

Athletic Code of Conduct

Chestnut Ridge Athletic Department

MISSION STATEMENT

The Chestnut Ridge School District's Athletic Programs support the philosophy that a quality interscholastic athletic program is vital to the positive social, physical, and educational development of students. The interscholastic athletic program enhances and supports the academic mission of the school system. We are committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play at all levels of athletics. We strive to develop and realize individual and team potential by promoting high standards of competence, character, civility, and citizenship.

STATEMENT of PHILOSOPHY

The Chestnut Ridge School District believes that a dynamic program of athletics is vital to the total educational development of the student. The athletic program should provide a variety of experiences to enhance the development of positive habits and attitudes that will prepare our students for life in a true democratic society. Athletics should function as an integral part of the total curriculum. Athletics should offer opportunities to serve the district, to assist in the development of positive relationships and good will, to promote self-realization, all around growth, and good citizenship qualities.

Athletics play an important role in the life of our students. Students learn a great deal from participation in interscholastic athletics. The lessons learned from interscholastic athletics are an integral part of our athletic program. At all times, the athletic program must be conducted in a manner to justify it as an educational activity.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM GOALS

Chestnut Ridge's Athletic Department is aware that students participate in sports for these reasons: enjoyment, participation, and personal improvement. Therefore, the Chestnut Ridge School District commits to the following:

1. Offer students an enjoyable experience.
2. Provide the greatest possible opportunity for athletes to participate in both practice and competitions.
3. Promote personal improvement in skills, physical condition, and knowledge of the sport.
4. Promote programs of excellence that accomplish the above and lead to success on and off the playing field.

The Chestnut Ridge School District views its athletic programs as extensions of the classroom. While these programs are also recreational, we hope students will learn worthwhile lessons of teamwork, discipline, hard work, cooperation, and lifelong fitness. The coach is considered first as a teacher, teaching skills and reinforcing the other qualities that we hope to see in participants. He/She has authority similar to that of a teacher in the classroom. Likewise, students and their parents also have an obligation to conduct themselves appropriately.

Since participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege provided by the District, there is no such thing as a "right" to participate in interscholastic athletics. As such, the school has the authority to establish the parameters for the expectations for all those involved in the activities.

In order to achieve these goals, we hold the following expectations for the primary stakeholders involved with our Athletic Program.

We expect coaches to:

- Be knowledgeable of their activity and be able to demonstrate and reinforce its skills.
- Always exemplify the very best courtesy, manners, and sportsmanship.
- Work with the students on their teams in promoting harmony and cooperation.
- Exhibit the highest possible level of fairness in dealing with all participants and parents.
- Communicate effectively with participants and parents in matters related to the activity.
- Make decisions as necessary to keep the activity running smoothly and efficiently.
- Assume responsibility for the direction of the program at every level.
- Support school policy with respect to attendance, academics, and operation.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

We expect participants to:

- Respect the position, decisions, and the requests of the coach.
- Always exemplify the very best courtesy, manners and sportsmanship.
- Adhere to and willingly follow the rules imposed by the coach.
- To always give the very best possible effort in practice and at contests.
- To be faithful in attending practice and contests.
- Cooperate fully with the coach and teammates in striving to achieve the team's goals.
- Give the very best effort and performance possible, both in practice and in contests.
- Maintain acceptable behavior during both school and non-school hours.
- Adhere to the PIAA eligibility rules for student-athletes.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

We expect parents to:

- Support the position and authority of the coach as the person in charge of the activity.
- Realize that the coach has authority with the team similar to that of a classroom teacher.
- Help their child fulfill the expectations stated above.
- Realize that participants may be disciplined or removed from the team for such acts as missing practices, unacceptable behavior, or failure to follow team or school rules.
- Arrange a private meeting with the coach apart from the time of practice and before/after contests to discuss matters which may be confrontational.
- Realize that participants may be expected to involve themselves in fund raising projects in support of the activity.
- Expect and encourage their daughter/son to always exemplify the best effort and performance possible.
- Respect the coaches decisions regarding their sons/daughters playing time and strategies.
- Conduct themselves in a courteous manner when dealing with a coach, opposing players, officials, or fans.
- Realize that parents and others are not permitted in the locker rooms before, during, or following a contest or practice except by invitation by the coach.
- Be honest about your child's athletic capability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship, and actual skill level.
- Appreciate the efforts of the team.

We expect our fans to:

The larger school community has an interest and investment in the success of our athletic programs. These adults play a key role in reinforcing the educational goals of our program. Therefore, we expect these important program supporters to do the following:

- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.
- Be a positive role model through their behavior at athletic contests.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- Be respectful of all official's decisions.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the sport.
- Support and reinforce our alcohol, tobacco, and other drug free policies.

Complaint Policy

The Chestnut Ridge School District has taken great steps to hire quality individuals to direct our interscholastic athletic programs. The Board feels that these individuals are extremely competent and should perform their duties with limited distractions.

However, the Board recognizes that concerns do arise between parents and coaches. The Board, therefore, has created an organized, sequential complaint process to address these concerns. The Board feels that strict adherence to this policy will bring an immediate closure to any such concerns.

1. Parent/s will request a face to face meeting with the coach.
2. In the event the parent/s are not satisfied with the results of Step 1, the parent/s may arrange a meeting with the athletic director and the coach.
3. In the event that the issue is not resolved in the above steps, the parent/s shall schedule a meeting with the principal, athletic director, and coach to discuss the concerns.
4. If the issues are still not resolved, the superintendent may meet with the parent/s to discuss these concerns.

Issues of game strategy, lineups, and playing time will not be addressed by a parent to a coach; nor may they be addressed through the complaint procedure.

Athletic Code of Conduct Signature Form

So that all persons might be aware of these expectations, participants and their parents must sign this document prior to the student participation in the first athletic activity of the year. The signatures of the participants and parents indicate acknowledgment of the terms of the athletic code of conduct. Students who violate these expectations are subject to discipline. Parents who are not able to meet these expectations may be banned from attending future Chestnut Ridge School District athletic events. As applicable, both parents are to sign below.

_____ Participant	_____ Date
_____ Parent	_____ Date
_____ Parent	_____ Date
_____ Coach	_____ Date

Sign and return this form to the head coach of your sport.