

AMENDED
**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
FOR
CLAY COUNTY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

2017-2018

APPROVED NOVEMBER 6, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The Clay County Board of Education has adopted this handbook to govern Clay County Elementary Athletics. The purpose is to regulate elementary athletics so that all students have the same opportunity to participate regardless of the school they attend, and that all students/schools follow a uniform set of rules.

Several of the rules contained herein will result in substantial changes to the way elementary athletics have been handled in the past. Our goal is to give more students the opportunity to participate, and make sure all students/schools receive the same opportunity and treatment.

Some rules apply to all sports, while others are specific to a particular sport. All students, coaches and schools are expected to follow these rules. Violation of any rule will subject the appropriate party to discipline, up to and including disqualification of students and termination of coaches.

As used in this handbook “sports” refers to football, basketball, cheerleading, track, dance team and any other performing group associated with sporting events. If additional team sports, individual sports or other competitions are added at the elementary level, this handbook shall also apply to those activities.

Detailed rules and procedures not included in this handbook will be developed by the Athletic Director and Superintendent.

The Clay County Board of Education will approve the Athletic Handbook. However, Members of the Board of Education will not make decisions as to eligibility or rule interpretation. Eligibility questions and rule interpretation questions shall be directed to the Athletic Director who shall consult with the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall have the final decision.

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

All coaches, students and any other individuals involved in Clay County Public School Athletics are subject to all (1) applicable KHSAA rules and regulations (www.KHSAA.org); (2) all District Policies and Procedures (www.clay.k12.ky.us); (3) Student Code of Acceptable behavior (www.clay.k12.ky.us) ; (4) employee handbook (www.clay.k12.ky.us) ; and any additional rules contained in the Athletic Handbook.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The Athletic Director shall be required to complete the same training as required of coaches. Proof of completion shall be submitted to the Superintendent.

The Athletic Director shall keep the principal(s) fully advised as to all matters relating to athletics, but shall report directly to the Superintendent.

STUDENTS SHALL NOT HAVE TO PAY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE

No student shall be required to pay any fee or purchase any items in order to participate on any athletic team, cheerleading squad, dance team, or any other group that performs or otherwise participates at sporting events.

A coach/sponsor may recommend a specific color or type of shoes for uniformity purposes, but a student shall not be required to purchase said shoes in order to participate.

Violation of this rule shall subject the coach, sponsor, principal and/or school to discipline.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT TO BE SPENT PER STUDENT UNIFORM

No more than \$150 shall be spent per individual uniform for any sport (excluding football equipment).

ELIGIBILITY

Students will be allowed to participate only at their grade level. Each school will have a 3rd / 4th grade team and a 5th / 6th grade team for basketball (football rules are listed separately). (In the event a school does not have a sufficient number of students at the required grade level who wish to participate, the school may request a waiver of this rule by making an application to the Athletic Director. 2nd graders may be allowed to participate if needed to complete a team. Whether or not to grant a waiver will be made on a case by case basis).

Students in grades 1-6 are eligible to participate in cheerleading. Individual schools will decide whether to have separate girls and boys squads.

Elementary students shall not be permitted to participate on middle school basketball, football or non-competitive cheerleading teams, unless one of the following exceptions applies:

Exceptions:

1. A student who is ineligible to participate on an elementary team due to age may participate at the middle school level with approval of the middle school principal and athletic director.
2. If there are not enough middle school students to field a team, 6th graders may be permitted to compete at the middle school level subject to approval of the middle school principal and elementary athletic director.

All elementary students/teams must have the approval of the elementary athletic director to play, practice or participate at middle/high school facilities or play against 6th grade, middle school or high school teams.

Per KHSAA rules a student who turns 13 prior to August 1 of the current school year is not eligible to compete at the elementary level.

