

**Canton High School and Middle School  
Student-Athlete Handbook  
2024-2025**



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## **CANTON HIGH SCHOOL MISSION**

Canton High School is committed to the pursuit of lifelong learning with the highest standard of integrity, respect for individual points of view, and a broad understanding of community and global diversity, promoted through curiosity, collaboration, and perseverance.

## **CHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION**

Overarching Belief: The Canton Athletic Department is committed to the pursuit of the highest standard of character, growth through perseverance and a broad understanding of sportsmanship and teamwork.

### Character

We provide an environment for student-athletes to develop leadership skills and grow into positive role models.

We encourage student-athletes to know the difference between the right and wrong thing to do, promoting integrity throughout the athletic experience.

We understand that athletics is an integral part of the educational system because of the values that can only be learned in competitive environments.

### Perseverance

We support student-athletes in multiple opportunities to achieve success, with the knowledge that passion and persistence build the confidence and leadership needed to meet challenges throughout life. We challenge student-athletes to push beyond their limits while providing them the support and resources they need in order to succeed.

We encourage student-athletes to grow through adversity as individuals but also together as a team.

### Sportsmanship and Teamwork

We promote the highest standards of sportsmanship, emphasizing winning with humility and losing with grace.

We offer varied opportunities for student-athletes to develop their ability to communicate, cooperate, and work together to solve problems.

We strive to provide a sense of pride when participating in athletics for the student-athletes but also for the rest of the school and community.

We support student-athletes participating in high school athletics for social development and the pursuit of excellence.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORT PROGRAMS**

Sport offerings at Canton High School include the following, including Unified Sports all year round:

### **Fall**

#### **BOYS**

Co-op Football (V, JV)  
Soccer (V, JV, FR)  
Cross Country

#### **GIRLS**

Field Hockey (V, JV)  
Soccer (V, JV)  
Cross Country  
Volleyball (V, JV, FR)

### **Winter**

Basketball (V, JV, FR)		Basketball (V, JV)
Wrestling (V, JV)		Indoor Track
Co-op Ice Hockey		Co-op Ice Hockey
Indoor Track		
	<b>Spring</b>	
Baseball (V, JV)		Softball (V, JV)
Tennis		Tennis
Outdoor Track		Outdoor Track
Golf		Golf
Lacrosse (V, JV)		Lacrosse (V, JV)

Sport offerings at Canton Middle School include the following, including Unified Sports all year round:

	<b>Fall</b>	
<b><u>BOYS</u></b>		<b><u>GIRLS</u></b>
Cross Country		Field Hockey
		Cross Country
	<b>Winter</b>	
Intramural Wrestling		Intramural Wrestling
	<b>Spring</b>	
Outdoor Track		Outdoor Track
		Intramural volleyball

Athletic teams may be added to the athletic program if there is enough student interest, adequate funding, opportunities to develop a viable and competitive schedule, and the necessary facilities. The Board of Education must vote to approve the addition of the athletic team as well.

### **Middle School**

- Develop basic skills and learn the rules of the sport
- Determine if they want to continue in the sport
- Promotes participation for all
- Learn to set goals and achieve them
- Prepare for the high school levels

### **Freshmen**

- Develop basic skills and learn the rules of the sport
- Determine if they want to continue in the sport
- Learn to set goals and achieve them
- Prepare for the junior varsity and varsity levels

### **Junior Varsity**

- Further develop their skills in a particular sport while getting as much competitive experience as possible
- Experience an increased intensity of competition
- Prepare for the competition at the varsity level

- Experience an increased emphasis on winning but not to the extent of the varsity level

### **Varsity**

- Develop their skills and physical conditioning to their fullest potential
- Allow them the chance to excel and, for the most talented student-athletes, prepare them for competition at the college level
- Be a role model for younger student-athletes
- Experience an increased emphasis on winning, with the lineup being determined by the coach to give the team the best possible chance of winning, subject always to the principles of good sportsmanship

