

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

Statement of Philosophy:

Participation, performance and competition in the athletic program will focus on the opportunity for students to develop and exhibit skills to the best of their abilities. All athletic squads will be treated with equality. Team and individual performance will be developed and recognized.

Goals of the Athletic Program:

- To build self-esteem
- To develop skills
- To expand interest in lifetime and leisure activities
- To provide opportunity for personal and social growth
- To encourage all students to participate
- To develop a positive self-discipline
- To develop self-motivation

Objectives of the Athletic Program:

1. Participation in athletics shall be available to any student expressing a desire to be involved.
2. The values of good sportsmanship and the dynamics of teamwork shall be stressed constantly.
3. The importance of teaching young athletes how to give and receive recognition shall be incorporated into practices and games.
4. The interaction of special friendships and the impact of adult role models should always be a part of the awareness of those working with young athletes.
5. Students shall be challenged to strive for the highest level of excellence for each athlete as they participate and compete.
6. Students shall be given the opportunity to explore the capabilities of their changing physical make-up, with the recognition of the potential for further physical growth.

COACHING EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Coaches' Professional and Personal Relationships and Expectations

The need for precise job description specifications is becoming obvious with the stronger emphasis on credibility and accountability in coaching. There is a definite need for precise criteria to measure coaching accomplishments within the framework of the Cedar Grove-Belgium School District objectives for their activity programs. These major performance areas stand out above others:

A. Rapport

A coach must be able to develop a good rapport with any number of individuals and groups; team personnel, the student body, the professional staff (faculty, administration, maintenance, etc.), the community as a whole, spectators, officials, fellow coaches in the conference, media representatives and the parents of his/her players. Good rapport and an image of competency are invaluable for the coach.

B. Cooperation

The district expects a maximum of cheerful give and take between all individuals associated in any degree with the comprehensive program. Coaches must work hand in hand with their athletic coordinator, principal and other members of their staff.

C. Leadership

Diligence, enthusiasm, honesty and a love for the game are all part of a professional pride that should be exhibited by any coach. Personal appearance, dress, physical condition – all should be exemplary. Dressing appropriately for practice, following practice schedules and building positive attitudes are very important.

D. Discipline

Every facet of discipline is the coach's responsibility. Individually, the coach becomes a model of all that the program represents – observation of school codes, training rules, rules of the game, ideals of good sportsmanship, behavior of participants throughout the season – at home and away, and the conduct of the crowd – especially where the student body is concerned. Desire to do well, TO WIN WELL, TO LOSE WELL, should be emphasized. Staff, players and spectators should be motivated toward established goals.

E. Improvement

A coach must constantly take advantage of opportunities presented for self improvement. Attendance at conference clinics, special workshops and clinics in specific fields and similar in-service training programs is encouraged.

II. COACHING TECHNIQUES

- A. USE OF SOUND AND ACCEPTABLE teaching practices.
- B. RUN WELL-ORGANIZED practice sessions.
- C. COMPLETE PRE-SEASON PLANNING well in advance of starting date.
- D. ADHERE TO A HIGHLY EFFICIENT AND TECHNICAL SOUND PROGRAM of injury prevention. When injuries do occur, follow a prescribed routine and maintain good communications with patient, athletic coordinator, doctor and parents.
- E. CONSTRUCT A WELL-ORGANIZED GAME PLAN.
- F. DEVELOP A SOUND SYSTEM FOR EQUIPMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, including seasonal inventory, repair, reconditioning and replacement.
- G. KEEP MANAGERS AND STATISTICIANS WELL INFORMED as to what is expected. Cooperate fully with maintenance staff and others similarly involved in the overall program.

III. A. TO THE PLAYERS ON THE TEAM

The main reason for having athletic teams within the school is to help provide opportunities for young men and women to develop their respective capabilities to the fullest extent. Development of positive attitudes is an important means to accomplishing this aim. We must promote and teach only clean, aggressive and fair play, while stressing good sportmanship at all times. The coach must be the leader and set the example.

The coach should be fair and unprejudiced with players, considering their individual differences, needs, interests, temperaments, aptitudes and environments.

Players have a right to expect coaches to have a genuine and up-to-date knowledge of that which they propose to teach.

The safety and welfare of players should always be priority in the coaches' minds.

The coach's primary responsibility is to the individual boy or girl.

B. TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

As a coach, you are a frequent topic of conversation at various community locations – the home, the work place and at the meetings of many civic organizations. Your profession, as well as your reputation as a coach, is constantly under scrutiny.

Your actions and statements should always reflect confidence and respect for the Cedar Grove-Belgium School District. Much can be done by the coach in public contacts to build and maintain a high level of confidence in the athletic program and the school district.

