

Colonel John Wheeler Middle School



Student-Athlete Handbook

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I. PURPOSE

This handbook explains the policies of the interscholastic athletic program at Col. John Wheeler Middle School. It is a privilege, not a right, to take part in extra-curricular activities, thus the athlete is required to abide by the rules as written in this book. As noted in the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) by-laws: any school may establish their own set of guidelines above and beyond those set by the state.

II. PHILOSOPHY

The administration at Col. John Wheeler Middle School believe that it is their responsibility to organize and administer a sound program of athletics which will make a definite contribution to the student-athlete, his or her school, and to the community.

We believe the welfare of the individual student-athlete is the primary concern of our athletic program. The opportunity to participate in athletic competition is provided for the student-athlete. It is never the intent of the athletic competition to take precedence over the welfare of the individual student-athlete.

We believe that good sportsmanship should be taught, modeled, and demonstrated by coaches, athletes and fans.

We believe that the mental, physical, and emotional growth of a student can be greatly enhanced by participating in a well-developed athletic program.

We believe that many participants can find a purpose in their schoolwork and in their lives through a sound athletic program.

We believe that athletics can be a catalyst in increasing school morale and can provide a positive channel for student enthusiasm.

III. STUDENT ATHLETES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The privilege of participating in the Col. John Wheeler Middle School program is extended to each Col. John Wheeler Middle School student regardless of sex, creed, race, or national origin provided that he/she is willing to assume certain responsibilities related to our athletic program. We ask that each student-athlete and his/her parents read and understand our philosophies and regulations in order for the Col. John Wheeler Middle School athletic program to function smoothly.

We are certain that Col. John Wheeler Middle School student-athletes will benefit from the time they will spend in athletics. If at any time parents/legal guardians wish to discuss any phase of their child's athletic experience, contact the coach or athletic director. We are employed to offer our student-athletes the best athletic program possible. We need and depend on parent/guardian cooperation and support to aid coaches and athletic directors in promoting a successful athletic program for Col. John Wheeler Middle School students.

All parents/legal guardians of Col. John Wheeler Middle School student-athletes are to sign the last page of this handbook along with sons/daughters who are participating in our program during the current school year. Parents'/guardians' signatures are proof that the signers have read this book and support our regulations.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

Athletic eligibility will be determined every 4-1/2 weeks. This will include progress reports and report cards. Any athlete receiving two (2) Fs on a progress report or report card will be academically ineligible until the next progress report or report card. Students are not to resume competition until the coach has written notice from the guidance office confirming the improved progress report or report card.

The responsibility of determining athletic eligibility rests with the coach who will submit rosters to the

athletic director. The athletic director will verify the eligibility information and place the records on file in the athletic office. Coaches will be informed as to which athletes have had eligibility revoked.

Ineligible athletes may continue to practice with a team but will not dress for games.

V. PARTICIPATION

Student-athletes are encouraged to participate in as many sports as possible. This effort will strengthen the entire athletic program and make the student-athlete better rounded.

Students may participate in two sports during one season. For example, a student may run cross-country and play volleyball in the fall.

An athlete must be in attendance all day in order to be considered eligible to participate in a contest or practice that day unless permission is granted for unusual circumstances by an administrator. The student must be in school on Friday in order to participate in a Saturday event unless excused by an administrator.

VI. TRY-OUTS

The athletic department is sensitive to the needs of the athletes during the tryout period. It is the school's desire to see that as many student-athletes as possible are involved in the program during the athletic season. Unfortunately, due to facility space, time constraints, numbers of equipment, and additional factors, limitations are placed on sizes of teams for each individual sport.

The following guidelines are in place for team selection:

Choosing the members of the various athletic teams is the responsibility of the coach. The Coach of each individual sport may assist in the selection.

Before tryouts begin, coaches will provide information to all candidates of the team at a meeting. Such information shall include:

Length of try-out period – a minimum of two (2) days.

Objectives used to select the members of the team.

Distribution of practice and competition schedule.

Explain the commitment necessary to join the team.