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS AND CAPTAINS**

### **AWARD REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Varsity**

Upon earning varsity status for the first time, the student-athlete will be awarded a varsity C. Varsity letters will be awarded to athletes upon the successful completion of an athletic season and the recommendation of the head coach. Specific guidelines will be developed by each coach and clearly defined to all athletes. A player shall have conducted themselves in an exemplary manner both on and off the field, exhibiting good sportsmanship to his /her opponents, officials, teammates and coach. After the second year of attaining varsity status the student-athlete will receive a pin pertaining to the specific sport for which they have attained varsity status. After the third and fourth consecutive year of attaining varsity status, the student-athlete will receive a bar pin.

#### **Junior Varsity/Freshmen/Middle School**

All members of a sub varsity team who have successfully completed an athletic season in a particular sport are to be awarded a Participation certificate.

#### **Manager**

Manager awards will parallel the regular awards system and will be made only upon the recommendation of the coach.

#### **Scholar Athlete Certificate**

To be awarded a scholar-athlete certificate the student-athlete must have been awarded a varsity letter, pin or bar and be in the “High Honors” category on the honor roll after report cards are distributed in each sports season. Fall sports refer to Quarter 1 report cards, winter sports refer to Quarter 2 report cards and spring sports refer to Quarter 3 report cards.

## **CAPTAIN PRACTICES**

The term “Captain’s Practice” usually means the team’s captain organizing and conducting practice sessions for the sport without adult supervision. The CIAC and the NCCC does not in any way sanction, encourage or condone “Captain’s Practice” in any sport. Knowledge of this activity and a coach’s involvement in this is a clear violation of the season limitations eligibility rule. There is also a serious practical consideration. CAS counsel advises that if it can be demonstrated that a school is allowing “Captain’s Practice,” the liability responsibility for an injured athlete may be quite serious.

## **CAPTAIN SELECTION**

To be appointed a team captain for a Canton athletic team is a distinction. Characteristics of a team captain include the following: Leadership, Integrity, Knowledge, Courage, Decisiveness, Dependability, Initiative and Example.

### **Selection of Team Captains:**

The team captain is the liaison between members of the team and the coaching staff. The final decision for team captain is the responsibility of the head coach(es). At the varsity level, a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior can be selected as the captain at the discretion of the coach. Other than the selected team captain, individual game or match captains may be selected by the coach.

### **Summary:**

A good captain is one who, by example, will lead his/her teammates to follow the rules set by the team and the coaches.

A good captain is not involved in a popularity contest. A leader should gain the respect, confidence and trust of his/her teammates.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Canton is a member school of the Connecticut Association of Elementary and Secondary Schools. As a member school, we are governed by a minimum of uniform eligibility requirements by the CIAC.

The Canton High School Athletic Department will follow the eligibility standards set forth by the CIAC (Refer to Appendix B in the CIAC Handbook)

**The school principal may declare a student ineligible if it is felt that the student is not taking care of his/her responsibilities both as a student and citizen of Canton High School and the community.**

\*For fall sports eligibility – student must have received credit for four (4) units or its equivalent towards graduation at the close of the school year preceding the fall season.

\*For student-athletes entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade – All student-athletes will be considered academically eligible to play an interscholastic sport going into the fall semester of 9<sup>th</sup> grade

NOTE: Marking period grades (not semester grades) are to be used in determining scholastic eligibility, except for fall eligibility. Each coach should, at the initial day, review the rules with the entire squad. The date of eligibility is the day report cards are issued.

## **CIAC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410  
Phone 860-250-1111

### **14 POINT CHECKLIST FOR STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

This checklist is for the coach, athletic director, principal, assistant principal or guidance counselor to enable him or her to become aware of the CIAC rules of eligibility and to enforce them. If you cannot check all fourteen items, please refer to the CIAC Code of Eligibility to determine if the student is in

violation of the Code which will place him/her in an ineligible status for high school athletics.

