



# STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Center High School

Center Joint Unified School District  
2025-2026



Welcome to the Center Joint Unified School District's (CJUSD) athletic community. In order to ensure an enriching and rewarding interscholastic athletic experience, we provide this Student Athletic Handbook to inform our student athletes and their parents/legal guardians of the rules and policies pertaining to participation in CJUSD's education-based athletics programs. All student athletes and their parents/legal guardians must read and certify through the athletic clearance process ONLY after reading this Handbook in its entirety and agreeing to its rules and policies.

## **I. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION-BASED ATHLETICS**

The CJUSD recognizes education-based athletics as an integral part of the entire school experience and appreciates that athletics offers a means of achieving a complete educational program. We also believe that students should have an opportunity to participate in some form of interscholastic athletics within the skill and numbers of limitations of each sport. Participation in athletics should encourage scholastic growth and achievement and positive social development. Moreover, the CJUSD realizes that an effective interscholastic athletic program is a product of the respectful and responsible cooperation among its major contributors: the student athlete, coaching staff, parents/legal guardians, and site administration.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in high school sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these six pillars of character. Furthermore, because of participation in education-based athletics, we believe our students should strive to become exemplary representatives for our schools and communities.

## **II. THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION AND CIF SAC-JOQUIN SECTION**

The CJUSD is a member of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) and the CIF-Sac Joaquin Section (CIF-SJS). As such, the CJUSD is required to conduct our interscholastic athletic programs in accordance with the rules, regulations, and policies of the CIF and CIF-SJS. We also conduct our athletic programs according to our District policies and state and federal requirements.

The CIF Constitution and Bylaws can be found on its website at: <http://www.cifstate.org>. The CIF-SJS bylaws can be found on the CIF SJS website: <http://www.cifsjs.org>

## **III. PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETICS**

Participation in high school athletics is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, student athletes must abide by CJUSD rules, and student athletes must conduct themselves as positive role models who exemplify good character. The CJUSD athletic program is designed to (1) promote sportsmanship, (2) foster the development of good character by enhancing the academic, emotional, social, physical, and ethical development of students, and (3) teach positive life skills that will help students become personally successful and socially responsible. Through their participation as a member of an athletic team or program, student athletes are considered representatives of CJUSD, and as such, are expected to maintain appropriate behavior and citizenship.

#### **IV. SPORTSMANSHIP**

Education-based athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while promoting the development of good character, teamwork, and respectful competition. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to the CIF's Principles of "Pursuing Victory with Honor."

Additionally, good sportsmanship includes respect for all people and institutions associated with athletic competition. Student athletes are required to exhibit respect for officials, coaches, staff, fans, and opponents. Student athletes must also demonstrate sportsmanship and ethical behavior whether experiencing success or failure, victory or defeat.

Compliance with the standards of good sportsmanship is required of all CJUSD student athletes regardless of the particular situation. Student athletes or coaches who are ejected from an athletic competition will be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and from participation in and attending athletic contests.

#### **V. ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

##### **A. General Eligibility Requirements**

A student whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15 shall not participate or practice on any team in the following school year. A student whose 19th birthday is on or before June 14 is ineligible. (CIF Bylaw 203).

Upon entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, a student has a maximum of eight consecutive semesters of athletic eligibility to compete in CIF high school athletics in the state of California. Attendance and continuous enrollment for fifteen (15) days or more shall count as one of the eight (8) semesters or terms. (CIF Bylaws 201 and 204.)

The CIF-SJS also requires that "any athletic contest in which an ineligible student has participated either intentionally or unintentionally, involving both team and individual sports, must be forfeited." The student may also be subject to dismissal from the team by CJUSD.

##### **B. Residential Eligibility (CIF Bylaws, Article 2)**

A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in the ninth grade of any CIF high school. Any ninth through twelfth grade student who transfers without a valid change of residence may be given a Sit-Out Period (please see CIF Bylaw 207 B.5.b for a complete description of the Sit Out Period) or the student may be given limited eligibility for one year from the date of transfer in the sport(s) they have participated in at their former school (please see CIF Bylaw 206 C for complete description of Valid Change of Residence).

An exception to certain CIF transfer rules may apply if there is a hardship as defined in CIF Bylaw 207 B.5.c. viii.-Unlimited Eligibility Applications and CIF Bylaw 213-Hardship Waivers Other Than Transfer and the hardship is applied for and granted by the CIF-SJS.