C. TO THE SCHOOL

A coach owes his/her school his /her efforts and loyalty at all times. He/she must constantly strive for excellence in all areas of his/her school.

To be effective, a coach must be respected. To be respected, good personal habits and neat appearance are important; but most important are the examples set by the coach. Being respected is much more important than being well liked. Treat the faculty, the players, and the general students with the same honor and respect that you desire to be shown you. PRIVATE, FIRM, FAIR AND CONSTANT DISCIPLINE MUST BE MAINTAINED.

The work of the coach must be an integral part of the educational program of the school. The coach should show mastery of the principles of education and consequent improvement in teaching and coaching.

The coach should give support to all endorsed activities of the school. At every opportunity, the coach should urge the student body to be polite, courteous and fair to the visiting team.

D. TO THE PROFESSION

A coach in the Cedar Grove-Belgium School District should continue professional growth in both the academic teaching area and the athletic coaching area.

E. TO OTHER COACHES IN YOUR SCHOOL

One must always bear in mind that his or her sport is not the only sport; it is only part of the total athletic educational program and of the school. Therefore, it is important to support, promote and cooperate with all the other coaches and activity sponsors for the well-being of the total program.

A coach should support and serve fellow coaches whenever possible. All remarks should reflect confidence in one's fellow coaches. A strong, harmonious, interpersonal relationship must exist among coaches and other faculty members.

F. TO FACULTY MEMBERS

A coach is responsible for cooperating with every faculty member on the staff. If the coach cooperates with the teachers of academic subjects by allowing an athlete to make up a test on practice time, he/she can be certain

that cooperation and help will be returned twofold in efforts by other faculty members to keep the athletes eligible and to get that extra helping hand when the going gets tough.

G. PHYSICAL PLANT

The coach is responsible for the following:

1. Keeping practice areas and locker rooms in order.
2. Storing equipment neatly and using equipment properly
3. Keeping storage areas locked.

COACHES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

I. FAILURE TO TEACH

Coaches can be sued for failure to teach fundamentals in their particular sports and protective skills.

- A. TEACH AN ATHLETE TO PROTECT HIMSELF/HERSELF.
- B. TEACH PROPER FUNDAMENTALS.
- C. IF ATHLETE IS PRAISED OR ENCOURAGED for doing something improperly it will come back to haunt you.
- D. NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT (entrusting authority/activity who is not qualified to carry out that particular authority/activity)
 1. Assistant coaches
 2. Volunteer coaches

II. FAILURE TO PROPERLY SUPERVISE

- A. IF YOU ARE NOT THERE, YOU WILL BE LIABLE
- B. THE MORE HAZARDOUS OR THE MORE CONTACT, all the more closely the activity must be supervised. (Managers and students must NEVER supervise any drill.)
- C. You must be at least immediately ACCESSIBLE.
 1. Accessible to all aspects of practice or activity.
 2. Systematic overseeing of the practice or activity.
 - a. Systematic supervision
 - b. Written itinerary
 - c. Emergency policies
 - d. Locker room rules/regulations, posted.

III. EQUIPMENT

- A. Once injury does take place.
 1. Keep the equipment, label it.
 2. Get witnesses immediately.

IV. REASONS FOR COACH AND ADMINISTRATOR LIABILITY

- A. Failure to supervise an activity.
- B. Negligently entrusting a duty to an under qualified or unqualified individual.
- C. Failing to teach proper skills.
- D. Failing to teach protective skills.
- E. Failing to provide and maintain a safe coaching and playing environment.
- F. Failing to inspect, repair, recondition equipment properly.
- G. Failing to teach athletes to inspect their own equipment.
- H. Failing to provide proper effective equipment.
- I. Failing to properly play an activity.
- J. Failing to create and set policies and procedures for an activity.
- K. Failing to follow and enforce such policies and procedures.
- L. Failing to adopt safety standards of pertinent superior administrative organization.
- M. FAILING TO MATCH OR EQUATE ATHLETES.
- N. FAILING TO PROPERLY ADMINISTER FIRST AID.
- O. FAILURE TO WARN OF INHERENT DANGERS of the activity.
- P. Failing to assess an injury or incapacity in an athlete.
- Q. FAILING TO KEEP ADEQUATE AND ACCURATE RECORDS.

