

**Athletic Handbook
Cartersville High School
2011-2012**



A word from the Athletic Director

Welcome to the Cartersville High School Athletic Program. Research indicates that students involved in extracurricular activities benefit students in several ways.

Participation in extracurricular activities helps to provide the opportunity for social, emotional, and physical growth. It also provides the opportunity for development of life-skills that are crucial to success in life. Student – Athletes who are successful in the classroom and on the playing field have developed life skills such as self-discipline, time management and goal setting. We applaud the efforts of our student - athletes as they represent Cartersville High School in competitive sports arenas, while working to develop physically and grow personally. Please remember that in the phrase ‘student – athlete’ the word ‘student’ comes first. Academic success must be our priority.

Dr. Katherine Bradley

Introduction

Cartersville High School is committed to providing a diversified, participatory, and successful athletic program that is available to all students. We believe that such a program is a vital and integral part of the total school environment as well as playing a key role in the overall development of each student that is involved in the athletic program. It is our belief that the athletic program at Cartersville High School should facilitate the development of positive self-esteem and qualities of good citizenship as well as to promote school spirit, provide an avenue for fellowship and develop a pride in serving and positively representing the institution.

It is the purpose of this handbook to inform stakeholders and set forth the operating procedures for the students, parents and athletic staff at Cartersville High School. It is designed as a reference source that will facilitate the process of seeking and clarifying information concerning administrative and athletic policies and procedures as well as promote a framework that will lead to the effective and efficient application of those policies and procedures.

Questions not addressed in this publication can be addressed to the athletic director or electronic information can be found on the school website

(<http://www.cartersville.k12.ga.us/chs/chs.html>) or at GHSA.net

I. Athletic Philosophy

A. Statement of Philosophy

The Cartersville Athletic Program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life.

The Interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning it does not condone “winning at all cost.” It discourages any and all pressures, which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

B. Athletic Program Objectives and Goals

Objectives of Participation

The athletic program at Cartersville High School will provide each participating student adequate opportunities for:

- a. physical, mental and emotional growth and development;
- b. the acquisition and development of special skills in the activities of each student’s choice;
- c. directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence and the ideals of good sportsmanship exemplified through winning and losing graciously;
- d. being a part of a unified team composed of the student body, faculty and community
- e. the achievement of goals established by the individual student, the team and the school;
- f. the development of skills and an appreciation of sports that may be used throughout life as a participant and / or spectator.

Goal for each Student – Athlete

The overall goal for the athletic program of Cartersville High School is for each student – athlete to become a better overall person through his or her participation in athletics. The major points of emphasis throughout the program will be athletic excellence, the development of a superior work ethic, teamwork, dedication, commitment, respect for authority and discipline.

II. Requirements for Participation

All of the following criteria must be satisfied prior to any student – athlete’s participation in any athletic practices, games, or team function. Eligibility status filed and verified by the Georgia High School Association as well as any and all local requirements as specified by the Cartersville City Board of Education and / or Cartersville High School; the GHSA requirements for eligibility are as follows:

All extracurricular activities including all athletics and all clubs not previously under academic guidelines will follow the Georgia High School Association Guidelines as they exist; every student in grades 9-12 involved in such extracurricular activities **must pass three subjects the previous semester**. GHSA "On-track" requirements are:

(a) **First-year students** (entering 9th grade) are eligible academically. Second semester **first-year students** must have **passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** the previous semester in order to participate.

(b) **Second-year students** must have **accumulated five (5) total Carnegie units** in the first year, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(c) **Third-year students** must have **accumulated eleven (11) Carnegie units** in the first and second years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(d) **Fourth-year students** must have **accumulated sixteen (16) Carnegie units** in the first three years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(e) Students may accumulate the required Carnegie units for participation during the school year and eligibility will be reinstated at the beginning of the next semester.

(f) *For the 2011-12 school year, fourth-year students must have accumulated seventeen (17) Carnegie units.*

Students who have an absence for one-half or more of the school day on the day of the activity shall **NOT** participate in that activity unless granted permission by the Principal. In-house eligibility points:

- A current and complete physical examination form on file with Coach Enis and the Head Coach of the sport in which the student – athlete wishes to participate stating that the student – athlete is cleared to participate without restrictions or with specific restrictions noted; the only physical form accepted will be the GHSA mandated form and these can be obtained either from Coach Enis, Head Coach or the school Athletic Director.

- A current and complete parental permission form on file with the Coach Enis and the Head Coach of the sport in which the student – athlete wishes to participate;
- A statement signed by the parent / guardian of the student – athlete verifying the understanding that the school is not responsible for any financial obligations as the result of an injury. A student insurance policy is available to the student. Literature on the available coverage will be made available to the student before participation in athletics.
- In the event of an injury, a written doctor’s medical release must be on file with the Athletic Director and the Head Coach before the student –athlete will be allowed to resume participation (practice or play). If you have to go to an emergency room for care, please obtain the release (written) before leaving the hospital because many times the attending physician may not be there the next time you visit.

III. Athletic Codes of Conduct

All athletes will abide by the Cartersville City Schools Student Code of Conduct and any other conduct policies set forth by the Cartersville High School administration and/or the Cartersville High School athletic staff. Please be sure to retain a copy of the student handbook (posted online).

Each Coach will provide written rules, regulations and policies governing participation for their respective team. It is the responsibility of the student to read and abide by all written correspondences regarding discipline or academic matters. Each coach reserves the right to limit playing time or invoke other penalties for violation of team or school rules, regulations and policies.

