



2025-2026 Cresskill High School & Middle School Athletic & Activities Handbook for Parents

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I. Welcome Message Welcome to another exciting season of athletics and activities at Cresskill High School and Middle School (CHS/CMS)! We are thrilled to have you as part of our school community. As a student-athlete, your child will not only develop skills in their sport but also grow as a leader, teammate, and individual. Our program is built on the foundation of discipline, respect, and commitment, and we are dedicated to providing the necessary resources and support for both athletic and academic success. We encourage you to stay involved, communicate openly, and cheer on your child as they strive for excellence both on and off the field. We look forward to an unforgettable year and thank you for entrusting us with the opportunity to guide and support your child's athletic journey. Go Cougars!

II. Mission and Vision for Cresskill Extracurricular and Athletic Programs The CHS/CMS Athletic Department is committed to providing **education-based athletics that align with the vision, mission, values, and culture of the Cresskill community**. Our athletic programs serve as a vital extension of the classroom, fostering personal growth, leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship. We believe that participation in athletics cultivates essential life skills such as resilience, discipline, and commitment to a shared goal. Our mission is to offer students a competitive yet supportive athletic environment where they can strive for excellence both on and off the field.

A core responsibility is the holistic development of student-athletes—instilling **strong character, integrity, and respect** while encouraging meaningful relationships within the school community. We proudly advocate for **multi-sport participation over specialization**, ensuring well-rounded athletic and personal development. Ultimately, we aim to prepare our student-athletes for success—not just in competition, but in the classroom and beyond, recognizing that the true measure of success extends beyond wins and losses.

III. Important Contacts and Chain of Command For concerns, please follow the established chain of command to ensure your issue is addressed effectively:

- **Step 1: Coach/Advisor**
 - Start with your child’s coach for concerns related to team placement, playing time, specific game-related issues, and mental health concerns.
 - Request a meeting after practice or via email.
 - Parents are encouraged to allow a **24-hour cooling off period** to pass prior to confronting coaches with issues.
 - Conversations with coaches should always be conducted in private, be professional, and focus on the player and team.
 - Below is the list of the coaches for this upcoming season.

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Football - Sal Aiello - Salvatore Aiello saiello@cresskillnj.net	Boys Basketball - Dan Egorow - degorow@cresskillnj.net	Girls Tennis - Dan Egorow - degorow@cresskillnj.net
Cheerleading - Christine DePalo cdepalo@cresskillnj.net	Girls Basketball - Cory Leeds - cleeds@cresskillnj.net	Boys Baseball- Alex Muggeo- amuggeo@cresskillnj.net
Boys Soccer - Joseph Sussman jsussman@cresskillnj.net	Wrestling - Nick Calandrino - ncaladrino@cresskillnj.net	Girls Softball- Laura Germano lgermano@cresskillnj.net
Girls Soccer - Adam Khriiss akhriiss@cresskillnj.net	MS Boys Basketball - Jeff Domville - jdomville@cresskillnj.net	Track & Field - Kevin Quinn - kquinn@cresskillnj.net
Girls Volleyball - Laura Germano lgermano@cresskillnj.net	MS Girls Basketball - Gabby Alvarez galvarez@cresskillnj.net	Golf - Anthony Grill - Agriill@cresskillnj.net
Cross Country - Chris Messina cmessina@cresskillnj.net		MS Boys Baseball - Adam Friedberg afriedberg@cresskillnj.net
Girls Tennis - Dan Egorow - degorow@cresskillnj.net		MS Girls Softball - Gabby Alvarez galvarez@cresskillnj.net
MS Boys Soccer - Brendan Mai bmai@cresskillnj.net		MS Track - Tom Goeller - tgoeller@cresskillnj.net

MS Girls Soccer - Saad Quraishi  squraishi516@gmail.com MS Volleyball -  Sofia Debrot sdebrot@cresskillnj.net		
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- **Step 2: Athletic Director (Veronica Mullen)**
 - If the issue is not resolved with the coach, contact the Athletic Director for broader program-related concerns or conflicts.
 - If the issue is in regards to playing time, all parties involved, including the individual the athlete would be replacing and their parents, will be asked to come to the meeting.
 - Phone: 201-227-7791 Ext 1009
 - Email: vmullen@cresskillnj.net
- **Step 3: Building Principal (John Massaro)**
 - If your concerns extend beyond athletics or remain unresolved, reach out to the principal.
 - Phone: 201-227-7791 Ext 1004
 - Email: jmassaro@cresskillnj.net
- **Step 4: Superintendent (Dr. Peter Hughes)**
 - For district-level athletic concerns or unresolved issues at the building level, contact the Superintendent.
 - Phone: 201-227-7791 Ext 1207
 - Email: phughes@cresskillnj.net
- **Step 5: Board of Education**
 - As a final step, you may present the matter to the Board of Education if needed.