Eligibility for students repeating a grade for any reason will be determined by KHSAA rules. ****NOTICE**** **At the time of the adoption of the Amended Elementary Athletic Handbook the following regulation as amended on October 10, 2017 is continuing to work its way through the administrative regulation process:**

(8) Require any student enrolled initially in grade five (5) through eight (8) who is repeating a grade for any reason, to be ineligible, during the school year that the grade is repeated, to compete in interscholastic athletics competition at any level~~involving students enrolled in grades six (6) through eight (8)]~~;

Students must have insurance pursuant to board policy.

Students must have a current physical and have the board provided medical forms/permission forms completed prior to competition.

Students with a failing grade in any class will be ineligible to participate in sports until a passing grade is achieved.

Students who are absent on the day of a game will be ineligible to participate in the game that day.

If an elementary school does not have a team for a particular sport and a student wishes to participate in said sport, the student may be permitted to play on another school's team, but only with the approval of the coach, athletic director, and superintendent.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All players and coaches are expected to practice good sportsmanship. Any player or coach ejected from a game shall be suspended for a minimum of 2 games.

The length of the suspension shall be determined by the Athletic Director after consultation with the Superintendent.

COACHES

All coaches at the elementary level shall meet the same requirements outlined in Board Policy 03.1161 for middle and high school coaches. The head coach must have medication training as needed for team members.

All assistants/volunteers working with players must have a criminal background check and be approved by the Athletic Director.

A person who is trained in CPR and first aid must be present at all practices and all games.

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

The principal of each school shall attend all games held at his/her school and be responsible for overseeing the event.

The principal shall be responsible for making the Athletic Director aware of any and all ejections as well as any other issues arising with players/coaches/parents/fans etc. for which discipline or other action may be appropriate.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

A county wide game schedule and tournament schedule will be developed by the Athletic Director for football and basketball.

Track and Field will consist of county-wide meets held at the athletic complex.

Cheerleading-Cheer teams will be judged at the first round of the basketball tournaments and a champion will be determined based on in-game performance.

OUT OF COUNTY TRAVEL

Each elementary team may participate in 2 out of county events per season. The team must use school district buses and pay all transportation costs. Teams must submit the same paperwork as is required for field trips and travel must be approved by the elementary athletic director and Superintendent.

PRACTICE

Elementary sports teams shall not practice during the summer, which begins the last day of school. Football practice will begin on July 24, 2017. Girls Basketball practice will begin October 15, 2017. Boys Basketball practice will begin the day after football ends, or October 15, 2017, whichever is later.

Elementary sports teams shall be permitted to practice on the following days and times during their specific season.

Sunday	2pm-5pm
Monday	NO PRACTICE during the Academic Team season. Once the academic team season is concluded, practice may occur from 4:30pm-9pm
Tuesday	4:30pm-9pm
Wednesday	NO PRACTICE
Thursday	4:30pm-9pm
Friday	at the end of the school day-9pm
Saturday	until 9pm

Practice shall not begin until 4:30pm Monday through Thursday to allow students participating in sports to also participate in after-school programs.

Practice schedules shall be coordinated with the athletic director and provided to players at least 1 week in advance.

All practices are CLOSED to anyone that has not been approved through the Board of Education.

SPORTS BY SEASON

FALL SEASON

Football

Cheerleading

WINTER SEASON

Girls Basketball 3rd & 4th grades

Girls Basketball 5th & 6th grades

Boys Basketball 3rd & 4th grades

Boys Basketball 5th & 6th grades

Cheerleading

SPRING SEASON

Boys & Girls Track

Girls Basketball 3rd & 4th grades

Boys Basketball 3rd & 4th grades

Cheerleading

BASKETBALL SPECIFIC RULES

- * 2 coaches per team
- * Student must play at grade level
- * Dress a maximum of 15 players per team
- * Specific game rules will be developed by the Athletic Director and provided to coaches no later than the beginning of practice.

