

# ***CHRISOPHER HIGH SCHOOL***

## ***Sports & Activities Policy***

Christopher High School recognizes athletics and activities as integral parts of the entire school setting, contributing greatly to a student's complete educational development. As such, we believe that all students should have an opportunity to participate in athletics and activities, and that such participation should encourage positive scholastic and social growth. Both the participant and the sport or activity itself should be a credit to Christopher High School and the community. The Gilroy Unified School District realizes that an effective athletic and activity program is a product of the responsible cooperation among its four major contributors: the student, the staff, the site and district administration, and the parents of the student.

The Christopher High School staff expects the participants to develop a personal code of conduct consistent with the values of sportsmanship, scholarship, integrity, and commitment to oneself and team. The following rules are the basic requirements for participation in athletics and activities at Christopher High School.

You are considered a representative of Christopher High School by your participation. As such, you are expected to maintain exemplary behavior and citizenship at all times. As a participant in sports and activities at Christopher High School, your conduct is covered by this policy. In this policy, the term coach and advisor are interchangeable.

The Students Involved in Activities Below Shall Be Governed By This Policy:

- Student-Athletes
- Cheerleaders
- Student Body and Class Officers
- Band
- Choir
- Athletic Trainers
- Any other group that represents Christopher High School in competition

### ***General Eligibility Requirements:***

- From the date first enrolled in high school, a student can only compete in athletics for eight consecutive semesters (4 years).
- No student whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15th shall participate or practice on any athletic team in the following school year.

### ***Residential Eligibility:***

- The California Interscholastic Federation requires that students who participate on an athletic team generally must be living with parents or legal guardians who reside within the school's attendance boundaries. All exceptions to this rule require that the CIF Section Commissioner give special permission and that forms and letters of approval be on file before a student can be declared eligible. Questions about these exceptions should be addressed to the athletic director or the administrator in charge of athletics.
- Because the penalty for allowing an ineligible athlete to participate is severe (the team must forfeit all the contests in which the athlete participated), any athlete living outside the school's attendance area must notify his/her coach of his/her residence at the beginning of the season so that the coach can make sure that all the appropriate forms and approvals are on file. In addition, any student who has not attended Christopher High since the beginning of their Freshman year should notify their coach immediately.

### ***Academic Eligibility Requirement:***

- To encourage and promote academic excellence, all students participating in sports and activities shall demonstrate satisfactory minimum progress in meeting the requirements of graduation by undertaking the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the CIF and the District.
- In order to emphasize the importance of academic achievement, the following constitute minimum requirements for student participation in athletics and student activities:
  - A. A grade point average of "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) in all classes and no grades of "F" "I" or "NM". The student must receive a passing grade in all classes per grading period. Non-Weighted GPA's will be used for eligibility.
  - B. Students who receive 1 "F" on a grading period, may apply with the Athletic Director (per BP 6145 Instruction) for a one-time F-waiver. If approved, the waiver is good for the remainder of the current grading period. Students may use the F-waiver once (1) throughout his/her 4 year career.
  - C. No more than 5 credits per class will be counted.
  - D. Students new to GUSD will be held to state eligibility standards, excluding probationary provisions, until the first grading period.
  - E. He/she may not receive more than one "Needs Improvement" in citizenship in a grading period.
  - F. Eligibility will be checked each quarter. Should an individual fall below the above requirements, the student will not be eligible for participation in athletics/activities during the next nine-week grading period.
  - G. A grading period will constitute an eligibility period. The grade issued at the end of each quarter and semester will be used to determine eligibility.
  - H. All transfer students outside the district must also meet eligibility requirements as well as CIF requirements in order to participate.

- I. Students are not declared “eligible” or “ineligible” until the computer printout is issued (approximately one week after each quarter ends).
- J. Summer School grades will be counted in computing a student’s GPA provided summer school classes meet the matching requirements for grade improvement. **Summer School grades may not necessarily improve eligibility.**
- K. Students accumulating 3 or more days of suspension will be immediately ineligible for the next six weeks. **This includes participation and practice.**
- L. The Athletic Director or designee will clear all students involved in athletics after meeting the eligibility requirements.