Additional Important Contacts:

- Athletic Trainer, Anthony Demarco: 201-227-7791 x1008 or ademarco@cresskillnj.net
- Business Administrator, Dawn Delasandro: 201-227-7791 ext. 1206 or ddelasandro@cresskillnj.net
- Assistant to the Business Administrator, Linda Ryan: 201-227-7791 ext. 1205 or lryan@cresskillnj.net (for financial concerns regarding student activity fees or fundraising)
- School Nurse: 201-227-7791 ext. 1010
- Cresskill Police Department: 201-568-1400
- Englewood Hospital: 201-894-3440
- First Student Bus Service, Richard Duque: 201-567-8776

IV. Important Dates for Cresskill Public Schools Activities Please note that this is a dynamic list and will be updated as each activity or sport season nears.

- **Fall Sports:**
 - Due Date for Athletic Physicals: August 17 for Fall 2025
 - Student Activity Fee Due Date: September 15, 2025
- **Winter Sports:**
 - Due Date for Athletic Physicals: November 23, 2025 for 2025-2026
- **Spring Sports:**
 - Due Date for Athletic Physicals: March 9, 2026
- Senior Awards Night: May 28, 2026

V. Student-Athlete Eligibility Academic Eligibility:

- **Middle School (Grades 5-8):** Students are eligible if they passed all courses required for promotion or graduation in the preceding marking period.
- **High School (Grades 9-12):** Students must meet New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) eligibility standards.
 - **Fall and Winter Sports (Sept 1 - Jan 31):** A 10th, 11th, or 12th grader must have passed at least **30.0 credits** during the immediate preceding academic year. All 9th graders are eligible for fall and winter seasons.
 - **Spring Sports (Feb 1 - June 30):** A 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grader must have passed at least **15.0 credits** during the preceding semester.
 - Full year courses count as half of their total credits per semester.
 - **There is no appeal for State Athletic Eligibility;** if a student doesn't earn enough credits, they cannot play.
 - A student who is eligible at the start of a sports season remains academically eligible for that entire season, regardless of grades at the end of the marking period.
 - **Home schooled children** are eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district only if the school district, the parent, and the home schooled child comply with the Guidelines, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NJSIAA, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education.

Attendance Eligibility:

- Student-athletes or participants must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance.
- An attendance record is unsatisfactory if unexcused absences exceed 10% of school days in the school year prior to participation.
- If a student is absent with an unexcused absence for a school day (participating in less than 4 hours), they may not participate in school district sponsored programs the afternoon or evening of that day.
- **Excused absences where this rule can be waived (with appropriate documentation):** required court appearances, up to 5 college visits (with official admissions documentation), absence due to death in immediate family, driver's license test, religious holidays not observed by the district. Email the coach official documentation or notes upon return for consideration.

- A doctor or parent note handed to the athletic office or coach on the same day is **NOT an excused absence**, and the 4-hour rule applies, meaning the student-athlete cannot participate that day. However, required visitations to specialists may be excused if students present notes to the Assistant Principal upon return for consideration. If this absence occurs the day before a game, playing is at the coach's discretion.
- A student serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension may not participate during the suspension.

Medical Clearance:

- Students should not participate if they are not medically cleared. The nurse, school physician, or trainer may request medical clearance before allowing a student to return to an activity.