1. ( ) Enrolled in four full time courses (Rule I.B.)
2. ( ) Passing in four full time courses (Rule I.B.)
3. ( ) Earned four credits toward graduation in the preceding school year (Rule I.A.)
4. ( ) Is an enrolled student in the school for which playing (Rule II.A. see exception)
5. ( ) Has never dropped out of school (Rule II.A. paragraph 2 see exceptions)
6. ( ) Has not changed schools without parents moving to another school district or school service area (Rule II.C. see exceptions)
7. ( ) Has not played more than three seasons of the same sport after entering grade ten (10) (Rule II.B.)
8. ( ) Has not reached his or her twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) birthday. A student-athlete will not be allowed to start a season or compete during a season in which his/her twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) birthday falls. (Rule II.B.)
9. ( ) Has not played or practiced the sport with another team during the high school season for the sport (Rule II.E. see exceptions)
10. ( ) Has not been on more than one school team in the same season nor represented more than one school in the same season at the same time (Rule II.F.)
11. ( ) Has not received a salary or personal economic gain for playing the sport or competed under an assumed name (Rule II.F.)
12. ( ) Is not a member of a school team of the opposite gender (Boy on a girls' team or girl on a boys' team (Rule IV.G. see exceptions)
13. ( ) Has not been recruited to attend this high school for athletic purposes (Rule IV.C.)
14. ( ) Is an American Citizen (Rule IV.C. see exception)

Note: The use of this check list does not absolve the member school of the responsibility of checking each athlete's eligibility against the complete rules and regulations contained in the document entitled "Rules of Eligibility and Control for Boys and Girls High School Athletics in Connecticut" effective July 1, 1999

## **REQUIRED FORMS AND PAYMENT**

### **CHECKLIST FOR HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

- Complete online registration at finalforms.com
- Complete the Impact Test
- Have an up-to-date physical on file with the nurse
- Pay the participation fee for your sport before the first scheduled competition

### **CHECKLIST FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

- Complete online registration at finalforms.com
- Have an up-to-date physical on file with the nurse

### **Pay to Participate Policies**

#### **1. Fee Structure**

Students will pay a fee for participation on each high school athletic team. The fee applies to all levels of interscholastic play, including varsity, junior varsity, freshman and middle school teams.

The participation fees do not include any additional costs an athletic team requires students to pay that are not funded through the operating budget (i.e., items such as softball/baseball caps).

#### **2. Fee Collection**

Fees will be collected during the preseason period, and before the first official contest.

Students selected for team membership will not participate in games until the fee is paid.

Fees will be collected in the Athletic Office with checks payable to the "Canton Board Of Education" or online during registration.

#### **3. Fee Waiver**

Students receiving free or reduced price meals are exempt for payment of Student Participation Fees. Those students with other financial hardships may complete a waiver form for a reduction of or exemption from the Student Participation Fees.

#### **4. Refunds**

Students who become academically ineligible to participate on an athletic team, are removed from a team for disciplinary reasons, or who quit the team during the season will not be eligible for a refund of a participation fee. Students who quit before the first competition may contact the Business Office on the refund process. Students who are injured or move out of the district will receive a pro-rated refund based on the number of weeks they were on the team.

#### **5. Playing Time**

Payment of an athletic participation fee does not guarantee playing time. The coaching staff will determine who makes the team, the positions played, and how much playing time each student receives.

## **SCHOOL RULES AND ATTENDANCE**



The athlete serves as an ambassador of their athletic program, as well as their school and community and should take pride in representing them. Good conduct is a large part of being a positive representative of your team and school. All student-athletes are expected to follow all school rules at all times. Team and league rules are also to be strictly followed. The athlete shall show respect for his/her teammates and coaching staff, as well as the officials and opposing team and coaches. On a personal level, the athlete shall respect himself/herself by not becoming involved with any controlled and illegal substances. CHS administration reserves the right to discipline students for in school behaviors/actions. If students are in violation of school policy and/or behavioral expectations, CHS administration reserves the right to temporarily or permanently withhold an athlete's eligibility.