**Any transfer student, who is new to a school, shall contact the athletic director or administrator in charge of athletics to determine his/her eligibility status and to complete**

**any necessary forms. No athlete shall participate in scrimmages and athletic contest, until all forms have cleared.**

If a student and his/her parents move out of the attendance area but the student remains at the school, the student will maintain eligibility but should immediately report his/her change of residence to the Attendance Office.

### **C. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To encourage and promote academic excellence, all students participating in CJUSD athletics shall demonstrate satisfactory minimum progress in meeting the requirements of graduation by undertaking the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the District.

The requirement has two elements. To be eligible for participation, the student:

1. Must have earned an overall minimum 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted grading scale during the preceding grading period (weighted grades are not used to calculate eligibility per the CIF Bylaws); and
2. Must have passed seven of eight classes during the preceding grading period. Any student taking seven classes must pass six of his/her classes to be eligible. A "Pass" grade in a Pass/Fail Class is the equivalent of a "C" grade for calculating GPA. A 2.0 scale will be used to determine eligibility based on the total number of classes taken.

CIF Bylaw 205 states that scholastic eligibility requires the student to pass the equivalent of at least 20 semester credits of work at the completion of the most recent grading period.

A grading period will constitute an eligibility period. The grade issued at the end of each quarterly grading period will be used to determine eligibility.

For purposes of determining eligibility, a grade of incomplete is computed as an "F" or failure until a letter grade is assigned. When the letter grade is determined, the student's grade point average will be recalculated. Students have fifteen school days from the day grades were due to complete the work necessary to change an incomplete to a letter grade.

For eligibility purposes, once a letter grade is assigned, the grade may be changed only if the person assigning the grade determines that an error was made in computing the grade. If a student requests that a teacher reconsider a grade, the reconsideration must be based on work assigned, due, and completed prior to the end of the grading period. Work submitted or assigned after the end of the grading period may not be used to improve or diminish an assigned grade.

CJUSD will declare at the beginning of the school year the grading periods and eligibility declaration days that each school will use. Eligibility will be declared after each school-wide grading period.

For the purposes of this policy, the term "classes" includes all courses in which the student is enrolled. Students may request that afternoon adult school grades, college grades, and/or summer school grades be added to the computation of the eligibility status.

A student becomes eligible for athletic participation only when declared eligible by the site Athletic Administrator or site Athletic Director. Until such declaration of eligibility, a student is ineligible for athletic participation.

Students declared ineligible may practice with teams only if approved by the coach, but may not dress in uniform or travel with the team to away contests.

#### **D. PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

A student may be granted one grading period of probation during his/her high school enrollment in our District, beginning with the first school (9<sup>th</sup> grade) grading period. The probation may be granted only if the student has met one of the two academic eligibility requirements. If the student is below both standards, he/she will not be granted probation. A probation period is the same length and duration as a grading period. A transfer student who is ineligible from his/her previous school will not be eligible for probation upon the initial enrollment.

The probation will be granted and recorded even if the student subsequently fails to perform in any competition. The principal or athletic administrator and athletic director must approve the completed applications prior to competition.

#### **E. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Coaches recognize the importance of school attendance and expect student athletes to establish good attendance patterns.

1. Student athletes must attend at least two periods that day in order to participate in either practice or competition on that day.
2. If a contest is held on a non-school day, the student athlete must attend at least two periods on the school day prior to the contest.
3. Excused and approved absences may count as periods of attendance for purposes of this requirement. (A doctor's note or principal's approval may be required.)
4. Student athletes failing to comply with CJUSD's attendance policy will be referred to their coach or administration for potential consequences.

#### **F. PRACTICE ATTENDANCE**

Student athletes who participate in athletics make a commitment to a team and are expected to maintain good practice attendance.

Student athletes are expected to attend all practices and contests, unless they are absent from school due to illness or the coach excuses them. Student athletes are expected to communicate directly with the coach when they cannot attend a practice.

Unexcused absences from practice, or failure to maintain good attendance, may be cause for removal from a team.

## **VI. OUTSIDE COMPETITION**

A student athlete on a high school team becomes ineligible if the student athlete competes in a contest on an "outside" team, in the same sport, during the student's high school season of sport.

Any student athlete, who competes on a school team after an infraction of the above rule, becomes immediately ineligible for the number of contests equal to twice the number of contests of outside competition in which the student participated. Games, in which the student athlete participated, after the infraction of the rule, shall be forfeited per CIF bylaws.