Practice Attendance Sanctions (Pre-season, In-season, Weekends):

- 1st offense: Coach's discretion
- 2nd offense: One game suspension at the coach's discretion
- 3rd offense: One week suspension at the coach's discretion
- 4th offense: Meeting with Athletic Director and parents for dismissal

VI. Physicals, Forms, and Fees Student Activity Fees:

- Cresskill Middle and High Schools have an annual student activity fee.
- It is charged once per student per year, regardless of the number of activities.
 - **\$100 for middle school students** involved in extracurricular activities.
 - **\$150 for high school students** involved in extracurricular activities.
- Families facing financial difficulties may receive a waiver by qualifying for free or reduced lunch and should make such needs known to prevent hardship.
- **Participation is a privilege, and fees must be paid in full for participation, unless a waiver is granted.**

Physicals and Medical Eligibility (Athletics Only):

- Students in grades 6-12 must receive a medical examination **within 365 days prior to the first day of official practice**.
- Examinations are conducted by the child's healthcare provider.
- The medical examination must be documented using the **Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form required by the Department of Education**.
- The completed form must be dropped off at the high school main office prior to participation.
- Student-athletes and a parent/guardian must sign the Code of Conduct and a consent form acknowledging physical hazards inherent in the sport.

VII. Rights & Responsibilities of Student Participants Students participating in Cresskill extracurricular programs are held to a higher standard as representatives of their teams and schools. They have rights balanced with responsibilities to be positive role models.

Rights	Responsibilities
Equal Opportunity (regardless of race, gender, religion, or ability)	Treat all teammates and club members with fairness, respect, and inclusivity.
Safe Environment (free from bullying, harassment, discrimination)	Contribute to a safe and supportive environment by avoiding such behaviors.
Respect (from coaches, advisors, teammates)	Act respectfully toward coaches, advisors, teammates, opponents, and follow rules.
Clear Communication (about expectations, schedules, rules)	Stay informed by reading schedules, rules, and updates; communicate absences promptly.
Access to Resources (equipment, facilities, guidance)	Take care of equipment and facilities, using them responsibly.
Academic Priority (without penalty for missing non-mandatory events)	Self-advocate for academics first, communicate struggles, and manage time well.
Medical and Health Support (in case of injury or illness)	Report injuries or health concerns promptly and follow safety guidelines.
Parental Involvement (in discussions about participation, policies)	Keep parents informed about participation, schedules, and any concerns.
Appeals Process (for decisions related to participation, discipline)	Follow the chain of command, starting with the coach/advisor level.
Privacy (regarding personal and medical information)	Respect the confidentiality of personal or sensitive information shared by others.
Access to Leadership Opportunities	Be a positive role model if in a leadership position and meet requirements.
Feedback (constructive, about performance/participation)	Be open to constructive feedback and use it to grow and improve.
Inclusivity in Activities (to foster camaraderie)	Participate with an attitude of inclusion, ensuring all members feel welcome and valued.

VIII. Tryout Guidelines Middle school and high school athletic and academic teams are competitive and select the most proficient participants. Coaches and advisors control the tryout process and selection criteria.

- All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to try out for any high school sport.
- Grades 7 & 8 are eligible to try out for Middle School Volleyball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Softball, and Baseball.
- If there are not enough participants for the above middle school sports, tryouts will be opened to 6th graders.
- Grades 6, 7, and 8 are eligible to try out for Track and Field.
- Coaches should give ample time for proper evaluation before selections are made.
- **Factors for selection and playing time include:** ability, preparedness, risk of injury, practice attendance, current injury, effort, game situation, etc.. Coaches strive to give students a chance to win every day.
- For **Varsity level**, efforts should be made to play those who do not regularly play, with first consideration to non-starting seniors, when game conditions dictate.
- For **Sub-Varsity contests**, every effort should be made to play everyone, though not necessarily equally, as it is a training ground for learning fundamentals and potentially continuing in high school. Reserving more playing time for athletes projected to be future leaders is understandable.
- Players not selected should be encouraged to try other sports, especially those with lower numbers.

IX. Transportation Policies

- A coach must accompany his/her athletes to and from games unless an emergency arises, in which case an assistant coach or designated adult must accompany the team.
- **Proper decorum is required when traveling:**
 - Respect the bus driver.
 - No profanity, yelling, or screaming.
 - All athletes must be seated once the bus is in motion.
 - Generally, no eating or drinking on the bus, unless extenuating circumstances apply. If food is allowed, athletes must clean up before leaving.
 - Immediately after an event, board the bus and return to school.
 - Without prior approval, students cannot stay to watch other games or events not involving students transported on your bus.
- Students are not permitted to open or close the rear door of a bus, unless it is an emergency. If needed for equipment, ask the driver for permission or assistance.
- If a bus is in an accident, **ALL students must be cleared by an athletic trainer** to participate in any competition.
- Students may complete a "transportation waiver form" for alternative transportation, but this is discouraged. **"We are all on the bus" is the motto.**
 - A signed waiver form must be scanned and emailed to the coach and copied to vmullen@cresskillnj.net.