### **Appropriate Behavior**

1. Any student-athlete who initiates a fight may receive immediate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the team.
2. Verbal and/or physical abuse of officials or coaches by student/athletes may result in immediate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the team.
3. The following behaviors will be considered serious violations of the athletic code and school rules and will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal:
  - a. Civil law and criminal infractions.
  - b. Theft or malicious destruction of individual, private or school property.
  - c. Misconduct by an athlete that is potentially detrimental to the athletic program, school or school district.

### **School Attendance**

1. Athletes will be allowed to participate in practice or contest only if they are in school for a minimum of four hours on that day. Students who are absent from school may not participate in any athletic event during that afternoon or evening. The principal, when arranged in advance, may approve individual exceptions.
2. Unexcused single period absences during a given day may cause an athlete to be withheld from practice or contests on that day.
3. School administration may withhold a student from participating if the student is not upholding his/her personal responsibility as a student or citizen of Canton HS.

**Absence from Scheduled Practice or Games** - A team will only function effectively when all participants are present. Any player who skips practice or a game is hurting himself/herself and the team. A player must notify the coach in person of any practice or game he or she is required to miss.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICIES AND CONCERNS**

The health and welfare of every CHS student-athlete is of paramount concern to everyone associated with Canton Athletics, including coaches, teammates, administrators, teachers, parents and other

community members. The use of illegal substances, tobacco, tobacco products or performance-enhancing drugs also have health concerns for a student-athlete. These concerns include:

- The danger it poses to our young people academically, physically and emotionally.
- The adverse effect it has on students involved in training regimens and performance-oriented activities.
- The negative impact substance abuse has on how the abuser is perceived by her/his school, community, team or activity.
- The potential for serious accidents.
- The illegality of the act.

The substance abuse policy can be found on the Substance Abuse Agreement form (Appendix A)

## **ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

Student-athletes should keep in mind that school work and other academic commitments always take precedence over athletic commitments. Accordingly, student-athletes should be mindful of the need to budget their time appropriately in order to ensure success both in the classroom and on the playing field. Therefore, student-athletes are encouraged to make the most of their free periods and study halls to ensure that they keep up with all school work and homework. From time to time it may be necessary for student-athletes to be dismissed early to travel to games. In such cases, the student-athletes are responsible for obtaining from their teachers all work that was missed or assigned in their absence.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

Participating in athletics can be emotional and time-consuming experience. From time to time, conflicts between student athletes and coaches may arise. The following process is in place for student athletes and their parents to follow to resolve conflicts and/or issues between coaches and athletes.

### **Step 1: Individual Student – Coach Contact**

The student involved is to speak to the coach about the problem as soon as possible.

### **Step 2: Parent/Student – Coach Contact**

The parent/student should set a time to meet individually with the coach. Meetings will not be scheduled 24 hours prior to or immediately following a contest or during an active practice session, or during a time when other coaches, parents or athletes are present.

### **Step 3: Parent/Student Athlete – Athletic Director contact**

If satisfactory resolution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the parent/student athlete should contact the athletic director. If the meeting with the parent/student athlete and athletic director does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, the athletic director will schedule a meeting involving all concerned parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution.

**Any comments, concerns or issues brought to the attention of the Athletic Director will be addressed. While there can be no guarantee that all parties will agree with all resolutions or findings, a thorough, respectful airing of different perspectives and experiences can lead to more productive relationships and clearer understanding in the future.**

**Step 4: Parent /Student Athlete- Administrator/AD/Coach contact**

If after Step 3, satisfactory resolution has not been reached, the parent and student athlete should contact the building principal to schedule a meeting with all concerned parties.