Each student – athlete is a representative of Cartersville High School, the community, their family and themselves. Failure to abide by all rules, regulations and policies may result in suspension or dismissal from the team. Dismissal or suspension will be at the discretion of the Head Coach and Athletic Director. The actions and appearance of the student – athlete will be viewed by others as a direct reflection of each of these entities. It is the responsibility of each student – athlete to conduct him or herself in such a manner as to not bring shame and ridicule to any and all of these entities. Any actions that violate this principle will not be tolerated and severe or continuous behavior to that effect may result in suspension of playing privileges or permanent removal from the team or activity.

Athletes who are ejected from a competition will be required to meet with the coach and athletic director before being allowed to resume participation. If the athlete is ejected from a competition again within the 2011-2012 school year, further disciplinary actions will be taken.

Out of School Suspension (OSS) –

Students who are Out of School Suspended may not participate nor practice during their OSS assignment. **The suspension ends at 12 o'clock midnight on the last day of suspension.** Additional punishment will be left to the discretion of the coach and athletic director.

In-School Suspension (ISS) –

Students who have in-school suspension may not participate nor practice during their ISS assignment. If daily assignments are not completed each day in ISS, the student will return to ISS the next day to complete assignment(s). **The suspension ends at 12 o'clock midnight on the last day of in school suspension.** Additional punishment will be left to the discretion of the coach and / or athletic director.

School Attendance –

In order for a student to participate or practice, that student must have been present at school for no less than one-half of the day in question.

Quitting or Dismissed –

Students forfeit their participation privileges if they quit or if they are dismissed from a team. Athletes will be placed on athletic suspension until the season ending date of the sport the student quit or was dismissed.

Traveling –

All team members will travel to and from all events on school transportation. The student – athletes at Cartersville High School will have a bus provided by the Cartersville City Schools Board of Education and a trained driver to drive this bus to all away games/meets/matches. This is the safest way for all persons to get to and from events.

In-Season Expectations –

GHSA sponsored events will take precedence over non-competitive school events, non-school sponsored events and seasons.

Study Hall –

Any athlete that has a grade of 75 or below in any class will be required to attend a thirty minute study hall after school from 3:30 to 4:00. This will

be monitored and evaluated on a weekly basis. When the athlete gets his/her grade above 75, he/she will not be **required** to attend Study Hall.

IV. Other Athletic Policies

- **Reverse Raffle –**

The Reverse Raffle is designed to benefit all sports of the Cartersville athletic program. There are 300 total tickets sold for this event, and it will take place on the third Thursday in November. All athletes and parents are encouraged to participate in this fund raiser.

- **Buses –**

Transportation for all athletic events will be provided for each sport. Each athlete is expected to ride to and from all athletic events with the team. Any possible exemptions from this rule must be approved through the athletic director's office. **Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, suspension from the team or dismissal from the team.**

- **Coaches –**

All coaches are required to be employed by the Cartersville School System. Community coaches are not allowed.

- **Gender Equity –**

Cartersville High School is committed to providing equal opportunities and treatment for both sexes under the guidelines of Title IX. Any concerns regarding such issues should be brought to the attention of and discussed with the school Athletic Director, Principal and Head Coach of the sport in which the concerns exist.

- **Letter Policy—**

Each Sport has a lettering policy that will be made available to the parents and athletes at the beginning of the season parent meeting.

- **Tri-Athletic Policy—**

The Tri-Athlete program is a program that recognizes superior athletic and academic performance (the goal of our athletic department). These athletes will be honored in the spring of the school year. The criteria for being named a Tri- Athlete are:

- participate in 3 varsity competitive sports in the course of one school

- year,
- finish the season in good standing, as defined by the head coach of that sport, and
- maintain a cumulative 'B' average.

V. Frequently asked questions

A. What should I do if I have a question or concern?

The Athletic Director, Principal and Head Coaches will operate with an open door policy with parent(s) and student – athletes to discuss any issues that need to be addressed concerning the various aspects of the student – athletes participation in the sport. **However, the parent(s) and student – athlete must make prior arrangements for an appointment with all parties to ensure that the most productive atmosphere exists in discussing issues of concern. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach and generally do not promote a resolution.** Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches are: (1) ways to help your child improve; and (2) concerns about your child's behavior. Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with coaches are: (1) team strategy; (2) play calling; (3) playing time; and (4) other student – athletes.

Student – athletes at Cartersville High School participate in exceptional interscholastic sports. Parents and student – athletes should have a clear understanding that Cartersville High School interscholastic sports are competitive and successful programs supported by the philosophies of participation as stated earlier in this handbook. The staff of dedicated, committed and professional coaches must make decisions on the playing status of all student – athletes on the based on a balance of what are the best options for the individual, team and program to be successful.

B. What can I do as a parent to support my child and the sports program?

First and most important -- attend your child's athletic events and be positive. It is vital to all programs that our kids know that our coaches and programs are supported by the parents and community. Secondly, some of our sports have booster clubs and present great opportunities to support the program in a variety of ways.

C. What are the requirements for approval in the NCAA Clearinghouse?

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse must certify students planning to enroll in college and wishing to participate in NCAA Division I or Division II athletics. Students should apply to the NCAA Clearinghouse after their junior year. Information on eligibility and how to apply can be found at www.eligibilitycenter.org