- Parents must confirm they have automobile insurance for any car their child will be driving.
- Your child will not obtain transportation from anyone who does not possess a driver's license and automobile insurance.
- Violation of these conditions is subject to disciplinary action.
- Athletes may not travel with another student or parent (other than their own) to a game or scrimmage. Student-athletes are not permitted to drive themselves to athletic contests or practices.
- Only Parents/Guardians may transport their son/daughter home from an athletic event if a **written note is submitted to the coach from a parent/guardian by 10:00 am on the contest day.**

X. Communication Guidelines

- Each head coach is required to have a **parent meeting at the beginning of each season** to communicate their rules, team philosophy, practice schedule, specific team rules, coaching staff introductions, communication notifications, senior day date and expectations and answer questions.
- Coaches will create a Google Classroom to communicate information to their athletes. It is optional for coaches to invite parents to join.
- Coaches will send messages to athletes and families and create a seasonal practice/game schedule.
- **Social Media:**
 - X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram are used to promote team accomplishments, upcoming events, and highlight achievements after events by coaches or designees.
 - The Athletic Director will also use X to promote special awards and program achievements.
 - Coaches may use other forms of communication, such as Snapchat.
 - **Coaches CANNOT share "personal" social media pages with student-athletes.** Do not "FRIEND" student-athletes or join their pages (e.g., Instagram, Facebook). Use platforms for team pages to share schedule information or team/individual highlights.
- Emails/Text Messages/Websites must relate directly to the program (schedule, practice/bus times).
- Emails/Text Messages must not include personal information about the coach, their family, athletes, or other students.
- Coaches should primarily use group emails/texts to the entire team or section of the team, avoiding individual messages unless responding to a direct program question.
- Coaches should not engage in written or in-person conversations about personal life or matters of anyone else, including athletes. If a student approaches a coach about a personal matter seeking help, the coach should direct them to appropriate resources. If a student's health and safety are at risk, immediate action and notification to appropriate individuals are required.

- **School Closure:** When school is closed, there are typically no practices or competitions. However, the Athletic Director may communicate with the principal and head of buildings and grounds to determine if it is acceptable to bring a team in later in the day, with Superintendent approval.

XI. Fundraising & Donations

- Coaches and teams are permitted to do fundraising sales (clothing, candy, catalog items) to benefit their teams.
- Fundraising should have a clear objective (e.g., new uniforms, Senior Night dinners, desired supplies). Only NET profits should be shared with the public.
- **Fundraising Guidelines:**
 - A fundraising Google form MUST be submitted for approval.
 - A facility request form must be submitted if the fundraising event requires a space.
 - **No door-to-door student solicitation is permitted.**
 - No fundraising activities may proceed until official approval is received from the building principal or designee.
 - Direct donations can only be accepted through the board office or through PaySchool.
 - Direct sales websites are not permitted to accept direct donations due to fees.
 - Any money collected by advisors must be turned into the business office within **48 hours**.
- **Money Management from Fundraising:**
 - ALL FUNDS RECEIVED MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUSINESS OFFICE WITHIN 48 HOURS OF RECEIPT. This may require multiple deposits during the fundraising period.
 - Cash must be submitted in person; checks may be sent via inter-office mail. You will receive a deposit slip/receipt.
 - All deposits must be labeled with your name, club name, and source of funds.
 - Funds received through the PaySchools app will be automatically applied to your Student Activity Account.
 - The club/athletic group must maintain a register of receipts.
 - **Use of apps like Venmo, Zelle, PayPal, or similar software is PROHIBITED.**
 - Donations or payments can be made via cash, checks (Payable to Cresskill Board of Education), PaySchools, or through a pre-approved third-party vendor (e.g., a popcorn reseller).
 - Staff will not be reimbursed for products purchased without explicit pre-approval.
 - Sales tax is never reimbursable.
 - The district has tax-exempt accounts with several vendors (e.g., Amazon, Oriental Trading) from which they can purchase on behalf of the club/activity.
- **District Policy on Student Fundraising:** The Board of Education limits solicitation of funds by and from students to protect students from unnecessary pressures and

instructional disruption. No fundraising activity involving door-to-door solicitation is permitted. The Board prohibits incentives where an individual student may earn a prize value over \$100 or other remuneration for raising funds.