V. DUTIES OF A COACH

- A. Provide safe environments.
- B. PROPERLY PLAN AN ACTIVITY.
- C. Evaluate their athletes or students for injury.
- D. MATCH OR EQUATE ATHLETES.
- E. Provide or maintain proper effective equipment.
- F. WARN of inherent risks of a sport.
- G. SUPERVISE CLOSELY.
- H. Know and use emergency procedures and first aid.
- I. KEEP ADEQUATE RECORDS.
- J. KNOW, DOCUMENT, POST AND OPERATIONALIZE SCHOOL POLICIES.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Participant requirements prior to first practice:
 - 1. All eligibility requirements have been satisfied.
 - 2. Completed student emergency data form.
 - 3. Completed athletic participation permit card.
 - 4. Completed parent-athlete responsibility acknowledgement forms and signed Code of Conduct.

B. Practice policies

1. The morning following the FIRST PRACTICE, each coach shall submit a “squad roster” to the Athletic Coordinator of all candidates participating.
2. Practice sessions shall be scheduled so as to create the minimum amount of daily conflict with normal family activities of the participants.
3. Practice sessions should be well planned, well structured, and should NOT EXCEED TWO HOURS.
4. In sports where it is necessary to schedule separate, back-to-back practices, the last practice session must be concluded by 8:30p.m.
5. Coaches who wish to continue practice beyond the completion of their scheduled practice time should receive PRIOR clearance from the Athletic Coordinator.
6. Coaches and managers should be the first to arrive and the last to leave the practice session. AT NO TIME ARE ATHLETES TO PRACTICE BY THEMSELVES.
7. All equipment used in practice sessions shall be returned to its proper storage location at the end of each practice. The practice area must be policed and secured.
8. A student participating in afternoon or evening practices, competitions, or performances must be in attendance the entire day on the day of the activity, or
 - a. an acceptable parent or doctor’s excuse is submitted to the Athletic Director or Principal, or
 - b. permission is granted by the Principal
9. Squad members are to enter and leave the building through the southwest outside doors or the west commons area doors.

RESTRICTED PRACTICE DAYS

A. Weekend and holiday practices

All practices are to be held on school days if at all possible. Saturday practices are to be discouraged.

B. Vacation practices

At the middle school level, practices during vacations are discouraged.

C. Early dismissal of school or emergency closing

1. In the event there is a scheduled early dismissal of school, practices may be held at that time only provided the coach(s) are available.
2. Emergency weather conditions may result in an early dismissal or extended period of school closing. NO PRACTICE WILL BE PERMITTED.

LOCKER ROOM AND RELATED FACILITIES

I. LOCKER ROOM RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Security

1. Each coach is responsible for the action of members of his/her squad from the time they report to the locker room for practice until they leave the building after practice or report to a designated study table or supervised area.
2. It is the coach's responsibility to be present at the time that the athletes are to report for practice, games, meets, home or away, AND STAY UNTIL THE LAST ATHLETE HAS LEFT (or is in assigned area).
3. The coach shall see that lights and showers are turned off, the doors are locked, equipment is locked up and the room left as neat as possible.

B. Control of keys

1. All keys to the building, locker rooms, equipment rooms, etc., will be issued to coaches by the Principal. All coaches will return their keys to the Principal at the end of the season, unless permission has been granted by him/her to keep the keys.
2. COACHES ARE NOT TO GIVE ATHLETES THEIR KEYS AT ANY TIME.
3. If keys to the athletic area are lost, the coach should report this to the Athletic Director IMMEDIATELY.

II. LOCKER ROOM PROCEDURES

A. Athlete rules

1. Rough-housing and throwing towels or other objects are not allowed in the locker room. Hazing of other players is not allowed.
2. All showers must be turned off after showering. The last person to leave the shower room is expected to check all showers.
3. No GLASS containers are permitted in locker rooms.
4. All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off OUTSIDE of the building. No metal or hard-plastic spikes or cleats are ever allowed in any other part of the school building.
5. Equipment must be removed from all lockers by the end of the first school day following the conclusion of each sports season.
6. All athletes should make prior arrangements for transportation home at the end of their scheduled practice time and at the end of games and matches.

END OF SEASON OBLIGATIONS FOR ALL COACHES

POLICY

All coaches within the Cedar Grove-Belgium School District must complete certain end of the season responsibilities in order to consider their coaching assignment finalized.

ANNUAL SPORTS REPORT

- A. A BRIEF SUMMARY of the season and SUGGESTIONS for improving your program.
- B. COMPLETE INVENTORY of all equipment, supplies and uniforms.
- C. NAMES OF SQUAD MEMBERS – indicate award winners and managers.
- D. SCHEDULE PLAYED with results of games, meets or matches.
- E. NEW RECORDS SET for the season, such as individual performance, team scoring, etc. in state book to be given to athletes and Athletic Director.
- F. REQUEST for the next season. MUST LIST ALL ITEMS IN PRIORITY ORDER.