Any student athlete qualifying for an Olympic Development Program is required to contact the Athletic Administrator at least 30 days prior to participation.

The CIF-SJS section may grant approval, upon individual petition, for a gifted athlete to travel to a foreign country to participate in international competition sanctioned by the governing body for that sport in the United States.

Any student athlete who has any questions about eligibility, or who is considering outside competition, should contact the Athletic Administrator in charge of athletics before entering into any competition.

## **VII. UNATTACHED COMPETITION IN INDIVIDUAL SPORTS**

An unattached student athlete shall not represent any team. Points won by the student athlete shall not be credited to any team. An unattached student athlete shall not use a uniform that identifies a school or "outside" team. Any violation shall be considered an infraction of CIF Bylaw 600.

Unattached competition is permissible for a student athlete in other than school contests during the season of sport, provided the student athlete enters in the individual sports of badminton (singles and doubles), cross country, golf, gymnastics, skiing, swimming (including unattached entry on relays), tennis (singles and doubles), track and field (including unattached entry on relays) and wrestling.

Certification of Unattached Athletes: No official recognition or certification on the part of the CIF member school or personnel of the CIF member school may be given in order to permit an unattached student athlete to participate in contests.

CIF Competition-Participation: Individuals or teams entered in CIF competition must represent a CIF member school. No other form of representation is permitted in CIF competition. (CIF Bylaw 700)

## **VIII. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Student athletes must comply with all rules and regulations as specified by California Education Code, California Penal Code, and Center Joint Unified School District, Board Policy, and Administrative Regulations.

Any behavioral offenses resulting in school suspension can result in at least a concurrent equal length suspension from the team (example – 3-day suspension, 3 days suspended from the team after returning from school suspension.) The length of suspension from athletics may be extended, up to removal from the team, depending on the severity of the misbehavior. This determination is within sole discretion of the school administration.

Profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, and disrespect to any person, opponent, official, or institution will not be tolerated. Student athletes shall accept responsibility for their actions both on and off the field. Any violation of this responsibility may result in suspension from play or dismissal from the team.

Student athletes charged by law enforcement for violation of the Penal Code may also be subject to sports participation penalties, depending on the nature of the conduct involved.

### **A. Hazing**

A pupil may be suspended from school, removed from a team, and/or recommended for expulsion if that pupil at any time commits an act of hazing or attempts to engage in hazing:

1. While on school grounds,
2. While going to or coming from school,
3. During the lunch period whether on or off the campus, and/or
4. During, or while going to or coming from, a school sponsored activity.
5. Off- Campus

“Hazing includes any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to these organizations which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm, to any pupil or other person attending any school.”

### **B. Locker Room Conduct**

1. Treat other people and their property with the utmost respect. -No physical contact (wrestling, fighting or horseplay). -No harassing or intimidating language.  
-If an item does not belong to you- Do not touch it!

2. Secure all personal items inside your locker.  
-If a theft occurs, report it immediately to your coach or administration.

3. Respect our school's property. -Do not damage lockers.

-Do not write on walls, benches, lockers, etc.  
-Clean up after yourself. Properly dispose of all garbage in trash cans.

### **C. Social Media Policy**

Social Media refers to internet-based applications designed to create and share user-generated content (Twitter, Instagram, blogs, etc.). As the user of these platforms, student-athletes are

expected to conduct themselves responsibly as members of their respective team and the school. Users must understand that any content shared is expected to follow acceptable social behaviors outlined in the Athletic Handbook. Violations of this policy are subject to investigation and sanctions outlined in the Athletic Handbook and may be subject to review by law enforcement.

Student athletes must accept responsibility for their social media use. Student athletes must project the positive values and responsibilities of the school as a highly visible member of the school and community. Any malicious use of social media platforms will not be tolerated. Malicious use may include but is not limited to:

- 1) Derogatory language and remarks regarding fellow athletes, students, coaches, administrators, faculty, and staff of any school.
- 2) Demeaning statements or threats that endanger the safety of another person.
- 3) Incriminating photos, videos, or statements regarding criminal behavior, drinking, use of illegal drugs or other controlled substances, sexual harassment, or violence.

Any violation of this responsibility shall result in suspension from the team for a minimum of 5 school days. Based on the severity of any offense, the athlete may be removed from the team on first offense along with other school sanctions.

