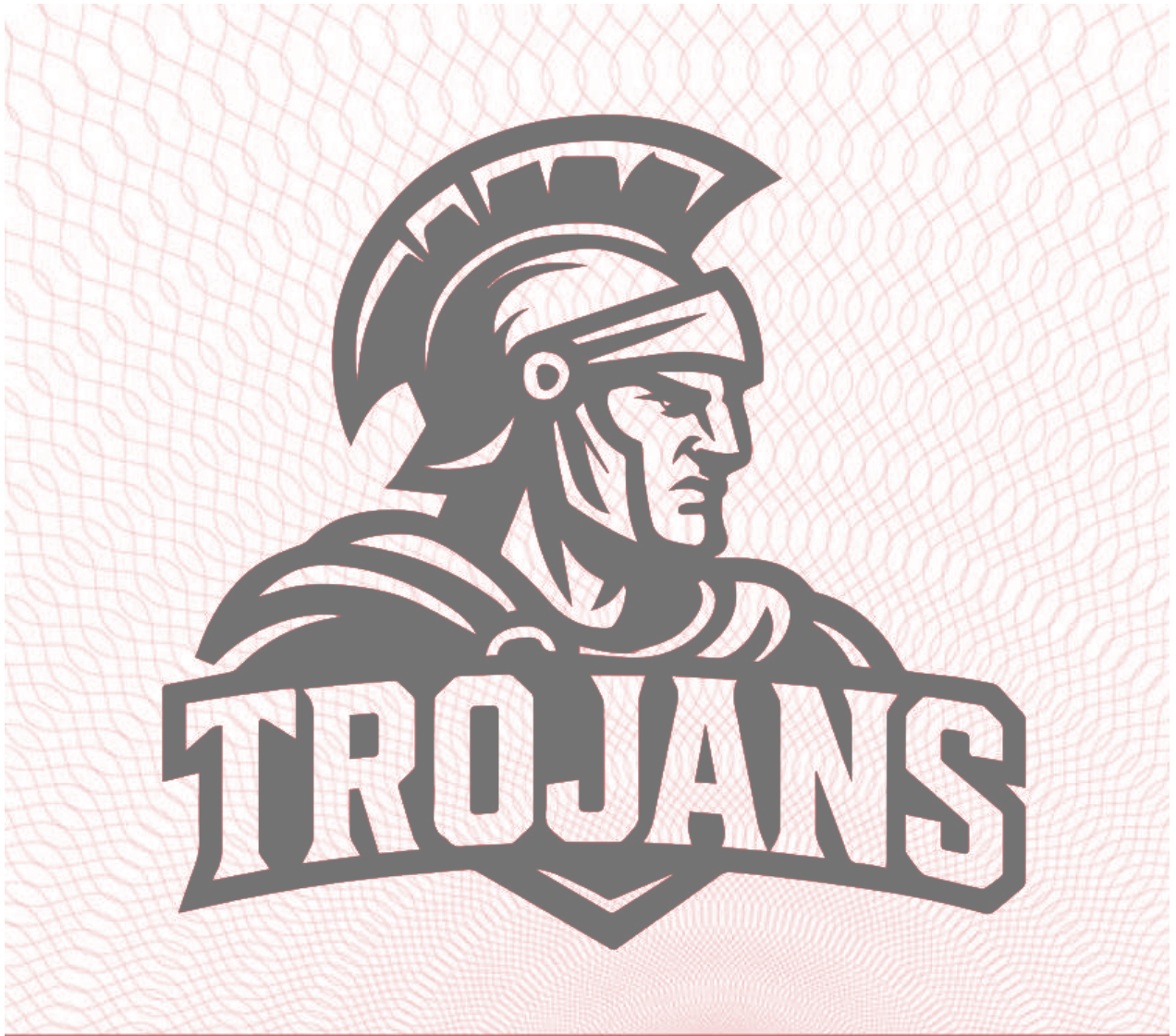


Caney Valley Public Schools

Athletic Handbook



Philosophy of Athletics

Athletics can be a tremendous experience in a young person's life. Athletics play a very important role in the life of a Caney Valley student-athlete. Athletic programs help serve the community by bringing our patrons together in support of our various sports activities. Many life lessons can be developed as part of an athletic program such as personal integrity, self-discipline, determination, self-confidence, proper mental attitude, selflessness and personal responsibilities.

The Caney Valley Athletic Department believes that athletics enhance the educational experience of all students involved by providing learning opportunities that will help develop the student-athlete into a productive member of society.

It should be stressed that participation in athletics is a "privilege" and not a right and as such the coach and/or administration have the authority to revoke this privilege when rules are not followed. The privilege carries with it the responsibility for the athlete to represent themselves, the student body, team, school and community in a positive manner at all times.

Quitting a Sport

Athletics at Caney Valley is a class and part of the school day. Any athlete that wishes to quit a sport after the first contest needs to understand that they may be given an "F" for the class and receive no credit.

