

## **Croton-Harmon Athletics**

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Code of Conduct



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## Rights, Responsibilities & Regulations

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NOTE: It is not our intention to stress this section unduly. The information provided herein reflects school district procedure: It is consistent with the New York State Education guidelines to the effect that they be published prominently in order that all individuals concerned with our schools be familiar with the basic rights, responsibilities, and regulations in effect.

1. Discipline is always fair, dignified, individualized, objective, and consistent with the basic human rights of students. It is never employed vindictively or with an educational purpose.
2. Corporal punishment is prohibited. Physical force may only be used by a staff member to restrain a student from doing harm to himself or to others, or from damaging property.
3. Academic grades are not acceptable means of maintaining discipline, whether by threat or actual practice.

The rules and standards set forth in this section apply to conduct on school premises, on school buses, or involving school property; to conduct off school premises that directly affect other students or the school; and to conduct at school functions of any kind. It is impractical and impossible to cover every rule or standard that will focus on the conduct and behavior of the athlete. If there is any question about whether certain behaviors violate school rules, please contact the coach, the Athletic Director, or the school administration.

**The Board of Education and the School Administration reserve the right to disqualify or restrict the participation of any athlete who does not comply with school and generally recognized social standards.**

*Nothing herein is intended to restrict the exercise of legitimate First Amendment rights.*

## Student-Athlete Behavior & Expectations

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All student athletes represent the Croton-Harmon School District, and their conduct on and off the field is expected to be exemplary. Students' participation in athletics ***is not a protected constitutional right***. In order for students represent our schools in athletic competition, they must accept the following academic, social, moral, and civic responsibilities.

Students should remain aware that the District's Code of Conduct is in effect at all times, including when a student is participating in an athletic event or extracurricular activity whether on or off school property, and at any time the student is representing the District.

### 1. Academic Expectations & Athletic Participation

The Athletic Department works to support students who work to their potential in the classroom and are committed to achieving academic success. **Both academic and athletic successes are dependent upon setting goals, and through self-discipline, carrying those goals to completion.** In that spirit, the Athletic Director and the coaches encourage all faculty and parents to contact the Athletic Department or the coach directly if a student is having academic difficulty. Student athletes will be given the necessary time—without athletic penalty—to fulfill their obligations.

A variety of research shows that academic achievement usually increases when a student is involved in extracurricular activity. An improved ability to manage time may explain the difference, because when a student adds a sport to his or her already busy academic schedule, each minute of the day becomes more important, especially with away contests during the week. Coaches and extracurricular advisors encourage parents and members of the faculty to contact the school administration and/or guidance office if any student is having difficulty either in the classroom, or fulfilling the obligations of any of their extracurricular commitments. Learning occurs not only in the classroom, but also in athletic competitions and extracurricular activities. But in order for students to benefit from their various activities, the time requirements for each must be well understood, and students' schedules carefully balanced. **In an attempt to keep student athletes from being caught between a coach's requirements for practice and their academic responsibilities, or their obligations to other school organizations, the Athletic Department provides the following guidelines:**

- 1.1. Practice officially begins at 3:10 p.m. at Croton-Harmon High School and approximately 3:15 p.m. at the PVC Middle School
- 1.2. It is the student's responsibility to inform his or her coach at least one day in advance if they will be late, or if a problem arises during the day, immediately after that obligation comes to the student's attention. This includes detention, which will always take precedence over practice.
- 1.3. If a student misses a bus for practice or a game for a valid reason, he or she may practice or compete in the game if transported by a parent. The Athletic Director or Administrator, however, must approve this request. In extreme situations beyond the student's control the Athletic Director can be reached by cell phone by the coach.
- 1.4. A student must first satisfy their academic obligations in order to participate in practice or games. **There are NO exceptions for missing class without a valid excuse**; an athlete improves by attending practice, a student improves by attending class. This means a student must be on time every day, all day. Extenuating circumstances may occasionally prevent a student from following this regulation, but in that case the circumstances must be explained to the Athletic Director or Administrator as soon as possible.
- 1.5. If a student is too sick to arrive at school for assigned first period class, then he or she is probably too sick to practice or play effectively. If a student leaves school because of illness, that student cannot practice, attend the practice session, or play in a game.
- 1.6. Contact the coach or Athletic Office if you must miss a practice or a game because of illness or any other legitimate reason.