**Step 5: Parent/Student Athlete – Superintendent**

If there is no resolution at Step 4, the parent/student athlete should contact the superintendent to schedule a meeting with all concerned parties.

## **EQUIPEMENT AND UNIFORMS**

All equipment/uniforms issued to the student-athlete remain the property of the school and must be properly cared for by the student-athlete to whom it is issued.

All equipment/uniforms must be returned, properly cleaned, within one week of the end of last contest. Lost or destroyed uniforms/equipment is the financial obligation of the student-athlete to whom they were issued. Replacement cost will be charged and the student is ineligible to begin another season or receive their diploma until the account is cleared.

Game uniforms/warm-ups, etc. may be worn only on the day of a scheduled contest unless permission is given by the coach for a special reason.

**NO cleats are allowed to be worn in the building.**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All forms of transportation are to be scheduled in cooperation with the Athletic Director, including the departure time. It is the coach's (or his/her designee) responsibility to contact the Athletic Director to receive and verify bus information the day prior to a game, scrimmage and/or practice.

Any changes in the departure time or circumstances of the trip are to be made through the Athletic Director.

In the event of a cancellation due to weather, the Athletic Director will contact the bus company.

Participants should not be allowed to drive a car or carry other players or personnel to a contest involving the team they are representing unless previously approved by the principal. The Canton School System will provide transportation for athletic teams to and from games and scrimmages.

**The following is a basic checklist for coaches for away contests regarding buses:**

The coach and or staff member must accompany the team on the bus and is responsible for supervising student conduct.

The coach will establish orderly procedures for loading the bus, including equipment and storage. No equipment will be stored in the aisles or doorways.

Coaches and players are to display positive attitudes toward the driver. This also includes assistance with directions.

Attention to cleanliness of the bus will be maintained throughout the trip.

The bus will be checked at the end of the trip to make certain that no equipment was left behind and that no damage was done.

All participants must return to Canton on the team bus unless previous arrangements have been made with the Athletic Director.

Players who ride on a bus or are conveyed by the coach are representatives of the school. Their appearance should be that of neat well-groomed athletes.

In an emergency, athletes may travel to or from an away contest with their parent only when a written request comes directly from the parent and is approved in advance by the Athletic Director. The form that the parent/guardian must fill out and give to the Athletic Director for permission to have their child not take the bus is the "Alternate Transportation Form" (Appendix B)

Stopping to eat during athletic trips is NOT allowed unless prior approval from the Athletic Director is given. This practice increases the cost of transportation and at times brings negative attention to certain children who may not have the funds to purchase food. May I suggest that if the need of food on a trip is desired, that you instruct your athletes to pack a snack. Please make sure they clean up if they consume the snack on the bus.

There will be instances for exceptions to this rule, such as an all-day trip to a faraway tournament or game. Special permission may be granted by contacting the Athletic Director in advance. He/she will inform the appropriate personnel to make special arrangements with the drivers.

Players who return on the bus from a contest are not to re-enter the school. Access to the school will be at the discretion of the coach under certain circumstances.

## **LOCKER ROOMS**

The student athlete is responsible to keep their locker locked always and to refrain from bringing any valuables to school.

The school cannot be responsible for personal items left in the locker room. Valuable items should not be brought to school or to contests. Varsity Team lockers must be cleaned out promptly following the conclusion of the season.

## **ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM**

For reasons of safety, student-athletes may be in the training room only in the presence of the trainer or coach. Student-athletes in season have priority use of the training room. Student-athletes may take or use materials only with the permission of the athletic trainer. Any reusable materials (braces, ace wraps, etc.) must be signed out and must be returned in a clean and sanitary condition.

## **ATHLETIC FACILITIES AND WEIGHT ROOM**

Student-athletes must be accompanied by a certified coach, teacher, or administrator when using the weight/fitness room equipment. Clean and disinfect daily surfaces that are touched on a regular basis. This includes benches, fitness room and weight room equipment. Wrestling mats **MUST** be cleaned **DAILY** before and after use. This would include use by the physical education classes.