## **Summary**

The foregoing abbreviated statements of eligibility requirements are offered for general understanding of such regulations. For a more complete understanding of these requirements you can refer to the complete CIF bylaws available on the CIF web site at [www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org). If you have specific questions please refer them to the Athletic Director. As stated, the rules apply to all students regardless of athletic ability or age. Circumstances may arise which give the appearance of unfairness, may result in a student not being able to do something they want badly to do, and may cause families to become upset over the requirements as they apply to their family members. Each requirement for athletic eligibility serves an important purpose and has been established based upon prior and current need to insure that our programs meet the educational objectives set for them. Shading the rules, inconsistent enforcement, or less than candid statements of fact, are inimitable to the education of our students and will not be condoned by professional educators and concerned citizens.

Participation in high school athletics is a privilege, not a property right, as has been determined consistently in courts of law throughout the United States. That privilege is subject to regulation by the representatives of the various schools and districts of the State of California. Each such representative has been appointed by the school board having jurisdiction over member schools, and acts on behalf of all students in the state.

### ***Athletic Clearance:***

- No student will be allowed to practice or participate until the online clearance at <https://www.homecampus.com/> has been completed **AND** student has been cleared by Athletic staff and the student’s emergency card has been picked up in the ASB office.
- ***Purchased an ASB Student Activity Stamp***

### ***Attendance:***

- Regular attendance at practice is mandatory unless excused for medical reasons or by arrangement with the coach of your sport.
- ***Non-attendance at school on the day of a game prohibits you from participating in an athletic contest. (Unless absence is school related. i.e. field trips)***

- Athletes *must be in school for 2 /3 of the school day*, which they are enrolled unless excused by the administration. Absence from one or more blocks on the day of an event may result in the athlete's non-participation in the sporting event on that day.
- If a contest is held on a non-school day, the student must attend a full day of school the school day prior to the contest unless excused by the administration.
- Unexcused absences from practice, or failure to maintain good attendance, may be cause for removal from the team.
- Note: Coaches may adopt individual rules for practice and contest attendance.

### ***Sportsmanship:***

Participants are expected to:

- Abide by the principles outlined in the “Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Student-Athletes.”
- Help us make visitors feel welcome with friendly and courteous treatment.
- Accept the rules of the contest, decisions of the officials, and directions from personnel on duty with a positive and cooperative spirit.
- Be friendly and positive with their behavior, including comments and gestures.
- Refrain from rude remarks, insults, profanity or comments that reflect negatively on any person's race, sex, religion, ethnic origin, age, handicap, school community or esteem.
- Accept victory and defeat graciously.
- Take care of all athletic equipment.

### ***Citizenship:***

Participants are expected to maintain excellent citizenship (behavior). Individual behavior standards should be of the highest quality so as not to adversely reflect on their teams or school, including behavior in classes, rallies, assemblies, athletic events, and in the community.

### ***General Behavior:***

It is the coach's responsibility to be familiar with the GUSD student behavior manual and enforce all school rules at all times.

It is the coach's responsibility to see that every athlete understands the training rules, violations, and eligibility requirements enforced by the CIF, CCS, BVAL, and GUSD. The rules that follow are considered minimum standards of conduct for all GUSD athletic and activities participants. Each coach shall uphold these standards for training and behavior. It is required that all coaches submit team rules/consequences to the Athletic Director prior to the beginning of the season.

Specific offenses including, but not limited to, the following list of infractions will result in disciplinary action.