Participation Requirements

In order to participate in athletics, the student-athlete must be enrolled in Caney Valley Public Schools, be in good standing, have completed a physical as well as parental consent on all required forms or documentation. All student-athletes must remain academically eligible.

****Physicals must be done yearly after May 1st of the preceding school year.**

Weight Training: It is the expectation of Caney Valley Athletics that every Athlete participates in weight and agility training in their offseason including summers. Summer hours will be posted before the last day of School.

Attendance

Athletes must be in attendance at least ½ day of their classes to compete in an activity on the same day. (An exception such as personal emergencies must be approved by the principal or their designee.)

- As required by the OSSAA, a 90% attendance rate must be maintained for eligibility
- Unexcused absences or habitual absences from practices or games may result in dismissal from the team.

Equipment and Facilities

1. Students are responsible for all school equipment that is checked out to them and will need to pay for lost equipment or equipment that is damaged beyond the extent of “normal wear”
2. In most of our sports students will be responsible for washing practice attire daily. Coaches will instruct students as to whose responsibility it will be to wash and clean game uniforms.
3. Athletes should keep their locker area clean. Clothing and equipment should always be put in lockers when possible. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items. Take pride in keeping your locker rooms and facilities neat and clean.
4. Weight room: Athletes are not permitted to workout in the weight room unless supervised by a staff member. Everyone has a responsibility to practice good hygiene in the weight room. Shirts must be worn when using equipment and benches should be wiped regularly. All weight should be properly racked or put in its proper place after use.

Team Travel

Team members will travel to and from athletic contests on school provided transportation. Athletes may return with their parents if the parents make arrangements with the coach. Parents must sign a signout sheet with the coach before students are allowed to leave. Athletes are not allowed to leave with someone else's parents unless prior arrangements have been made before the contest. Athletes should keep the bus as clean as possible. They are expected to pick up around their seats, close windows,

and help sweep the bus and throw away trash as necessary. Sports will be charged for buses that do not return in an acceptable manner.

Parent expectations

Parents will demonstrate good sportsmanship by displaying the following behaviors:

1. Providing support for coaches and officials to foster a positive, enjoyable experience for all student-athletes
2. Recognizing that student participation in athletics is a privilege.
3. Using good sportsmanship as spectators and conducting themselves in a manner that reflects on both the team and school.
4. Promoting the team by being supportive and helpful of the school program.
5. Refraining from coaching their students from the stands or sidelines.
6. Expecting consistent student attendance at practices and games
7. Being supportive of Caney Valley Athletic Programs.

Fan/Parent Code of Conduct.

Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. Booing, taunting opponents, officials, coaches, other fans or administration will not be tolerated.

In the event a spectator is ejected from an event, the spectator will not be allowed admittance to any future events until these criteria have been completed:

1. A Letter of apology to the offended persons or school has been written.
2. Completion of "Sportsmanship" course through the National Federation of High school sports. (NFHS Learn). With a completed certificate provided to the athletic director.
3. Granted admittance by Administration

Parent and Coach Relationship

Students are best served in their athletic experiences by understanding and respecting the position of both coaches and parents. Clear communication between athletes, coaches and parents is an important element in an athletic program

Communication Athletes and Parents should expect from the coach

1. Expectations that the coach has for the team and your child for the season
2. Team rules and guidelines and consequences for infractions
3. Times and locations of practices and games
4. Injury procedures.

Communications that coaches expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any injury or illness in a timely manner
3. Notification of any scheduling conflicts well in advance

As a student athlete at Caney Valley, your child may experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is also important to understand that things may not always go as your child expects. At these times discussion with the coach by the student athlete is encouraged. This is an important first step to a mutual understanding.

Appropriate Topics to discuss with the coach:

1. The coach's interaction with your child
2. Any concerns about your child's interaction with others
3. Ways to help your child improve athletically

The primary role of every Caney Valley coach is that of an educator. As a parent it is sometimes difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you wish. Coaches make decisions on what is in the best interest of all student-athletes in their programs. Certain concerns such as those previously listed are appropriate to discuss with your child's coach. Other areas, such as those listed below must be left to the discretion of the coach:

Inappropriate Topics to discuss with the coach:

1. Team strategy
2. Playing time
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

***Conflicts and conferences are generally best resolved at the lowest level, that is between the player and the coach. When a parent-coach conference is necessary, please follow the procedure outlined below.

When you have a concern to discuss with a coach – Please use the following procedure:

1. If the coach-athlete conference does not resolve the situation, please call the main number at the school and set up a conference with the coach during school hours at their convenience.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and request that a meeting be arranged between the parent and coach.
3. Do not attempt to conference a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for parents, athletes and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive relations.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation
2. Call the Principal and schedule a meeting to discuss the situation.
3. The final step would be with the Superintendent of Schools.