## 2. Attendance Requirements for Croton-Harmon High School & PVC Middle School

- 2.1. All students must demonstrate regular and consistent attendance in school, or they may be ineligible for competition, activities or after school events.
- 2.2. A student not in regular attendance in school on Friday may be ineligible to participate in competitions and/or activities held on a weekend (extenuating circumstances may be appealed to the school administration).
- 2.3. Students who do not sign-in on time for their scheduled first class may not participate in athletic activities for that day, except for legal excuses other than illness.
- 2.4. For a contest on a non-school day, you may be absent for any legal reason on the last school day preceding the event and still participate in the event.

- 2.5. If a student leaves school without permission for any reason, he or she will be ineligible to participate on the day that student is reported to the office.
- 2.6. Team members on suspension for any disciplinary infraction will **not** be allowed to practice or participate in any athletic event during their suspension.
- 2.7. In the event a student is assigned to detention, he or she will serve their detention *before* reporting for an extracurricular or athletic activity.

### 3. Academic Eligibility: Statement of Policy – Croton-Harmon High School

Although the last class period ends at 2:24 PM, students may voluntarily or required to remain at school up to or after 3:00 PM for help or makeup work. Student athletes should not make after-school commitments that require dismissal before 3:00 PM. The school day officially ends at 3:00 PM. If you are having academic difficulty, there are a number of things you can do to avoid becoming academically ineligible:

- *Attend help sessions* after school.
- Attend all *required extra help periods*.
- Find *additional sources of help*. We want you to participate in extracurricular activities, and we want you to successfully complete your schoolwork. Your teachers, your coaches your advisors, your parents, other students, and tutors are all resources you can use to get academic help.
- *Help yourself*. Use study time wisely. Read the material in your textbook and take notes. Use index cards or outlines and study your notes before a test. Hand your homework in on time. If the work seems overwhelming, break it down into individual assignments, one homework assignment, one quiz, and one test at a time.

### 4. Academic Eligibility: Statement of Policy – PVC Middle School

The PVC Middle School recognizes the importance of athletics and extracurricular programs. Students interested in such activities, however, must first satisfy their academic requirements, keeping in mind the order of the term, “Student Athlete.” PVC Middle School has various academic support systems for its students. Every student’s grades are reviewed by the administration prior to each season, then monitored during the season, and subject to teacher notification. If a student is in need of academic intervention, there are different options available throughout the year. These options may include, but are not limited to:

- Extra individual help with the teacher—before, during, after school
- Homework club
- High school students tutoring
- Parent conferences
- Academic team meeting
- Instructional support meetings
- Internet resources or e-mail communication for help

Both CHSD school’s administration and the Athletic Department stress “prevention,” and attempt to identify academic difficulty as early as possible. It may be necessary for a student to learn how to balance the time requirement of academics and practice. If extra help is necessary, the student will be

allowed to attend practice only after the help session has been completed. There will be no “playing time” or athletic penalty as long as the student has communicated the need for extra help to the coach. Once again, if parent recognizes academic difficulty at home, they should contact the school administration immediately.

## **5. Student-Athletes' Behavior Expectations**

### **5.1. Commitment, Ethics & Sportsmanship**

- 5.1.1.** Place the team's goals, welfare, and success first.
- 5.1.2.** Take your participation in sports seriously. Attend all practice sessions, and display a willingness to be coached.
- 5.1.3.** Respect the ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play. Refrain from cursing/swearing. *In interscholastic athletics, such conduct may constitute unsportsmanlike conduct and may subject a team to a penalty shot, stroke, and player ejection from a contest, etc. This conduct also reflects poorly on the district and constitutes a violation of the Code of Conduct.*
- 5.1.4.** Treat visiting teams and coaches courteously.
- 5.1.5.** Respect the judgment and authority of sports officials. Refrain from any argument or unsportsmanlike conduct towards a sports official/judge.
- 5.1.6.** Develop a thorough understanding of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- 5.1.7.** Encourage leadership, initiative, and good judgment by all players on the team.
- 5.1.8.** Recognize that the basic purpose of any athletic program is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players.
- 5.1.9.** Recognize that the concept of "win at any cost" is not only unhealthy, but actually constitutes “losing.”