- Disrupting school activities or otherwise defies the valid authority of school personnel
- Commits an obscene act, engaging in profanity, vulgar behavior, threats or harassment
- Possession of an object of no reasonable use to a pupil at school
- Damage or defacing of school, public or private property
- Habitual truancy and/or tardiness from one or more classes or practice
- Violation of sportsmanship/citizenship standards
- Disrespectful behavior toward coaches, school officials, teachers, campus supervisors, referees, law enforcement officers, other adults in position of authority, or individual members of the team
- Constant talking when being instructed, challenging authority or talking about other members of the team in a derogatory manner
- Possession or use of alcohol
- Possession or use of controlled substances (drugs), including steroids, other than those which are medically prescribed
- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- Possession of tobacco, including chewing tobacco
- Hazing
- Gambling
- Causes or attempts to cause physical injury to another person (fighting, etc.)
- Possession of a dangerous object/weapon or imitation firearm
- Attempts or commits theft or receives stolen property
- Harassing, threatening or intimidating a witness
- Commission of a serious crime
- Commits or attempts to commit robbery/extortion
- Sale of a controlled substance
- Offered, arranged or negotiated to sell any "look alike" controlled substance, or sold any "look alike" substance
- Brandishing a weapon

- Assault or battery resulting in serious injury or damage
- Possessing, selling or furnishing a firearm
- Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery
- Causes or attempts to cause, or participates in an act of hate violence
- Terrorist threats against the school or school personnel

**School personnel may use one or more of the following approaches, not necessarily in the order listed, in maintaining team discipline and in support of the athletic rules and regulations:**

- reprimand
- conference with the athlete
- conference with the athlete and:
  - Parent
  - School personnel
  - Team members
  - Community representatives
  - Law enforcement agents
  - Or any appropriate combination of the above
- suspension from the:
  - **next** scheduled contest(s) of the athletic activity\*
  - **team** for the balance of the season of the athletic activity
- Loss of Athletic / Activity privileges for one year
- Loss of Athletic / Activity privileges for the remainder of their high school career
- An athlete may be suspended or expelled from athletic participation for off campus conduct which is detrimental to the welfare of the school or athletic activity, or which adversely affects school or team discipline. Lesser forms of discipline may be imposed. School officials and coaches, in cooperation with a representative from law enforcement agency, when involved, and the athlete's parents shall take measures which appropriately serve the best interests of the district, the school, the team, and the athlete.

\*Days of eligibility for determining length of suspension from sports and activities are defined as school days excluding weekends and holidays. The day is counted if a game or scheduled team practice is held on a weekend or holiday.

It should be noted that the Christopher High School Discipline Policies would always take precedent over this Sports and Activities Policy.

**Note: Violations of the Christopher High School Sports and Activities Policy accumulate throughout a student's high school career beginning with the first sport or activity participation.**

While the consequences provided by this policy are meant to deter negative behavior, there is a strong emphasis on remediation activities that will help students learn from their mistakes. The involvement of all appropriate school personnel to assist in this process is stressed. All students participating in extra-curricular activities shall abide by the rules at all times including school vacations, weekends, and non-school hours.

### ***Miscellaneous Behavior:***

#### ***Athletic Awards***

An athlete must be in good standing, academically eligible and a member of a team for an entire season (unless he/she is a transfer student) if he/she is to be eligible to receive an athletic award or block.

#### ***Dress/Grooming Policy***

A student participating as a member of a Christopher High School athletic team or activity covered by this policy is regarded as a representative of the high school. The student's grooming is, therefore, a concern. Coaches will be responsible for determining the standards for his/her sport or activity. On the day or night of an activity, each participant shall dress as directed by the coach.

#### ***Participation in Concurrent Sports***

A student may participate in two sports concurrently if he/she has the written consent of both coaches. The student must designate a primary sport. If a conflict occurs in scheduled events, the primary sport prevails.

#### ***Proper Uniforms***

Athletes must wear uniforms or equipment as specified by the Coach/Athletic Director.

#### ***Quitting or Changing Sports***

If a student quits a sport without the coach's permission, that athlete may not go out for another sport until that sport season ends. The end of the season is defined as the last regularly scheduled BVAL league game

#### ***Transportation***

When the school provides transportation, team members are expected to go and return on the same bus or with the school arranged car pool.