- **Donations Policy:** Outside companies are not permitted to take direct money donations on your team's behalf due to predatory fees. Direct donations only fund student activity accounts selected by parents through direct donations. Third-party websites are not allowed to accept donations via a button or link; if seen, it is a scam and should be reported immediately to Linda Ryan. Credit card or bank account donations can only go through PaySchools (4% convenience fee) or direct donations to the business office as cash/checks (no fees, 100% goes to the program).

XII. Safety Protocols The Athletic Department has emergency plans in place to ensure student safety.

- **Emergency Action Plan:**
 - In case of emergency where an athlete needs medical attention, the coach on scene will recognize the need for assistance, survey the scene, check for consciousness, and activate the Emergency Medical System (EMS) if needed by dialing 9-1-1.
 - AED locations: High School (outside next to track, inside near gym and auditorium entrance), Bryan School (outside near left entrance, inside near main office), Merritt School (outside near softball field, inside gym), Community Center (outside near soccer field, inside near entrance).
 - **Do not move the athlete;** summon the athletic trainer if possible.
 - Coaches will respond to immediate needs (CPR if needed) and give first aid within their limits of training.
 - The athlete's emergency phone and medical history reports will be accessed.
 - Assistant coaches or dependable students may be sent to call 9-1-1, providing athlete status, current actions, exact location, and waiting for the dispatcher to hang up first.
- **Lightning Safety Guidelines:**
 - When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, a thunderstorm is close enough to strike. [CFD Link](#)
 - **Suspend play and take shelter immediately.**
 - **Thirty-minute rule:** Once play is suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning flash is seen before resuming play.
 - Any subsequent thunder or lightning resets the 30-minute count.
 - Visiting teams typically use their buses for shelter, and spectators should report to vehicles.



LIGHTNING SAFETY

This facility is equipped with
a WeatherBug Lightning Alerting System

What the Sounds and Strobe Light Mean

One Long 15-Second Horn Blast

Lightning Detected - SEEK SHELTER NOW

Strobe Flashing

Lightning in Area - Under Alert - SEEK SHELTER NOW

Three Short 5-Second Horn Blasts

All Clear - Safe to Resume Outdoor Activities

SEEK

- Enclosed & Grounded Building
- Enclosed Automobile/Truck
- Approved Lightning Shelter

AVOID

- The Outdoors
- Open Areas
- Water
- Tall Trees
- Metal Fences
- Overhead Wires & Power Lines
- Elevated Ground
- Golf Carts
- Mowers
- Rain Shelters



NO PLACE OUTSIDE IS SAFE DURING A THUNDERSTORM
This system does not guarantee that conditions are safe.

- **Heat Acclimatization Policy (for Pre-season):**
 - The heat-acclimatization period is the **initial 14 consecutive days of preseason practice**.
 - This period begins on the first NJSIAA-approved practice start date. Any conditioning before this time is not part of the acclimatization period.
 - All student-athletes must follow the 14-day plan, regardless of prior conditioning.
 - If practice occurs on 6 consecutive days, student-athletes should have 1 day of complete rest. Days missed due to rest, injury, or illness do not count toward the period.
 - A practice is a coach-supervised, school-sponsored activity, lasting no more than 3 hours (including warm-up, stretching, cool-down). All conditioning and weight room activities are part of practice time.
 - A walk-through is a teaching opportunity without protective equipment, lasting no more than 1 hour per day, and does not include conditioning or weight-room activities.
 - A recovery period is the time between practices/walk-throughs, with no sport or conditioning-related activity permitted.
 - During **Days 1-5** of acclimatization, athletes may only have 1 practice per day. Total practice time should not exceed 3 hours. A 1-hour walk-through is permitted during days 1-5, but with a 3-hour recovery period between it and practice.
 - **Equipment restrictions during acclimatization:**
 - Days 1-2: Helmet only (for sports requiring them).
 - Days 3-5: Helmets and shoulder pads only.
 - Beginning Day 6: All protective equipment may be worn, and full contact may begin.
 - Football specific: On days 3-5, contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may begin. Full-contact drills begin no earlier than day 6.
 - Beginning Day 6 through Day 14, double-practice days must be followed by a single-practice day. On single-practice days, one walk-through is permitted, separated by at least 3 hours of continuous rest.
 - On a double-practice day, neither practice should exceed 3 hours, and total practice hours should not exceed 5 hours. The two practices should be separated by at least 3 continuous hours in a cool environment.
 - An athletic trainer is strongly recommended to be on site before, during, and after all practices due to high risk of exertional heat illnesses during this period.