When lowering the numbers on teams becomes a necessity, a coach will provide the following opportunities for each player:

The coach will meet with each candidate individually to discuss strengths, weaknesses, and squad membership or reason for non-membership. Lists or rosters of team membership will not be posted.

The coach will discuss options or alternatives for those individuals who do not make the team. An alternative might be assisting as a manager on the team

VII. APPEARANCE

Student-athletes are expected to:

Dress in a fashion that demonstrates self-respect and a respect for school.

Uniforms must be tucked in at all times.

No jewelry during practice or games.

Individual coaches may set additional grooming requirements.

VIII. CONDUCT, CHARACTER, DISCIPLINE

Student-athletes and managers are expected to be citizens in good standing. Training rules will be enforced for conduct in and out of school throughout the entire calendar year (including summer). Discipline for a violation of training rules is under the jurisdiction of the coach and school administration. Reporting violations will be either by admission of wrongdoing by the student-athlete or by an adult

observance of the wrongdoing brought to the attention of the athletic director who will investigate the allegation.

IX. MAJOR TRAINING VIOLATIONS

The following are considered major violations to be reported to administration:

1. Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages.
2. Use and/or possession of illegal drugs in any form.
3. Use and/or possession of tobacco in any form.
4. Violation of any civil laws.
5. Violation of the CPCSC Social Networking Media policy.
6. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations put forth in the Colonel John Wheeler Middle School Handbook.
7. Disrespect to any member of the Crown Point Community School Corporation.

X. CONSEQUENCES

The following are consequences for reported violations:

1. A first offense violation of Rules 1-5 will result in the athlete's suspension for a minimum of 25% of the team's contest in the current season. A second violation will result in the athlete's suspension from all athletic activities for the remainder of the school year. A third violation will result in the athlete's suspension from all athletic activities for the remainder of the athlete's middle school career. Note: should an athlete commit a violation out of season, he/she will serve the suspension once his/her season starts.
2. A student suspended out of school will not be permitted to participate in any athletic practice or contest on that day(s).
3. A student serving an Alternative Classroom assignment on the day of a contest will not participate in the contest.
4. Rules 6 and 7 will be handled directly by the coach of each sport. The team rules and guidelines will set consequences for rule infractions.

XI. DUE PROCESS

If the athletic director declares the student-athlete ineligible for interscholastic competition, the student-athlete may request a hearing by an athletic council which will consist of the athletic director, the student's coach, the principal or his assistant, a coach from another sport and a faculty advisor. The decision of this council will be final.

XII. EQUIPMENT

All equipment issued at the beginning of an athletic season must be returned at the end of that season before an athlete is eligible for another sport. Debt slips will be turned in to the athletic secretary for lost or abused equipment as well as equipment that is not returned. Athletes will be charged the replacement cost.

XIII. PHYSICALS

All students participating in athletics are required to have a pre-participation physical exam. The physical forms are available in the main office or from the individual coaches. Athletes will not be allowed to practice unless a physical form is on file. Athletic physicals are valid from May 1st until the end of the next school year. Athletes must have a new physical each year.

XIV. TRANSPORTATION

The Crown Point Community School Corporation shall provide authorized transportation services for all student-athletes and coaches of athletic teams to all away contests.

A \$30 transportation fee is required for each season an athlete participates. The transportation fee will be collected at the beginning of each season. Checks need to be payable to Col. John Wheeler Middle School.

A certified bus driver will transport athletes. In the event that a bus is not available, the coach will drive a vehicle with no more than 15 passengers including the driver.

All athletes are expected to ride the bus to and from the athletic event. Only in the case of an emergency, when a parent/legal guardian asks for an exception to this rule, may the individual coach make an exception. A Travel Release form is available in the main office and must be signed by a parent/legal guardian and the athletic director.

XV. INSURANCE

Col. John Wheeler Middle School offers athletic insurance to those individuals who are interested in paying for their own student-athlete plan. These forms can be obtained in the office. If you have adequate family insurance that covers your child in case of injury, sign the waiver at the end of this book. Athletes will not be allowed to practice unless an insurance waiver is on file. Please contact the athletic director for further information, if necessary.