## **IX. TRAINING RULES**

Students participating in athletics are prohibited from using, possessing, or selling tobacco, androgenic/anabolic steroids, alcohol, vaping, or any other illegal drugs or narcotics during their season of sport. Infractions of these rules could result in the loss of privilege to participate in athletics.

Student-athletes will be held responsible for all training rules while on school grounds, while going to or coming from school, or at a school-sponsored activity. During the officially recognized CIF "season of sport" as defined by CIF Bylaw 504, student-athletes can also be held accountable for any substantiated off campus violations of training rules.

Violations of training rules while on school grounds, while going to or coming from school, or at a school-sponsored activity include the following:

1. Any student-athlete who possesses, sells, or is under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, vaping, controlled substance, inhalant, and/or related paraphernalia shall be ineligible for (10) school days from the date of the infraction, excluding vacation periods and required participation in a student intervention plan. The plan may include, but is not limited to the following interventions: Ongoing meetings (2 minimum prior to return to play) with Site and CJUSD support services staff to address mental health and other drivers leading to negative choices, submission of physician administered drug test (no cost to the district), community service, a restorative conference with the team, and other components to support a student behavior plan.
2. Any student-athlete who possesses, uses, sells, or otherwise furnishes any androgenic/anabolic steroid, synephrine, or any performance-enhancing dietary supplement, or any performance-enhancing supplement without FDA approval (inclusive of the NCAA list) without a written prescription from a licensed health care practitioner to treat a medical condition shall be ineligible for athletic participation for



a minimum (8) weeks from the date of the infraction, excluding vacation periods and completion of an intervention plan. The plan may include, but is not limited to the following interventions: A minimum of 5 meetings with Site and CJUSD support services staff to address mental health and other drivers leading to negative choices, submission of physician administered drug test (no cost to the district), community service, a restorative conference with the team, and other components to support a student behavior plan.

Any student-athlete who has an incident involving violence, alcohol, drugs, steroids, tobacco, nicotine, vaping, and/or related paraphernalia off campus during the season of sport may receive the same consequence as stated above if the circumstances include but not limited to the following:

1. A student athlete is cited for possession or use of alcohol, drugs, steroids, tobacco, nicotine, vaping, and/or related paraphernalia by the law enforcement.
2. Parents or guardians of a student-athlete inform the school that their own student-athlete was using or in possession of alcohol, drugs, steroids, tobacco off campus, nicotine and/or related paraphernalia. This includes student self-admission, which will initiate an intervention plan and may not result in suspension from the team.

**Incidents of this nature involving student-athletes that are reported by a third party or reported anonymously that happen off campus may not result in an official school investigation.**

With school administration and athletic director permission (which may include the completion of a restorative conference), an ineligible student athlete may continue to practice with a team, but may not wear a team uniform or otherwise represent a team at any interscholastic contest or scrimmage against another school or be released to leave the school early with the team. A second offense involving drugs, alcohol, steroids or performance-enhancing substances (inclusive of the NCAA list), tobacco, vaping, nicotine and/or related paraphernalia may cause the student to be ineligible for up to one calendar year from the date of the infraction. The student may not continue practice or participate with a team during the period of ineligibility.

## **X. LEAVING A TEAM**

Student athletes may leave a team without penalty until the submission of the final roster by personally notifying the coach that they no longer wish to participate. After a "try-out" period, student athletes may leave a team only under the following conditions:

- It is the student athlete's responsibility to notify the coach that he/she no longer wishes to participate. The coach may request that the student athlete meet with the coach to discuss the reason(s) for leaving the team. If the coach and student athlete mutually agree that the student can leave the team, the student athlete may leave the team without penalty. All equipment must be turned in at the time a student athlete leaves a team.
- If a student athlete leaves a team and plans to participate in a sport that begins practice prior to the completion of the current sport, the student athlete may do so only if the coach of the current sport agrees. If the previous coach does not agree, the student

athletes may not begin practice until the season has ended (including play-offs, if applicable).

The intent of these rules is to encourage student athletes to be responsible in their actions and to communicate with their coach that they plan to end their commitment to their sport and team.

## **XI. ATHLETIC CLEARANCE PROCESS**

Students choosing to participate in a sport must have completed the athletic clearance process prior to beginning practice. In order to be cleared to participate, the student and the student's parents/legal guardians must complete the forms in the athletic clearance process. These forms are located on the school's athletic website, main office or Sportsnet.