No one is allowed in the gym unless it is his or her designated practice period. At no time is it permissible for individuals or groups to work out in the gymnasium, unless under direct supervision of a coach. Athletes practicing in the gymnasium for one sport will refrain from using equipment not specifically designated for their sport. Teams “in season” will have priority on gymnasium use. Any student-athlete using the high school fields or track are expected to follow the rules represented on the sign by the track. Student-athletes using any of the grass fields are expected to use them properly and leave them in good condition and are expected to throw away any trash that they brought with them.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Student-athletes participating in or attending any athletic event should keep in mind that they are guests and are expected to behave properly. Any student-athlete not abiding by the principles of good sportsmanship may receive disciplinary action up to and including being dismissed from the team or school discipline if they are not on an athletic team.

All student-athletes and spectators are expected to:

- Treat opponents with respect at all times
- Respect the judgement of contest officials and coaches, abide by rules of the contest, and display no behavior that could incite fans
- Cooperate with officials, coaches and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest
- Accept the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community by displaying a positive attitude at all times
- Demonstrate and maintain a high level of sportsmanship

## **PARENT AND SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS**

Athletics, in an education program, is a vehicle for developing individual character, confidence and for instilling a sense of community and cooperation.

Parents contribute to the effort of teaching their children by being role models and athletic program supporters. As role models, parents need to present a positive attitude toward participation in the scholastic athletic program. A positive appreciation of the opportunities to be a part of a team and to contribute towards team goals under the direction of the designated coaching staff is a basic foundation for developing an attitude of good sportsmanship.

**All parents/guardians and spectators are expected to:**

- Understand that coaches have autonomy in all decisions regarding playing time, style of play, strategy, line-ups, playing time, etc.
- Demonstrate support and enthusiasm for the team that they support and not show negativity towards the opposing team
- Communicate in a reasonable manner to the proper authority regarding athletic concerns

- Respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by the rules of the contest, and display no behavior that could incite fans
- Not use profane language or harass players, coaches, officials, or other spectators

## **SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES**

Student-athletes are representatives of Canton High School and are in the public eye more so than other students and these guidelines have been developed to promote safety, well-being and thoughtful decision making. Assume anything you post on your personal account could be read by Canton High School's staff, teammates, classmates, opposing teams, alumni, parents or other family members, media members, a current employer, future employers or coaches, and even the local police.

### **What is social media?**

- Social media connects people in various corners of the world, helping to build relationships through social interaction using highly accessible communication techniques
- Examples include but are not limited to Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, Vimeo, Instagram, Tumblr, LinkedIn, MySpace, Flickr, Foursquare and blogs

### **Best practices**

- Remember that the Internet is permanent
- Avoid posting offensive or inappropriate language, pictures, videos or comments
- Ensure content posted on these sites does not depict inappropriate or illegal activities
- Don't post anything you wouldn't say in a public forum when representing Canton High School, or anything you wouldn't say to the media
- Be in the right state of mind when you make a post - don't post when you're angry, upset, or your judgment is impaired in any way
- Check your privacy settings. It is recommended that the strongest security settings be used for Facebook, and that student-athletes have "protected tweets" on Twitter, wherein only approved followers will be able to view tweets
- Never post your home address, local address, phone number(s), birth date or other personal information. You could be a target of predators. For additional safety measures, it is recommended that student-athletes do not include their location in Facebook posts and tweets
- Understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world (no matter what your privacy settings are) - any content placed online becomes the property of the site(s) and is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online, even if you limit access to your page
- Ensure any information placed on the website(s) does not violate high school, athletic department or student-athlete codes of conduct
- Do not comment on athlete injuries, rosters, playbooks, officiating or any other team information that should be kept confidential
- **Student-athletes could face discipline and even dismissal for violations of team, department, high school and CIAC policies**

