daughter while participating in interscholastic activities. The Clymer Central School District covers all athletes through participation in the New York State High School Athletic Protection Plan, Inc. This plan offers partial payment after all bills have been submitted to the parents' or guardians' insurance carrier.”

4. **Absence from School**: “I understand if my son/daughter is absent from school for 5 or more days consecutively due to illness/injury, he/she must have a medical certification to return to play as the original medical certificate is void. I also understand that for my son or daughter to be eligible to play on the day of a game, he/she must be in school and must not have been sent home ill.”

5. **Consequences**: “I understand and accept that my son/daughter will be subject to the ruling(s) of the Athletic Council if my son/daughter is found to be in any violation(s) listed and referred to in this document.”

6. **Travel**: “I give my consent for my son/daughter to represent this school in interscholastic athletic activities and to accompany any school team of which he/she is a member on any of its local or out of town trips. I understand that my son/daughter must go and return on the bus for away games if one is provided. If there is an extraordinary circumstance, a written note explaining the situation must accompany my request. The coach will release my child directly to me.”

7. **School Suspension/Detention**: “I understand that if my son/daughter is suspended from school (ISS and/or OSS), he/she will not be able to participate or practice until his/her suspension is successfully completed.” “I understand that if my son/daughter has detention on the day of an Athletic Event, he/she will not be able to participate or practice in that Athletic Event.”

8. **Interscholastic Athletic Code**: I have read and understand the Clymer Central School Athletic Code for student-athletes and agree to follow the rules and regulations as well as other rules set forth by the coach. Failure to follow these rules may result in my suspension or dismissal from the team. I consent to, with the right of appeal, any disciplinary action as stipulated for the violation of any of these regulations.

I attended the Mandatory Coach’s Meeting for the respective sport that my son/daughter will be participating in and at that meeting I had the opportunity to ask questions to the coach/coaches.

Athlete’s Name: _______________________________________

Athlete’s Signature: ___________________________________

Parent’s/Guardian’s Name: _______________________________________

Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature: __________________________ Date: ___________________

Parent’s/Guardian’s Home # /Work # /Cell #: __________________________