XIII. Promoting Multi-Sport Participation The Cresskill Athletic Department advocates for multi-sport participation over specialization, believing it leads to well-rounded athletic and personal development. Participation in multiple sports offers numerous benefits:

- **Reduced Injuries:** Athletes often have fewer injuries because different muscle groups get rest.
- **Reduced Burnout:** There's a decreased chance of burnout when athletes aren't solely focused on one sport.

- **Diverse Skill Development:** Students can learn how to take on new roles within an athletic program and develop different types of teamwork skills.
- **Mental and Emotional Growth:** It trains the whole person—mentally, physically, and emotionally—providing more experiences for resilience, stress relief, and new friendships.
- **Life Lessons:** Education-based athletics provide a place for students to be developed and taught valuable life lessons beyond pursuing collegiate scholarships. Schools aim to create a culture that promotes cross-sport participation, recognizing athletes for being in multiple sports. Coaches and schools are encouraged to create an environment where student-athletes can participate in multiple sports for their overall well-being.

XIV. Sportsmanship & Conduct (for Student-Athletes) Student-athletes are representatives of our schools and are expected to be role models. They are expected to always demonstrate **good sportsmanship on and off the field.**

- Conduct themselves at all times to reflect credit upon the school, team, and coaches.
- Treat opponents with respect and play hard within the rules.
- Exercise self-control, respect officials, and accept decisions without argument.
- Win without boasting, lose without excuses, and never quit.
- Remember that representing the school and community is a privilege.
- **Violations of NJSIAA sportsmanship rules result in suspensions:**
 - **1st Violation:** 2-game suspension for seasons of 12 games or more; 1-game suspension for seasons of 12 games or less.
 - **2nd Violation:** Disqualification from participation in NJSIAA post-season tournaments.
- Any penalties imposed by the NJSIAA Athletic Code of Conduct are in addition to school and Board of Education penalties.
- Team captains forfeit their title after the 1st offense if they violate the code.
- During suspensions, student-athletes are not permitted to attend or be on-site for any games but must attend practices.
- Should an athlete fail to abide by the guidelines, they may be subject to disciplinary action including: 1st offense - suspended from all extra-curricular activities/sports for 2 weeks; 2nd offense - suspended for 1 month; 3rd offense - suspended for 3 months. Infractions are cumulative over all four years of high school and will be reported to the Board of Education.

XV. Hazing Policy (for Student-Athletes) Hazing of any type will not be tolerated as per Board of Education policy. Hazing is considered any act of harassment or bullying whether it is written, verbal, or physical.

- Coaches and students are required to report an alleged incident of hazing that may take place or has taken place on or off school grounds to the Principal or designee on the same day it was witnessed or reliable information was received.

- If student-athletes are involved in any form of hazing, they will be **terminated immediately from their team for the remainder of the season**, along with other repercussions in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

XVI. Spectator Rules and Expectations Cresskill School District expects all community members, including coaches, advisors, students, and spectators, to maintain high standards per the [Civility Policy](#). All extracurricular programs are intended to be physically and emotionally safe for everyone. The following behaviors are **not permitted** at any district events:

- Physical abuse of an official, coaches, players, or spectators.
- Intentionally inciting participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- Using obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language towards officials, opponents, or spectators.
- Engaging in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.
- Use of profanity, threatening comments, or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Verbally harassing an official or opponent participant by using names or uniform numbers.
- Entering the field of play – before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Physical altercation with an official, coach, player, school staff, school security, or spectator.
- Use of artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the event or distract participants.