### **Prohibited Conduct**

Some examples of inappropriate and offensive behavior concerning participation in online

communities may include the following, but are not limited to:

- a. Posting photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, etc.
- b. Posting photos, video and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- c. Posting pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- d. Using inappropriate or offensive language in all comments, videos and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against race, gender and/or sexual orientation.
- e. Cyber bullying or posting negative comments about opponents prior to or after competition.
- f. Posting photos wearing Canton High School athletics apparel while engaging in inappropriate behavior.

## NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

Parents of students who have aspirations of participating in athletics beyond high school at Division I, Division II or Division III college level are encouraged to look up the following website: [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) or call toll free 877-622-2321 to register and to research pre-entry requirements.

## HAZING

Hazing is **prohibited** at all times. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school system. "Hazing," means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a risk of physical or emotional harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization or any other purpose.

### **The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:**

Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing a harmful substance on the body.

Any type of physical activity that subjects the student to a risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.

Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

**Note: The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline the athlete accordingly. Discipline may include suspension and or expulsion from school.**

## OTHER RELEVANT ATHLETIC POLICIES

**CIAC and NCCC Ejection Rules** - Any student who is ejected from a contest by an official is ineligible to participate in the next scheduled contest at the same level of play. The CIAC, the NCCC,

and Canton High School consider ejection from a contest a very serious matter. After an ejection, a conference between the student, the coach, and the athletic director is required.

**Changing Sports** - Prior to the opening of each season, athletes will be allowed to transfer from one sport to another only on mutual agreement of the two coaches involved. An athlete who drops from the squad after the first contest is not permitted to join another squad during that season.

**School Suspensions** – Students may not participate in any game, contest, practice or school activity on any school day while suspended from school unless administration arranges exceptions for practices. This includes contests at away sites. The suspension is in effect until the student is readmitted to classes by an administrator.

**Discrimination/Sexual Harassment** - Discrimination and Sexual Harassment will not be tolerated in any form. All incidents of discrimination or sexual harassment will be promptly investigated.

Reference: The Canton Board of Education Policy Handbook:

#0521 - Nondiscrimination / Grievance Procedure

0521.1 - Sexual Harassment

**COVID-19** – Student-athletes will be required to self-screen before coming to practices and games to confirm they are not showing signs of the virus. They must take their temperature as well and if they are showing any symptoms and/or if their temperature is above 100.4 degrees, then they **MUST** stay home. Student-athletes participating in athletics will adhere to any CIAC and CDC guidelines for safety.



## ***APPENDIX A***



### **Canton Public Schools Athletic/Extracurricular Activities Substance Abuse Agreement**

The Canton Board of Education and Canton Administration, and Canton High School Athletic Department are committed to achieving an environment free of substance abuse in our schools.

All students who violate Canton Board of Education Policy #5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Policy are subject to consequences detailed in the policy. Additionally, any students involved in any extra-curricular, co-curricular, and athletic activities will be excluded from participation according to the guidelines below. This regulation is applicable whether the prohibited activity occurs on or off campus

If a student is involved in or has admitted to a drug and/or alcohol violation(s) during the academic year, exclusion from participation will begin immediately if the student is participating in athletics, extracurricular or co-curricular activities when the violation occurs. If the violation occurs during the academic year when the student is not involved in an extracurricular, co-curricular and/or athletic activity, the period of exclusion from participation will begin upon the commencement of the next activity. The building administration will revoke the student's privilege of participating in or attending any school sponsored activity detailed below. These sanctions fall within the beginning and end of the school year calendar and commencing with the date of the suspension.