(Do not call the members of the school board as you will be redirected to the above process)

Parent code of expectations:

1. Be realistic about your child's athletic ability.
2. Help your child set realistic goals.
3. Be an encouragement at home and in the stands by emphasizing "improved performance", not winning.
4. Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
5. Control your emotions at games and events.
6. Respect your child's coaches, communicate with them in a positive way.
7. Be a positive role model.
8. Be responsible, sensible and keep your priorities in order. Much more is at stake than a win or a loss.

Expectations of the Student-Athlete

- Realize the existence of and be held accountable for the individual rules outlined by the coach or sponsor which may add to or be more stringent than what is outlined in the Caney Valley Athletic Handbook
- Follow the coach's rules
- Follow all school board policies
- Appropriate conduct on all social media platforms
- Not engage in hazing or bullying
- Respect diversity
- Show respect for all coaches and Team all the time

Possible disciplinary actions include:

1. Appropriate disciplinary action from the head coach of the sport
2. Temporary suspension from the sport
3. Contract for improvement with student athlete and parents(s)
4. Suspension from the sport for remainder of season
5. Suspension from athletics for the year.

**** These disciplinary actions are baselines that the athletic director and coaches will use. **Individual head coaches may have stricter consequences as part of their team rules.** If a student-violates a school board policy, the consequences outlined in board policy will apply.

When suspensions occur:

First Offense: The student-athlete will be suspended for 20% of the athletic contests for his/her current season. The suspension will extend into post season play.

Second Offense: The student-athlete will be suspended for the remainder of the current season.

Third Offense: The student-athlete will be suspended from athletics for the remainder of the school year.

NOTE: Suspension calculations are based on the total number of scheduled games for the regular season. As an example, for a first offense in football the athlete would miss 2 games (20% of a 10 game schedule) regardless of when the violation occurred.

If an athlete is not in season when a violation occurs, the suspension will be for their upcoming season.

Injury Procedures

INJURIES

1. The Head Coach must fill out and sign an accident report and turn it in to the Athletic Director by the following school day.
2. Each coach is expected to have the emergency information in his/her possession
3. When an injury occurs
 - a. Give first aid as needed
 - b. When a student is transported by ambulance, a coach or adult must accompany him/her unless parents take possession.
 - c. Call parent
 - d. If no parent is available, the coach is to be considered as the parent and is responsible to make sure the student receives reasonable and prudent treatment
 - e. A student-athlete who receives medical treatment from a doctor must have a written clearance to resume athletic participation**
 - f. If a student is withheld from participation by a parent related to an injury a written clearance from a doctor to resume athletic participation is required.

Caney Valley District Drug Testing Policy for Extracurricular Activities (To Begin in the 2026-27 School Year)

Purpose:

The district aims to provide a safe and healthy environment for all students. To ensure the well-being of students participating in extracurricular activities, the district has established a drug testing policy to discourage substance abuse.

Due to the devastating impact that the use by students of illegal chemical substances can have on the safety of students and their ability to perform as a student, the district will not tolerate students who use, possess, distribute, purchase, sell or are under the influence of illegal chemical substances or have illegal chemical substances in their body, while on school property, at a school sponsored event, in school vehicles, or going to or from a school sponsored event.

Scope:

This policy applies to all students involved in any extracurricular activities, including sports teams, clubs and other school sponsored activities.

Drug testing process:

***Random Selection:** Students participating in extracurricular activities may be randomly selected for drug testing.

***Notification:** Students and their parents/guardians will be notified prior to testing. Testing will occur at a designated time and location, typically on school grounds. Notification may be made the morning of the test.

***Test Procedure:** A trained professional will administer the test, which may include a urine or saliva sample. The sample will then be analyzed by a trained professional.

***Confidentiality:** Test results will be kept confidential and shared only with the student, their parents/guardians, and designated school officials.

Consequences for Positive Test Results:

First Offense:

1. Immediate suspension from the extracurricular activities for a minimum of 30 days
2. Mandatory meeting with the school counselor for substance abuse assessment and intervention.
3. The student may return to activities after 30 days if they complete a substance abuse education program approved by the district.

Second offense:

1. Suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year.
2. Required participation in a substance abuse treatment program
3. The student may reapply for participation in extracurricular activities the following school year, pending approval from school administration.

Third Offense:

1. Permanent ban from all extracurricular activities during the student's time at the school.
2. Continued substance abuse counseling as recommended by the school counselor.

******Refusal to test will be considered a positive******

Appeals Process:

Students and their parents/guardians may appeal the consequences of a positive drug test within five business days of receiving the results. Appeals will be reviewed by a panel of school administrators.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Please read the statement below then sign and return this form acknowledging the Caney Valley Policies for Extracurricular Activities.

Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook

I have read and understand the requirements of the Athletic Handbook and the Athlete Code of Conduct which is posted on the school website and available in print upon request. I understand that I am expected to perform according to the rules of the Caney Valley School District, Student and Athletic Handbooks and Athlete Code of Conduct. I further understand that there may be sanctions or penalties if I do not.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the policies and I understand the responsibilities of competing in extra-curricular activities for Caney Valley Public Schools.

Print Name of Student-Athlete

Signature of Student-Athlete

Date

Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date