Crown Point Middle School Guidelines for the Use of Social Networking Media

As an educational institution, the Crown Point Middle Schools support and encourage the rights of individuals to free speech. However, student-athletes should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, their community and /or the Crown Point Middle Schools. This includes any activities conducted online through social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, Friendster, podcasting, blog sites, You Tube, Twitter, or chat rooms among others). This also includes the practice of sexting which is a term coined by the media that generally refers to youth writing sexually explicit messages, taking sexually explicit photos of themselves or others in their peer group, and transmitting those photos and/or distributing these photos.

Participation in athletics at the Crown Point Middle Schools is a privilege, not a right. As a student-athlete at the Crown Point Middle Schools, you are a representative of the school and the community, and as such, you are always in the public eye. This fact places certain additional demands upon how you must live your life. Keep the following guidelines in mind as you participate in any of the aforementioned public media:

Before participating in any online community, understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control at the moment it is placed online,--even if you limit access to your site.

You are not to post information, photos, or other items that could embarrass you, your family, your team, the Athletic Department or the Crown Point Middle Schools. This includes items that may be posted on your page by others or transmitted on your cellular device.

You should not post your address, phone numbers, birth date, or other personal information. You could be opening yourself up to predators or stalkers.

Exercise caution as to what information you post on your website about your whereabouts or plans. This will help prevent stalkers or other criminally minded individuals from gaining access to you.

Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site. Many people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes or seek connection with student-athletes to give them a sense of membership on a team.

Coaches and athletic department administrators can and do monitor these websites. Disparaging remarks about teammates, coaches, or school officials can serve as grounds for suspension from competition or dismissal from teams, as well as possible legal ramifications.

Students-athletes will face disciplinary measures for violation of team policies, athletic department policies, and /or state and federal laws. Any admissions of conduct in violation of any of these policies or laws found on a student-athlete's website will subject him or her to disciplinary measures. Any depictions

of conduct in violation of any of these policies or laws found on a student-athlete's website will be subject to a full investigation.

Also keep in mind that local police or sheriff's offices or other law enforcement agencies may check these websites regularly.

Be cognizant of the fact that many employers and colleges also monitor these sites. You should be aware that any information posted on these websites may prevent you from obtaining a job or prevent you from attending the college of your choice.

* As adapted from NC State University modified by the Crown Point Middle Schools

Please complete, sign, and return the **Insurance Options** and **Parent-Student Agreement** forms at the end of the handbook.

Insurance Options

You must check one of the following before you will be permitted to practice.

_____1. The student-athlete named below has adequate insurance coverage through our family program. Should injury expenses exceed the limitations of our personal family insurance, we will assume any and all additional costs.

_____2. The student-athlete named below is not covered by family insurance. We release Col. John Wheeler Middle School and its representatives from all claims for any and all injuries sustained while participating in the athletic program.

_____3. We wish to purchase athletic insurance from Mutual of Omaha's Student Accident Insurance. Claims will be paid only to the extent the loss exceeds any benefits paid or payable by your insurance or benefits. **MUTUAL OF OMAHA IS A LIMITED ACCIDENT INSURANCE, AND MAY NOT TOTALLY REIMBURSE ALL MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR A SPECIFIC INJURY.**

Any parent/guardian wishing to purchase this limited accident insurance plan for their student-athlete must complete an application, including full premium payment, before the first official practice starting date in your child's sport.

Name of Student-Athlete_____

Grade_____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian_____

Date_____ Telephone Number_____

Parent-Student Agreement

I have read and understand the Col. John Wheeler Middle School Student-Athlete Handbook. I understand that violations of any of the included regulations will result in action as prescribed. I realize the responsibilities requested of a Col. John Wheeler Middle School athlete and the penalties rendered if any of the regulations are violated.

NAME OF ATHLETE

SIGNATURE OF ATHLETE

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

DATE