FOOTBALL SPECIFIC RULES

GAME MANAGEMENT

1. Three coaches per team
 - a. 1 coach can be on the field for offense and defense.
 - b. Parents/Spectators that are NOT district approved coaches CANNOT be on the sideline or playing field during a game. This is a safety issue and will be strictly enforced. (This does not include school officials, administration, law enforcement or EMS).
 - c. Teams that do not strictly adhere to this policy will be given a sideline warning for the first violation, and be penalized **15 yards from the spot of the ball** for each subsequent violation.
2. Students must play at grade level.
3. Any other specific game rules will be developed and provided to coaches no later than the first day of practice.
4. Football practice may begin July 24, 2017. The practice schedule shall follow KHSAA rules regarding helmets and shoulder pads prior to contact and full practice.

PLAYING RULES

1. Playing rules will mirror the NFHS Playing Rules when applicable.
2. Quarter length-
 - a. 8 minutes 5th/6th grade
 - b. 6 minutes 3rd/4th grade

3. 5th/6th grade weight limit is 145 pounds, 3rd/4th grade weight limit is 130 pounds.

In an effort to not penalize athletes that grow early, the high school head coach will make the final decision on whether or not a student can play a skill position.

4. Offensive and Defensive base structures will be reported to the high school head coach before the season.

a. This is not to limit you as coaches, but to ensure that our athletes are learning to win games based on sound fundamentals rather than “gimmicks” that change from week to week.

b. Offensive formations shall not consist of an empty backfield besides the quarterback, or an unbalance offensive line.

5. Blitzing/Stunting or Twisting on Defense

a. Linebackers shall be at least 3 yards off the LOS (not moving forward) prior to the snap.

b. Defensive linemen shall be within 1 yard of LOS prior to snap.

c. The only exception is a goal line front (which may not include more than 6 down linemen) in short yardage situations or within your own 5 yard line.

6. Kickoffs/Punts/PAT

a. Teams will take the ball at the 30 yard line to begin the game and after opponent scores.

b. The ball will be moved 30 yards from the spot of the ball if a team elects to “punt”.

c. If a team elects to kick an unrushed EP from the 3 yard line after a score they will be awarded 2 points for successful attempts.

d. If a team elects to run or pass the ball from the 3 yard line after scores they will receive 1 point for successful attempts.

7. Weather

When a game makes it into the 3rd quarter it will be recorded as an official game if weather intervenes and forces cancellation.

8. Mercy Rule

When a team is leading by 21+ points in the second half of a contest the *Mercy Rule* will be in effect and the clock will run continuously from that point forward.

COACH AGREEMENT

As a coach in the Clay County School System, I hereby agree that I have received and read the Athletic Handbook for Clay County Elementary Schools. I agree that I will comply with the rules and guidelines outlined in the Athletic Handbook as well as all applicable KHSAA rules and regulations, all District Policies and Procedures, Student Code of Acceptable behavior and employee handbook. I understand that violations of rules and regulations can result in my removal as coach. It is my responsibility to provide a copy of the Athletic Handbook to each member of my team and staff, discuss the contents with my team and staff, and obtain and return the signature page for each team and staff member to the Athletic Director. As coach, I agree that no athlete will participate on the team I coach if that athlete and his/her parent have not signed and returned the agreement by the announced deadline.

Printed Name of Coach _____

Signature of Coach _____

Date: _____

STUDENT ATHLETE AGREEMENT

As a student/athlete in the Clay County School System, I hereby agree that I have received and read the Athletic Handbook for the Clay County Elementary Schools. I agree that I will comply with the rules and guidelines outlined in the Athletic Handbook as well as all applicable KHSAA rules and regulations, all District Policies and Procedures , and Student Code of Acceptable behavior. I understand that violations of rules and regulations can result in my removal from teams on which I participate. I understand that failure to sign and return this form or any other required forms contained in this handbook may result in my being declared temporarily ineligible for practice or competition.

As the parent/guardian of the minor student signing below, I have received and reviewed the Athletic Handbook.

Printed Name of Athlete _____

Signature of Athlete _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date: _____

