



## Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes

Lincoln-King Adams-Young Academy- Jefferson-Douglass Academy - Madison-Carver Academy - Washington-Parks Academy

### **Vision**

We see transformed lives, for good, and a new city for all, rooted in our American idea of self-government and the Complete Life.

### **Mission**

To prepare our students to live a Complete Life through an excellent education, a foundation of strong character, meaningful relationships, and real-world experiences. To encourage our broad and beloved Cornerstone community to live a Complete Life.

### **Values**

We hold acts of love, learning, and leadership to be sacred. These actions are made possible by virtues of humility, patience, courage, joy and forgiveness. Our values are personal, professional, institutional, and relevant in building a flourishing community of stakeholders. We develop these values to make possible excellence in all we do from student success to fiscal responsibility.

### **Culture**

To guide students on the path toward the Complete Life, we need to be walking that path ourselves. We are a community of lifelong learners, seeking every day to deepen our knowledge and hone our craft, both in the classroom and outside of it. We do our best work as a team, not as isolated individuals. We believe we must "go slow to go fast," to patiently discover root causes and creatively develop lasting solutions.

# Introduction

The Cornerstone Schools Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes has been developed to provide a uniform set of rules and regulations to govern all district athletic participants, regardless which team or school they represent. The Athletic Code of Conduct combines rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) which have been adopted by Cornerstone Schools with specific district rules governing athletic participation. The Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes will be in effect during the entire school year and the seasons of practice and competition. Student-athletes are to comply with all aspects of the code if they desire to enjoy the privilege of continued eligibility for participation in athletics.

By participating in any sport offered by Cornerstone Schools, a student is voluntarily committing to abide by the rules, requirements, standards, and regulations listed here and in the Cornerstone Student Code of Conduct, as well as any rules, requirements, standards, and regulations of the team. Participating in team sports is a privilege, not a right. All athletes and their parents are expected to read and be familiar with this document. Any questions should be directed to the coach or Athletic Director.

## Cornerstone Schools Expectations for Parents of Athletes

- See that your child(ren) attends school regularly, on time, and for the entire day as scheduled.
- Provide for your child(ren)'s general health and welfare as much as possible.
- Teach and model respect for yourself, your child(ren), and all members of the school community.
- Support the school's efforts to provide a safe and orderly learning environment.
- Know and support the school and Cornerstone rules and policies and work within the existing structure of the school to address concerns. Advocate for your child(ren) and take an active role in the school community.
- Allow the officials to officiate whether you agree with a decision or not.
- Allow the coach to coach whether you agree with a decision or not.
- Encourage your child and ensure that their sports experience is a positive one.
  - Attend games as often as you can in support of your child and the team.
- Ensure that your child attends practice and games.
- If a problem arises, communicate effectively with the coach prior to speaking with the athletic director or other administrators.

## Cornerstone Schools Expectations for Athletes

- Respect yourself and others in the class, on school grounds, on buses, and at any school-related activity.
- Follow all team rules, school rules and regulations, and policies outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship towards the opponents, teammates, officials, and your coach.
- Make excelling in academics your top priority.
- Put team goals ahead of personal goals.
- Have pride in yourself, your team, your school, and care for your facilities.
- Attend practices on time and be prepared.

## Cornerstone Schools Expectations for Coaches

- Teach players by precept and example, respect for school authorities and contest officials; provide support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refrain from critical comments in public or to the media.
- Demonstrate to athletes that the goals of the team supersede individual goals.
- Judge an athlete's talent and ability fairly and assign appropriate playing time and participation.
- Communicate effectively with parents, athletes, and the Athletic Director.
- Give the highest degree of attention to the athlete's physical well-being.
- Develop, communicate and model policies for athletes' conduct and language in the locker room, at practice, during travel, during competition, and any other appropriate times.

## Eligibility Rules as outlined by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)

1. **Age - High School** students become ineligible if they reach their nineteenth (19) birthday before September 1 of a current school year. Seventh-grade students must be under fourteen years of age before September 1 of a current school year. Eighth-grade students must be under fifteen years of age before September 1 of a current year. Those middle school students who will reach their fifteenth (15) birthday before September 1 of a current year may participate in the high school athletic program if approved on an MHSAA Eligibility Advancement Application. These students are limited to four years of high school eligibility, and all other regulations would apply as if that student were in high school.
2. **Middle School** students: A **7th-grade** student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 7<sup>th</sup> graders must be under fourteen (14) years of age, except that a student whose 14<sup>th</sup> birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. An **8th-grade** student who competes in any interschool athletic contests limited to 8<sup>th</sup> graders must be under fifteen (15) years of age, except that a student whose (15<sup>th</sup>) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.
3. **Physical Examinations**- Students must have on file, in the Athletic Department Office, a physician's statement for the current school year (dated after April 15) certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests.
4. **Enrollment**- Students must be enrolled in school prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st semester) or the fourth Friday of February (2nd semester). A student must be enrolled in the school for which she or he competes.
5. **Semesters of Enrollment**- Students cannot be eligible in high school for more than eight semesters and the seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four first semesters and four second semesters of competition and cannot compete if they have graduated from high school. (High School Only)
6. **Transfer Students**- A student in grades 9 through 12 who transfers to another high school is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest for one full semester unless the student qualifies for immediate eligibility under one or more of fifteen published exceptions.
7. **Undue Influence**- The use of undue influence by any person directly or indirectly associated with a school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one semester.
8. **Awards and Amateurism**- Students cannot receive money or other valuable considerations for participating in MHSAA-sponsored sports or officiating in interscholastic athletic contests, except as allowed by the MHSAA Handbook. Students may accept, for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports, a symbolic or merchandise award, which does not have a value over \$25. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips, and admissions to camps or events, are permitted if accepted "in-kind". Awards in the form of cash, merchandise, certificates, or any other negotiable document are never allowed.