### **5.2. Hazing**

Hazing is defined as any form of verbal or physical abuse, and may include the use of telecommunication devices and/or modes of communication on the Internet. Hazing may involve emotional mistreatment, harassment, or abuse of a student in connection with his/her membership on an athletic team. Hazing also includes any act that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers a person's physical or emotional health. Hazing may also involve forcing, coercing, or intimidating any student to participate in any illegal, inappropriate and/or embarrassing activity.

- 5.2.1.** Abstain from hazing or any other abusive forms of team initiation.
- 5.2.2.** Students should be aware that hazing is a violation of the district's Student Code of Conduct and can also constitute a violation of New York State Statutes—as a form of assault—and can make the perpetrator liable to arrest and prosecution, as well as civil liabilities.
- 5.2.3.** Hazing is absolutely prohibited no matter if the hazing occurs on or off school grounds or during a sports season. A victim's consent to participate to hazing as a requirement for inclusion on a team does not absolve those proposing the activities (the offenders) of responsibility for violating these guidelines.

**5.2.4.** Students who engage in hazing will be subject to disciplinary action by the school administration, and may include not only suspension from school, but also exclusion from sports, extracurricular activities, or in extreme cases, the cancellation of an entire season.

### **5.3. Health & Wellness**

The use or abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs is detrimental to athletic achievement. **Students who engage in the use of prohibited substances, either on or off school district property, during their sport's competitive season will be investigated in accordance with Board of Education Policy.** Students who use or abuse these substances during their off season will be requested to seek counseling either through their parents' efforts, or school support services. All teachers coaches and school personnel are expected to immediately report any indication of alcohol, drug and/or tobacco use by students who are involved in a school sponsored activity or sport.

Observation and or evidence of students using alcohol, drug and/or tobacco is to be presented to the appropriate administrator and, in case of athletics, the Director of Athletics. No disciplinary action is to be taken until the facts have been reviewed with the appropriate administrator and the student has been given an opportunity to present his or her story, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

### **5.4. Consequences for Tobacco, Alcohol & Drug Use**

If and when the student is in possession, observed use, and or possession with opportunity to distribute alcohol, tobacco or drugs has been confirmed, the following procedure will be followed:

#### **5.4.1. First Occurrence during the School Year**

- Parents and student will meet with the advisor or coach and the administration.
- One-week minimum suspension from the school sponsored activity or team (seven consecutive days).
- The student will meet at least three times with the Substance Abuse Counselor.
- The administration has the discretionary right to notify the appropriate civil authorities when suspected illegal activities have or may occur.

#### **5.4.2. Second Occurrence during School Year**

- Parents and students will meet with the advisor or coach and the administration.
- The student will be dropped from the school sponsored activity or seasonal team.
- The student will be excluded from all activities until the principal receives parental and student commitment that there will be no future use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs based on participation in an approved assistance treatment program.
- The administration has the discretionary right to notify the appropriate civil authorities when suspected illegal activities have or may occur.

#### **5.4.3. Third Occurrence during School Year**

- Parents and student will meet with the advisor or coach and the administration.
- The student will be excluded from school sponsored activities or athletic program at Croton-Harmon High School or PVC Middle School for a full calendar year.
- To be reinstated, the student must furnish satisfactory evidence of being drug, tobacco and or alcohol independent as established by a recognized treatment program or Substance Abuse Counselor.

- The administration has the discretionary right to notify the appropriate civil authorities when suspected illegal activities have or may occur.

*The school may insist that students participate in a formal treatment program if there is evidence that the use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs is habitual.*

### **5.5. Self-Referral for Alcohol, Tobacco or Other Drug Use**

If a student self-refers to any coach, faculty member, administrator or parent for assistance in solving his/her alcohol, drug and/or tobacco use, he or she will be directed to the Substance Abuse Counselor or any student support counselors. The established consequences regarding alcohol, drug and/or tobacco will not be utilized as long as the student follows his/her recommended intervention program. An **Abstinence Use Contract** will be signed to allow continuation in the school sponsored activity or sport team. If the student does not follow his/her recommended intervention program, he/she is then subject consequences listed above.

