



Cornerstone High School Grades 9-12
6005 Nacot Place, New Albany, OH 43054
(614) 775-1159

Cornerstone Middle School Grades 6-8
7525 West Campus Rd, New Albany, OH 43054
(614) 948-0560

Cornerstone Student Athlete Handbook Grades 6-12

Student Athletes, Parents, and Guardians,

Thank you for participating and committing yourself to the Cornerstone athletic program. We are looking to build and prepare our student athletes for their future in and out of the classroom as well as on the playing field, court, or gym. Before the season begins, there are details you need to know.

Philosophy:

Athletics must be concerned with the development of those abilities which are necessary in meeting the demands of living and participating in our society. Thus, it is essential that specific procedures and policies be defined and recorded to ensure that the organization and administration of Cornerstone athletic events provide for a proper and enjoyable competitive atmosphere and environment for players and spectators.

It is the philosophy of Cornerstone that a quality athletic program will serve as a supplement to the overall education of our students. It is the belief that a strong interscholastic athletic program will promote high academic achievement, increase scholarship of students, improve discipline, and help develop character among student athletes.

Handbook Objectives:

- A. To establish guidelines for the organization and administration of athletics.
- B. To provide direction for the development, promotion, and support of interscholastic activities within the schools.
- C. To provide direction for security measures that will ensure the safety and wellbeing of the participants, cheerleaders, and spectators.
- D. To provide direction for achieving the following goals of the athletic program:
 - To provide the students with opportunities for fun, enjoyment, physical development, and fellowship through participation in sports.
 - To provide the students with opportunities for wholesome release of tensions and aggressions through participation in sports.
 - To provide the students with a feeling of achievement through sports participation.
 - To provide the students opportunities to develop character, responsibility, teamwork, and the practice of good sportsmanship through participation in sports.
 - To improve the image of the athletic program as an integral part of the total educational process from the perspective of fans, administrators, peer schools, and the public in general.
 - To provide the students with wholesome competition through athletic participation.

Athletic Integrity:

This statement outlines the principles of athletic integrity that all student-athletes are expected to uphold. By participating in our athletic programs, you commit to demonstrating respect, sportsmanship, and dedication to your team and the institution. This commitment extends beyond the field of play and is a fundamental aspect of representing our athletic community.

Core Principles:

1. **Commitment to Team and Sport:** Student-athletes are expected to commit fully to the team they have chosen to join. This includes attending all practices, games, and team events, and abiding by all team rules and regulations. Your commitment is vital to the success and cohesion of the team.
2. **Respect for the Rules:** All athletes must respect and adhere to the rules of their sport, the regulations of the league, and the policies of the athletic department. Cheating, unsportsmanlike conduct, and any other actions that compromise the integrity of the game are strictly prohibited.
3. **Sportsmanship:** Athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, showing respect for opponents, officials, coaches, and teammates. Winning with humility and losing with grace are hallmarks of a true competitor.

Policy on Tryouts and Team Commitment:

- **Tryouts:** All athletes must participate in the designated tryout period for their chosen sport. Making a team is a privilege earned through skill, effort, and dedication.
- **Commitment After Making the Team:** Once a student-athlete has successfully completed tryouts, accepted an offer to join a team, and begun participation with that team (e.g., attended a practice or scrimmage), they are considered to be committed to that team for the duration of the season.
- **Prohibition of Mid-Season Transfer:** A student-athlete who has committed to one team is not permitted to try out for or join another athletic team during the same season.
- **Ineligibility for Violation:** Any student-athlete who violates this policy by leaving a committed team to join another team in the same season will be deemed **ineligible to participate in athletics for one full calendar year** from the date of the violation. This includes all sports and all levels of competition within our athletic program.

Conclusion:

This policy is in place to ensure fair play, foster a strong sense of team loyalty, and promote the highest standards of athletic integrity. By adhering to these principles, you contribute to a positive and successful athletic environment for everyone. Your commitment is a reflection of your character and a valued contribution to our athletic community.

Athletic Offerings:

High School - Grades 9-12

- Girls Volleyball: Aug - Oct
- Soccer: Aug - Oct
- Cross Country: Aug - Oct
- Flag Football: Aug - Oct
- Boys Basketball: Oct - Feb
- Girls Basketball: Nov - Feb
- Cheer: Oct - Feb
- Girls Flag Football: March - May
- Track: March - May

Middle School - Grades 6-8

- Girls Volleyball: Aug - Oct
- Flag Football: Aug - Oct
- Cross Country: Aug - Oct
- Boys Basketball: Nov - Feb
- Girls Basketball: Nov - Feb
- Cheer: Oct - Feb
- Boys Soccer: April - May
- Girls Soccer: April - May

Attendance:

Being on time to school, practices, and games are an important piece of being a great student athlete. The following will be enforced.

