

POLICY

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OF THE CHATHAMS
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9162 - ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this Athletic Code is to establish standards for the athlete in the area of academic performance and personal behavior for those individuals who voluntarily become involved in the interscholastic athletic program. A student who voluntarily participates in a sport sponsored by the Chatham Board of Education (the “Board”) agrees to abide by the Athletic Code of Conduct throughout the year in which the student participates in the sport. Participation in athletics is an opportunity and privilege.

The Board demands good sportsmanship at all athletic events in the district. For the purposes of this Policy “athletic events” means a competition, practice or instructional event involving one or more interscholastic sport teams sponsored by the Board and as defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq., the Board will require all pupils and his/her parents, as a condition of participation in all Board sponsored athletic programs, to sign a Code of Conduct that would require those persons to refrain from verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any pupil, coach, official or other parent; or from initiating any verbal or physical altercation with any person or from engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct.

Any person who violates the Code of Conduct shall be subject to immediate removal from any athletic event. The Board may also ban such individual’s presence at any subsequent Board sponsored athletic event that takes place in the school district for violating the Code of Conduct or conducting him or herself in any way determined by the Board to represent unsportsmanlike conduct. The length and timing of the ban shall be determined by the superintendent or his/her designee.

Additionally, student-athletes are expected to follow their respective school’s Student Code of Conduct and to behave in a manner consistent with the privilege of being a School District of the Chathams’ athlete. Consequences for student-athlete violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct, Sportsmanship Contract and/or Student Code of Conduct will be dependent upon the severity and/or frequency of the offense. The range of consequences includes suspension from the privilege of participating in a team sport(s), including, but not limited to, suspension from games, tournaments, athletic travel opportunities, and post season awards. Consequences may also include a denial of the student’s ability to participate in team sports for a school year.

The Board believes that a goal of high school athletics is to promote and develop responsibility, self-advocacy, and confidence among student-athletes. To accomplish this goal, student-athletes and coaches must communicate directly with one another. All communication between a coach and student-athletes shall occur in person or via school district email. Text messaging, individual phone calls, and emailing from a private email address are prohibited.

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It is the parents' role to support their children. In the event that a parent has a concern that has not been resolved between the coach and one's child, she or he may contact the coach if the concern relates to (i) the treatment, safety, or well-being of one's child; (ii) ways to help one's child improve; and/or (iii) concerns about one's child's behavior. **Concerns relating to playing time, other student-athletes, or team strategy are not appropriate to discuss with the coach.** Abusive or inappropriate communication directed at a coach or other staff member will not be tolerated and may result in exclusion from home athletic events. All communication between a coach and parents shall occur in person or via school district email. Text messaging, individual phone calls, and emailing from a private email address are prohibited.

If the concern is not satisfactorily resolved after meeting with the coach, the athlete and/or parent(s) should discuss the situation with the assistant principal responsible for athletics in an attempt to resolve the situation. Any formal complaints must be made, in writing, to the assistant principal responsible for athletics. If the formal complaint is not satisfactorily resolved by that assistant principal, the athlete and/or parent(s) may appeal in writing to the principal. The principal will meet with the parties involved in a further attempt to resolve the situation.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall review the Code of Conduct on an annual basis and make changes to it as appropriate.

N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq.
Adopted: June 15, 2015
Revised: August 31, 2015
Revised: November 6, 2017