## Transportation Policy

Any student traveling to an away athletic contest/practice as a member of a team on a school chartered vehicle must return to the home school on the same vehicle after the contest/practice is over when the vehicle is scheduled as roundtrip transportation. The only exception is if a parent has made prior arrangements with the coach, then that student will be allowed to return home with the student's parent or guardian.

## Attendance Requirements

1. Student-athletes are to attend school during the school day in order to participate in athletics on the same day or evening. Should there be a situation where a student cannot attend school (i.e. medical appointment) an excused absence note will be required to participate in the contest with approval from the principal and athletic director. Any student-athlete who has been suspended from school may not participate in any team activities, including practice, for the duration of the suspension.
2. Attendance at practice sessions is essential to prepare athletes physically and mentally for athletic contests. All team members are required to be at all athletic practice sessions and contests at the times designated by the coach. Should situations occur where it is impossible for a participant to attend due to illness, injury, and other required school or family commitments, the student will make prior arrangements with the coach for an excused absence.
3. Participants will only be excused from team practice during regular school vacation periods when taking part in a school-sponsored or parent-approved trip. It is the expectation of the coach and athletic administration that the student will notify the coach prior to the excused absence.
4. Student-athletes are expected to attend all contests barring any emergency circumstances. If a student will miss a contest, prior written notice from a parent/guardian is necessary.

## Academic Standards required by Cornerstone Schools

It is the requirement of Cornerstone Schools that all student-athletes have and maintain a GPA of at least **2.0**. Academic eligibility will be determined by the final GPA from the **previous semester**. Any student who does not have the required 2.0 GPA may not participate in any team activity, including practice. If a student-athlete fails to maintain the 2.0 during the season, they will be required to attend tutoring/**Saturday school**. This academic standard is not flexible as it is the expectation of Cornerstone Schools that every student chooses to make their education their first priority.

## Conduct Expectations

Recognizing that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, Cornerstone Schools requires that the conduct of student-athletes be exemplary at all times. Participants are representatives of the Cornerstone network and their school and must conduct themselves appropriately at all times both while in school and out of school, this includes being respectful to staff, coaches, officials, as well as members of the opposing team. Student-athletes who violate this policy are subject to suspension or dismissal from the team at the discretion of the Superintendent, school administrators, Athletic Director, or coach.

## Uniform/Equipment Policy

It is the expectation of Cornerstone Schools that all student-athletes are responsible for the care, security, and use of any uniforms/equipment issued to them while participating in school-sponsored sports. Failure to return the uniform/equipment or returning items damaged will result in the student-athlete being held financially responsible. The student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport or receive any awards, transcripts, etc. until the uniform is returned or the athletic department has been reimbursed. Theft of school equipment is larceny and Michigan law regards larceny as a felony.

## **Social Media Use: Student-Athletes are prohibited from the behavior listed below**

1. Posting derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, other student-athletes, teachers, or administrators at this school or other schools.
2. Posting demeaning statements, inflammatory language, or threats to any other person, school, or organization.
3. Posting incriminating photos or statements depicting or insinuating violence, bullying hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, or the selling, possessing, or use of controlled substances.
4. Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
5. Indicating knowledge of criminal activity including theft or damage to property.

## **Substance Abuse**

All student-athletes are required to refrain from smoking, using chewing tobacco, and the use/possession/distribution of drugs, steroids, and/or alcoholic beverages. Refer to Cornerstone School policy as well as the Student Handbook for consequences that will result due to the violation of these rules.

## **Additional Considerations**

- Individual athletes' goals are secondary to the success of the team as a whole. Not all athletes will receive an equal amount of playing time, be understanding of this fact and recognize that participation is a privilege.
- The coach, Athletic Director and school administration reserve the right to suspend/dismiss an athlete who violates this code of conduct, the school code of conduct, or whose attitude and or/behavior are unbecoming of a Cornerstone student-athlete.
- All parents are expected to adhere to the 24-hour "cooling off period" in order to allow themselves to communicate effectively and respectfully with the coaches. All complaints must be heard at the lowest level possible before intervention by a higher authority can occur.

## **WARNING**

Participation in supervised interscholastic athletics does include a risk of injury which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate all risks. Participants can and have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Athletes must obey safety rules, report physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper condition program and inspect their equipment regularly.