### **Alcohol Use and Drugs**

#### **First Offense:**

- Student athletes shall be suspended from the team for 20% of interscholastic contests in his/her sport.
- If the student is a member of a club or participates in extra-curricular activities then they will be suspended from that activity for 20% of the clubs meetings/activities.
  - During this period, the student, and parents/guardians will meet with a school counselor. Additional sessions may be required at the discretion of the school counselor.
  - The student will be required to participate in a substance abuse counseling and treatment program (at no cost to the School District). This treatment program must be certified in writing to the school administration by a doctor or counselor. The student must be part of a program in order to continue to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Should the student intend to continue to participate with their athletic team, then the following must occur:
  - The student must attend and participate in all practices.
  - The student must attend all contests, but may NOT participate and may NOT be in uniform.
- If a student holds a leadership position (eg: student council president, team captain, class officer, etc.) he/she will be required to give up that position for the season/year.

#### **Second Offense: (in the same year or subsequent years)**

- Student athletes shall be suspended from the team for 50% of interscholastic contests and/or activities in his her/sport.
- If the student is a member of a club or participates in extra-curricular activities then they will be suspended from that activity to 50% of the clubs meetings/activities.
  - During this period, the student, and parents/guardians will meet with the CHS school counselor and Social Worker. Additional sessions may be required at the discretion of the school counselor and/or Social Worker.
  - The student will be required to participate in a substance abuse counseling and treatment program (at no cost to the School District). This treatment program must be certified in writing to the school administration by a doctor or counselor. The student must be part of a program in order to continue to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Should the student intend to continue to participate with their athletic team, then the following must occur:
  - The student must attend and participate in all practices
  - The student must attend all contests, but may NOT participate and may NOT be in uniform.

#### **For any additional violation in the same or subsequent years:**

- The student will be suspended from all extracurricular activities for 365 calendar days.

### **Appeals Process**

- A STUDENT has the right to appeal any action taken as a result of the Drug/Alcohol Regulation and Procedures. The appeal, if made by the student, may be made verbally or in writing to the CHS Principal within three (3) school days of the action.
- The principal will render a decision within five school days of the receipt of the appeal.

- The student may appeal to the superintendent or designee within three school days provided there is new evidence to be submitted.
- The superintendent will render a decision within five school days of the receipt of the appeal.

### **Tobacco**

Any use of tobacco, tobacco products, including chewing tobacco , e-cigarette, vaporizing device, or tobacco paraphernalia by students will result in disciplinary consequences as outlined in Policy #5131.6 – Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco.

### **Performance Enhancing Drugs per CIAC Regulations**

Use of performance enhancing drugs will result in an athlete being declared ineligible to play for 180 school days.

**Note:** All offenses are cumulative from year to year while a student is in attendance in the Canton Public Schools.

We have read the above policies and the Student Handbook regarding alcohol use, drugs, and tobacco use and agree to adhere to these regulations while involved in athletics/extracurricular activities in the Canton Public School District.

Athlete name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***APPENDIX B***

# CANTON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

## REQUEST FORM FOR APPROVAL FOR ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

This is to request that \_\_\_\_\_ be permitted to ride by vehicle other than  
**Name of Athlete**

the school bus (to/from/both ways) at the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ at  
**Activity Date**

\_\_\_\_\_. I certify that I will transport the above named student personally  
*Location of Activity*

or have arranged for transportation for him/her with \_\_\_\_\_, a  
**Name of other parent or guardian**

responsible adult other than myself.

The reason for not riding the bus is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

I understand that Canton School District rules require that students ride the busses to and from all school events and that by requesting a departure from this requirement I will release the Canton Board of Education and the Town of Canton from all liability for any accidents that may occur. I understand that I (or the other parent or guardian driving the vehicle) assumes all liability for this alternative transportation under our personal automobile insurance policy.

I therefore agree to release the Canton Board of Education and the Town of Canton and its employees and officers from all liability with reference to the above stated alternate transportation.

This form must be in the Athletic Office prior to or on the day of the event.

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**Parent or Guardian**

**Date**

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**Athletic Director**