- A student athlete can have no more than 3 unexcused absences from school during the specific season of the sport. On the 4th unexcused absence, the student athlete will be removed from the team, and a formal letter will be given.
- If a student athlete is absent on the day of a practice and/or game, that student athlete will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the event. Excused absences will need written documentation and approval by administration in order to participate.
 - They must attend at least 50% of the school day with an excused partial absence on record.
- During game days, student athletes must be at the game location no less than ten minutes before start time unless previously discussed with coaches or administration. If a student athlete arrives after the specified time, coaches are to use their own discretion in allowing the student athlete to participate.
- Student athletes are expected to be on time to all practices. Repeat tardiness will be grounds for removal from the team. A formal warning will be given and a removal from the team letter will be given if necessary.

All attendance policies are to be enforced at the discretion of coaches and administration.

Academic Eligibility:

Along with attendance, student athletes must put forth their best effort into succeeding in the classroom as well as on the playing field.

Student athletes must obtain and hold a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 at all times. If for any reason, the student athlete's cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, the student athlete will be placed on academic probation. The student athlete may still practice with the team, but will not be allowed to participate in games until the GPA meets the requirements. A formal letter will be given to the student athlete on the occurrence of falling below the GPA requirement and if/when the GPA requirement is back in good standing.

Behavior:

Cornerstone student athletes will give their best effort to represent the wolfpack in a respectful manner. The same handbook rules that apply during school for Cornerstone apply during practice and games. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be put away during practices and games. Failure to follow these rules will result in suspension or removal from the team. The following will be enforced as well:

- A. During practice or games, student athletes will not exhibit any, but not be limited to, inattention to or refusal to follow directions, horseplay, disrespect toward coaching staff or players, or bad conduct.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct while participating in an athletic event.
- C. More than three after school detentions may result in immediate removal from the team.
- D. If a student athlete receives more than one in school suspension (ISS) or alternative to suspension (ASP), they may be removed from the team.
- E. The day a student serves an (ASP) or (ISS), they will not be allowed to participate in a game.
- F. Any out of school suspension (OSS) could result in an immediate removal from the team. Pending meeting with principal and athletic director.
- G. Any behavior that does not coincide with the expectations of administration, coaches, or parents which includes, but is not limited to: substance abuse, misuse of social media, bullying, intimidation, harassment, destruction of property, physical aggression, and insubordination.

Students must remain in good standing at school and during any sponsored Cornerstone event. Consequences will result if the student athlete code of conduct is not followed and will be determined by the coach, athletic director, and/or principal. These behavioral rules are subject to change at the discretion of administration. A formal warning will be given and a removal from the team letter will be given if necessary.

Practices:

Practices will be determined by each Head Coach. Practices are subject to change. Practices will be held at a specified location and a schedule will be provided.

- A. Student athletes must attend all practices, unless previously discussed or excused by coaches or administration.
- B. Come to practice prepared with equipment and a good attitude.
- C. Student athletes must have transportation home immediately following practices. If a transport is 15 or more minutes late for 3 times during a season, the student athlete may be removed from the team. A formal warning will be given and a removal from the team letter will be given if necessary.

Removal or suspension for any of the listed above will be at the discretion of the coaches.

Games:

Games will be mandatory for each student athlete to attend. A schedule will be given as soon as made available. Families must provide transportation to and from game sites.

- A. Student athletes must also have all equipment in good condition to participate.
- B. Student athletes are to show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games.
- C. Arrive at least ten minutes before game time unless otherwise discussed with coaches or administration.
- D. No student athlete shall leave after a game until directed coaches or administration.
- E. Student athletes must have transportation home immediately following games. If a transport is 15 or more minutes late for 3 times during a season, the student athlete may be removed from the team. A formal warning will be given and a removal from the team letter will be given if necessary.

Uniforms:

Uniform top, bottom, and any additional necessary items will be provided by Cornerstone (varies by sport). School owned equipment **MUST** be returned at the end of the season to the coach or athletic director. Not returning uniforms may result in being disqualified from participating in future athletic teams. If lost or not returned, you'll be required to pay to replace the uniform.

Pay-to-Play Fees:

All participants will be **required** to pay a fee, details can be found here: [Pay-to-Play](#). This will be used towards league fees, court/field rental, and referee costs. This is due immediately.

Payments can be made with cash or check payable to '**Cornerstone Academy Athletic Department**' and can be given to coaches or athletic director. This fee is not refundable if a student is removed from the team for any reason by the school or personal choice. Fees are due by the first game unless otherwise stated by the athletic director.

Good luck this season and Go Wolves!

Permission



I _____, give my permission
(parent name)

for _____, to participate in _____.
(student athlete name) (sport)

Athlete Contract

The following principles are understood to be in effect for a student athlete involved in the Cornerstone Athletics program.

I will pay the pay-to-play fee for my respective sport to participate in this sports season before the first game.

I will sign up for SportsYOU for team communications.

I have read the Cornerstone Student Athlete Handbook in its entirety and will abide by all its contents.

Please also read, sign, and return Lindsay's Law paperwork.

Athlete's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

Please detach and return this page to the coach or athletic director.