In season or out of season, if you are found to use, possess, possess for sale, or conspire to provide tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs to any student, you are in violation of the Athletic Department Rules and Code of Conduct and will be subject to disciplinary action as stated in the above guideline steps one, two and three.

## **Parents' Behavior & Expectations**

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### **6. Parent Expectations Regarding Your Child**

- 6.1.1.** Be positive with your child. Let him or her know that it is an accomplishment in itself simply to be part of an athletic team.
- 6.1.2.** Try not to offer excuses if he or she is not playing. Encourage your child to work hard and to try his or her best. Help your child set goals as a way of showing your interest and support and monitor your child's progress.
- 6.1.3.** Discourage "putting down" coaches or other athletes. That teaches your child to complain rather than concentrate on self-improvement. Keep in mind, your child has to return to practice the next day.
- 6.1.4.** Encourage your child to follow the rules of attendance, training, and schoolwork.
- 6.1.5.** Demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as a role model for your child.
- 6.1.6.** Encourage respect for team and school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship.
- 6.1.7.** Encourage your child to improve his or her self-image by continuing to set and striving to meet individual goals.
- 6.1.8.** Making comparisons between older or younger siblings and other athletes can hinder the growth of your child's self-esteem. Progress should be monitored on an individual basis, not in comparison to siblings or other athletes.
- 6.1.9.** Encourage your child to play for the enjoyment of the game, not in order to receive scholarships or support college admissions.
- 6.1.10.** Be realistic about your child's abilities.

- 6.1.11. Make an appointment with the coach to discuss any problems, and voice your concerns in a calm and courteous manner.
- 6.1.12. Be a positive role model at all athletic events and practices. Just as your child does, you represent your family, your school district, and your community.

## 7. Parent Behavior at Athletic Events

- 7.1.1. Remember that although you may not agree with a coach's style of coaching, your child will have to deal with different leadership styles throughout life. ***In that spirit, please refrain from coaching from the sidelines, or at half-time. Rather than helping your child, you will most likely confuse them, and make it impossible for them to please both their coach and their parent.***
- 7.1.2. Engage in a sportsmanlike manner with every coach, parent, player, participant, official, and all other attendees.
- 7.1.3. Refrain from any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or attendee.
- 7.1.4. Refrain from using drugs, tobacco, or alcohol while at an interscholastic sports event. Players, coaches, and officials should not participate in or attend interscholastic sports events while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
- 7.1.5. Avoid and discourage the use of profanity and/or abusive or offensive gestures.
- 7.1.6. Treat every coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or ability.
- 7.1.7. Refrain from engaging in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
- 7.1.8. Avoid fighting or scuffling with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
- 7.1.9. Refrain from engaging in taunting or trash-talking aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
- 7.1.10. Refrain discussing concerns or complaints with any coach prior to or immediately following a practice or a contest. Instead, attempt to make an appointment to speak to the coach at least 24 hours following any incident.

## Croton-Harmon Parent & Player Agreement

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Participation in an interscholastic athletic program is a privilege granted to students who maintain scholarship and citizenship within the framework of the New York State Commissioner's Regulations, Section I Athletics Sportsmanship Policy, Croton-Harmon Board Policies and District Code of Conducts. We believe that it is imperative that students, parents/guardians and the district work together to set high expectations for behavior both on and off the playing fields.

As members of the Croton-Harmon School District community and participants of the \_\_\_\_\_ athletic program, we will comply with all provisions pertaining to the Athletic Department Code of Conduct, in conjunction with all relevant district & board policies. We further understand that it is expected that we conduct ourselves, whether in school or at an event, in a manner that demonstrates both respect and integrity, as well as positively reflects on the program, the district & community.

Any violation of this agreement found after a proper investigation by school authorities will result in disciplinary action, including a warning, probation, a specified period of suspension and/or permanent suspension from the program/event.

*Players may not practice until both player and parent/guardian sign this document.*

**WE HAVE READ AND AGREE UPON ALL STATEMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS POLICY**

Student's Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s) Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_