Consequences for failing to meet spectator expectations:

- Immediate removal from the event and school premises.
- Suspension from the next home interscholastic event for a first offense.
- Longer suspensions for multiple violations.
- Completion of required educational component(s) before future attendance, as determined by the athletic director and superintendent.

The Board promotes mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct. School staff can remove participants or spectators who violate rules or jeopardize safety. Individuals causing disruption, threatening health/safety, damaging property, using offensive language, being intimidating, or repeatedly trespassing may be directed to leave. Repeat offenders may be banned from school property.

NJSIAA Spectator Code of Conduct

The policy must include expectations of appropriate behavior at interscholastic events and the disciplinary actions that will be taken when the policy is violated.

The disciplinary actions must include, at minimum, a suspension from attending future interscholastic event(s) and require an educational component. The policy must include increased disciplinary actions for multiple violations in a defined period of time.

The policy must be made available to NJSIAA staff upon request. NJSIAA staff reserves the right to share a member schools' policy with another member school when appropriate. The code of conduct itself should be posted at all venues hosting interscholastic competition to the extent reasonably possible.

Failure of a member school to enforce its policy may result in discipline by the NJSIAA. In addition to the penalties set forth in Article X of the Bylaws, a school that does not enforce its policy may be prohibited from hosting an NJSIAA state tournament event.

Spectator Code of Conduct – Recommendation

Under the Sportsmanship Rule/Policy, as it is currently written, unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, actions of a fan or spectator who:

- strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator;
- intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action;
- uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators; or
- engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event.

The list of covered persons should also include school staff and school security – this is in addition to officials, opposing coach, player, or spectator currently identified by the NJSIAA Sportsmanship Rule/Policy.

This list of unsportsmanlike actions is a minimum. In addition, NJSIAA recommends a member school's policy also prohibit the following:

- Use of profanity, threatening comments, or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Verbally harasses an official or participant (i.e., coaches or players from any participating school) by using names or uniform numbers.
- Entering the field of play – before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Physical altercation with an official, coach, player, school staff, school security, or spectator –before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Use of artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the interscholastic event or distract the participants during an interscholastic event.

Consequences:

- **Immediate removal from the event and school premises.**
- **Suspension from the next home interscholastic event for a first offense.**
- **Longer suspensions from interscholastic events for multiple violations in a defined period of time (season, school year, calendar year, etc.).**

- **Completion of required educational component(s) before attendance at future home interscholastic events. NJSIAA recommends the following educational components, which can be accessed at the National Federation’s “NFHS Learn” website (www.nfhslearn.com):**
 - **Positive Parenting within School Programs**
 - **Sportsmanship**
 - **Teaching and Modeling Behavior**
 - **The Parent Seat**
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XVII. Parent Code of Conduct

Parental support is critical to the success of all our sports programs. Through your encouragement and good example, you can help assure that all the young men and women learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. At Cresskill High School, young people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat, all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.

By signing this document, I indicate that I have read, understand, and agree to honor and support Cresskill Athletics by adhering to the Parental Code of Conduct as stated below:

- I will show good sportsmanship and respect to coaches, players, other teams, other parents, and game officials at all times.
- I am encouraged to cheer on the Cougar players and show good sportsmanship for good play of our opponents.
- I will not curse, swear, or use any bad language during practices or games.
- I will not argue with other parents, coaches, other team players or officials.
- I will maintain self-control at all times.
- Disrespect to any coaches, other parents, opponents, or officials will not be acceptable.
- Negative or disparaging type public comments will be unacceptable.
- I am encouraged to talk with coaches if I have questions or concerns about the program, and will follow the chain of command as outlined in this handbook: 1) Talk to the Coach, 2) Talk to the Director of Athletics, 3) Talk to the Principal. These conversations should always be conducted in private, be professional, and be focused on the player and team. I will allow a 24-hour cooling off period to pass prior to confronting coaches with issues.
- It is my responsibility to recognize and abide by any and all rules and regulations set forth by the venue hosting the event.

I understand that should I fail to abide by the aforementioned guidelines, I may be subject to disciplinary action that could include, need not be progressive and may not be limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, high school administrator, or police.
- Written warning.
- Game(s) suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file.
- Season Suspension.

Signature: _____ **Name:** _____ **Date:** _____