In addition, the student athlete must have a yearly physical examination from a qualified physician who completes the medical examination report. In order for the student athletes to be accepted and cleared for athletics prior to the season in which the student athlete plans to compete.

## **XII. INSURANCE**

Each student participating on a school athletic team shall have insurance protection in the amounts specified in law and administrative regulation for medical and hospital expenses resulting from accidental bodily injury. (Education Code 32221)

If a student does not have insurance protection or a reasonable equivalent of health benefits through other means, including, but not limited to, purchase by the student or his/her parent/guardian, the district shall offer a medical or hospital service or insurance program.

The cost of the insurance protection shall be paid by the parent/guardian of an athletic team member or other persons on the student's behalf.

However, if the parent/guardian is financially unable to pay the costs, the costs shall be paid by the district and/or student body organization.

## **XIII. CONCUSSION PROTOCOL**

In accordance with CIF Bylaw 503 H. Concussion Protocol, a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time for the remainder of the day. A student athlete who has been removed from play may not return to practice or games until the student athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in education and management of concussion and **receives written clearance** to return to play from that health care provider.

If a licensed health care provider, trained in education and management of concussion, determines that the student athlete sustained a concussion or head injury, the student athlete is required to complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven full days **from the time of diagnosis** under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.

On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by all student athletes and the student athlete's parents/legal guardians before the student athlete is able to initiate practice or competition.

#### **XIV. TRANSPORTATION**

Student athletes are expected to travel with the team when district arranged transportation is provided. Exceptions may be made for unique and compelling circumstances with pre-approval from site or district administration.

Students are NOT authorized to transport other students to or from school activities. Students are only permitted to be transported by driving themselves alone, driven by their own parent, or being driven by a parent on the District's approved drivers list.

#### **XV. EQUIPMENT/CARE OF FACILITIES**

Student athletes are expected to turn in the same piece(s) of equipment and uniforms checked out to them. Equipment and uniforms should be returned in the same condition that it was received and should be cleaned and washed before being returned.

Student athletes are responsible for the security of their equipment and uniforms. Student athletes will be financially responsible for replacing any lost, stolen, or damaged equipment or uniforms. In some cases, the replacement fee may be higher than the original purchase price because special processing and printing may be required to duplicate the uniform or equipment.

No awards (varsity letters, etc.) will be issued until all equipment and uniforms are returned and/or paid for unless otherwise determined by the involved coaches.

Student athletes must return or pay for all equipment and uniforms before they can compete or participate in another sport. In unusual circumstances when a significant amount of money is owed, arrangements for repayment may be made with the coach and the administrator in charge of athletics.

A student athlete will not steal, damage, deface, or possess without permission a teammate's property, school property, or another school's property. Teams and/or athletes may be held financially responsible for any/all misuse or damage of athletic facilities.

#### **XVI. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

The Governing Board desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the district's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, targeted at any student by anyone, based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

For inquiries/complaints, contact our Title IX Coordinator, Personnel and Student Services Director.

Chris Borasi (916)338-6413 or [cborasi@centerusd.org](mailto:cborasi@centerusd.org)

## **XVII. GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION**

All students should have the opportunity to participate in CIF activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's records. (CIF Bylaw 300.D)

Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics consistent with his/her gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year.

All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and any review/guidance sessions will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request to the contrary. For further questions, the student should seek guidance from the school's athletic director or administration.

## **XVIII. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

When a situation occurs, that is of concern to a student athlete and/or parents/legal guardians with regard to a matter related to an athletic team, the following process should be adhered following a 24-hour no contact policy:

- First Level: Address the head coach directly about the concern via email or meeting.
- Second Level: Meet with the athletic director.
- Third Level: Meet with the principal or assistant principal in charge of athletics.

If these meetings fail to result in resolution of the concern, the complainants may appeal in writing to the Director of Personnel and Student Services, Chris Borasi: (916)338-6413 or [cborasi@centerusd.org](mailto:cborasi@centerusd.org). The decision of the student services director shall be final.

## **CONTACT**

Athletic Director –	Digol J'Beily: <a href="mailto:djbeily@centerusd.org">djbeily@centerusd.org</a>
Vice Principal of Athletics-	Doug Hughey: <a href="mailto:dhughey@centerusd.org">dhughey@centerusd.org</a>
Principal-	Jerald Ferguson: <a href="mailto:jferguson@centerusd.org">jferguson@centerusd.org</a>