# Code of Conduct Acknowledgment Form for Parents and Student-Athletes

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

I HEREBY GIVE MY CONSENT FOR THE STUDENT NAMED ABOVE TO ENGAGE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBILITY THAT SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT FROM PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT THE ABOVE STUDENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO ADHERE FIRMLY TO ALL ESTABLISHED ATHLETIC POLICIES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. I RECOGNIZE THAT AS A RESULT OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS MAY BE NECESSARY AND FURTHER RECOGNIZE THAT SCHOOL PERSONNEL MAY BE UNABLE TO CONTACT ME FOR MY CONSENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE. I DO HEREBY CONSENT IN ADVANCE TO SUCH EMERGENCY CARE, INCLUDING HOSPITAL CARE, AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY UNDER THE THEN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF SUCH CARE. I AUTHORIZE CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS TO USE A PHOTOGRAPH OR VIDEO RECORDING OF MY CHILD FOR DISTRICT NEWS OR WEB PAGE PUBLICATIONS. MY SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT AND I AGREE ON BEHALF OF THE ABOVE-NAMED STUDENT AND MYSELF TO ABIDE BY ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS.

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

AS AN ATHLETE, I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM EXPECTED TO ADHERE FIRMLY TO ALL ESTABLISHED ATHLETIC POLICIES OF CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS AND THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SUCH AS THOSE STATED IN THIS DOCUMENT. MY SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT I HAVE READ THE ENTIRE ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT, AND UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS IN EFFECT 365 DAYS A YEAR, ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, AND EVERYWHERE. I AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL OF THE STATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND CODES OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE ADDITIONAL POLICIES I MUST ADHERE TO WHICH ARE NOT CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

Signature of Student-Athlete \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pay to Participate Program

## K-12 Athletic Department

Cornerstone Schools utilizes a “Pay to Participate” program for school athletics. Schools will assess a fee to those students participating in interscholastic athletics in grades 6-12. Students will be assessed a one-time participation fee that allows them to participate in all sports activities during the current school. This includes the fall, winter, and spring seasons.

### THE PARAMETERS OF THIS PROGRAM INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Payment for participation in middle school and high school sports is due following team try-outs (approximately one (1) to two (2) weeks after the start of practice). The coach will announce the date the fee is due.
- The attached *Pay to Participate* form should be turned in to the coach or an authorized Athletic Department representative for your student’s sport. The fee must be submitted via check or cash. Make checks payable to your school name.
- A \$40.00 one-time fee will be assessed per middle school athlete for the current school year. \* Payment must be submitted during the first sport they participate in for the year.
- A \$50.00 one-time fee will be assessed per high school athlete for the current school year. \* Payment must be submitted during the first sport they participate in for the year.

### PLEASE NOTE:

A student MAY NOT participate in a scrimmage or game until the following are received:

- 1) Medical History Form
- 2) Code of Conduct Form
- 3) Pay to Play Form
- 4) Pay to Play Fees

### NO EXCEPTIONS

There are NO REFUNDS of a “Pay to Participate” fee which has been paid unless the student-athlete suffers a season-ending injury prior to mid-point of the season, which precludes them from participating in one-half of the regularly scheduled contests. A medical authorization letter from a physician must accompany any such request. Requests for refunds should be made to the school's Athletic Department before the midpoint of the season.

# Athletic Participation Fee, Transportation Agreement, and Letter of Understanding

One form needed for each Student-Athlete – PLEASE PRINT

Student:	Age:	Date of Birth:	Grade:
Parent/Guardian Name:			
Address:		City:	Zip:
Phone:	Other Phone Contact:		
Student ID #:			
Sport:			
Previous Sport:			

*I have reviewed this form and understand that the fee paid does not guarantee participation time or any control over any conditions of the sports team. I also understand that paying the fee does not in any way alter Cornerstone School's policies, codes of conduct, building rules, the selection process, or individual team rules and regulations.*

Cornerstone Schools will not provide weekend transportation for high school sports and drop-off only for contests. \* Middle School contests will be drop-off only for all events. \* Students are to be picked up no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of the event and/or practice.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*I acknowledge that it is my responsibility as the parent/guardian to arrange return transportation for my student-athlete.*

\*Some exceptions may apply for specific sports.

Please check one of the following:

**PLEASE NOTE:** Athletic Participation Fee is paid via check/money order to the coach or Athletic Director.

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle School Student-Athlete - \$40.00/per year

\_\_\_\_\_ High School Student-Athlete - \$50.00/per year

*Please list all students in the household (Grades 6-12) who are participating in sports:*

\_\_\_\_\_

*A student will NOT BE allowed to participate in a scrimmage or game, or issued a uniform unless all signatures are affixed and the athletic fee has been paid.*

*Student-Athlete Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*School which Student-Athlete Attends:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

\*If you have any questions regarding athletic forms that need to be completed or participation fees please contact the CEG network Athletic Director, Elijah Richardson, at [elijah.richardson@cornerstonecharters.org](mailto:elijah.richardson@cornerstonecharters.org)