On the return trip, students may be released to parents or legal guardians if they sign a release form at the event. **Students may not be released to anyone else including siblings or other relatives.**

In the event of emergency or extenuating circumstances, parents may request that they be allowed to make their own arrangements for transportation for their student to and from the event. This is subject to coach or administrative approval.

Parents who volunteer to participate in car pool transportation must be approved by GUSD. Drivers must provide proof of insurance for the areas covered in the policy and provide a copy of their driver's license, along with the other necessary forms. **No more than 8 passengers including the driver shall be transported in any vehicle other than a school bus.**

## ***Tryouts***

- There will be a tryout period of one week for a student for all athletic activities
- Each eligible student is allowed one tryout period per athletic activity.
- A transfer student from another school will be permitted the same one week tryout period upon being declared eligible.
- Students trying out for athletic activities, which have an authorized Central Coast Section practice starting date prior to the opening of school in the fall are strongly urged to report and tryout for the athletic activity in accordance with the practice starting date. Article 19, Football section of the California Interscholastic Federation Bylaws specify that, “Each individual student on the team must have had at least 10 days of practice before being allowed to compete in a game.
- A student cut by a coach due to team limitation factors or a student who chooses to drop an athletic activity within the one week tryout period may tryout for another sport within the same season provided the coach of the new sport provides written approval to the Athletic Director
- A student cut by a coach after the one week tryout period, and is in good standing may tryout for another sport within the same season provided the coach of the new sport provides written approval to the Athletic Director. In the best interest of students and other athletic activities it is required that cuts be made at the end of the one week tryout period.

## ***Complaint Procedures:***

Individuals alleging discrimination against student(s), parent(s), or community member(s) on the basis of ethnicity, religion, age, gender, color, or physical or mental disability should complete and submit to the Superintendent a District Complaint Form. District Complaint Forms are available in the Superintendent’s office.

For all other complaints, parents should adhere to the following procedure:

***First Level:*** Meet with coach cited in complaint.

***Second Level:*** Meet with head coach. Parents should address the coach directly about problems or concerns. In sports with multiple levels (Frosh, JV and Varsity), parents should next contact the varsity-level coach.

***Third Level:*** Meet with Athletic Director.

***Fourth Level:*** Meet with Principal or designee.

If these meetings fail to result in resolution of the issue, the complainants may appeal in writing to the Superintendent and, after that, to the Board of Trustees.

Complaints should be directed to the individual in question or to the Athletic Director. If/when the Athletic Director is contacted about a problem; he will facilitate a meeting between the parties involved, if necessary.



**WARNING TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS**  
**SERIOUS, CATASTROPHIC AND PERHAPS FATAL INJURY MAY RESULT FROM**  
**ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

By its very nature, competitive athletics may put students in situations in which **SERIOUS, CATASTROPHIC** and **FATAL ACCIDENTS** may occur.

Many forms of athletic competition result in violent physical contact among players, the use of equipment that may result in accidents, strenuous physical exertion, and numerous other exposures to risk of injury.

Students and parents must assess the risks involved in such participation and make their choice to participate in spite of those risks. No amount of instruction, precaution, or supervision will totally eliminate all risk of injury. Just as driving an automobile involves choice of risk; athletic participation by high school students also may be inherently dangerous. The obligation of parents and students in making this choice to participate cannot be over-stated. There have been accidents resulting in death, paraplegia, quadriplegia, and other very serious permanent physical impairment as a result of athletic competition.

By granting permission for your student to participate in athletic competition, you, the parent or guardian, acknowledge that such risk exists.

By choosing to participate, you, the student, acknowledge that such risk exists.

Students will be instructed in proper techniques to be used in athletic competition and in the proper utilization of all equipment worn or used in practice and competition. Students must adhere to that instruction and utilization and must refrain from improper uses and techniques.

As previously stated, no amount of instruction, precaution, and supervision will totally eliminate all risk of serious, catastrophic, or even fatal injury.

If any of the foregoing is not completely understood, please contact the assistant principal for further information.