

**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK  
FOR  
CLAY COUNTY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**2015-2016**

## INTRODUCTION

The Clay County Board of Education has adopted this handbook to govern Clay County Elementary Athletics. The purpose is to regulate elementary athletics so that all students have the same opportunity to participate regardless of the school they attend, and that all students/schools follow a uniform set of rules.

Several of the rules contained herein will result in substantial changes to the way elementary athletics have been handled in the past. Our goal is to give more students the opportunity to participate, and make sure all students/schools receive the same opportunity and treatment.

Some rules apply to all sports, while others are specific to a particular sport. All students, coaches and schools are expected to follow these rules. Violation of any rule will subject the appropriate party to discipline.

As used in this handbook “sports” refers to football, basketball, cheerleading, track, dance team and any other performing group associated with sporting events. If additional team sports, individual sports or other competitions are added at the elementary level, this handbook shall also apply to those activities.

Detailed rules and procedures not included in this handbook will be developed by the Athletic Director.

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

All coaches, students and any other individuals involved in Clay County Public School Athletics are subject to all (1) applicable KHSAA rules and regulations ([www.KHSAA.org](http://www.KHSAA.org)); (2) all District Policies and Procedures ([www.clay.k12.ky.us](http://www.clay.k12.ky.us)); (3) Student Code of Acceptable behavior ([www.clay.k12.ky.us](http://www.clay.k12.ky.us)) ; (4) employee handbook ([www.clay.k12.ky.us](http://www.clay.k12.ky.us)) ; and any additional rules contained in the Athletic Handbook.

**The KHSAA governs high school and middle school athletics, including 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participating at the elementary school level.**

## **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

The Athletic Director shall be required to complete the same training as required of coaches. Proof of completion shall be submitted to the Superintendent.

The Athletic Director shall keep the principal(s) fully advised as to all matters relating to athletics, but shall report directly to the Superintendent.

## STUDENTS SHALL NOT HAVE TO PAY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE

No student shall be required to pay any fee or purchase any items in order to participate on any athletic team, cheerleading squad, dance team, or any other group that performs or otherwise participates at sporting events.

A coach/sponsor may recommend a specific color or type of shoes for uniformity purposes, but a student shall not be required to purchase said shoes in order to participate.

Violation of this rule shall subject the coach, sponsor, principal and/or school to discipline.

## MAXIMUM AMOUNT TO BE SPENT PER STUDENT UNIFORM

No more than \$150 shall be spent per individual uniform for any sport (excluding football equipment).

## ELIGIBILITY

Students will be allowed to participate only at their grade level. No exceptions. Each school will have a 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> grade team and a 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> grade team for basketball and football. (In the event a school does not have a sufficient number of students at the required grade level who wish to participate, the school may request a waiver of this rule by making an application to the Athletic Director. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders may be allowed to participate if needed to complete a team. Whether or not to grant a waiver will be made on a case by case basis).

Students in grades 2-6 are eligible to participate in cheerleading. Individual schools will decide whether to have separate girls and boys squads.

Elementary students shall not be permitted to participate on middle school basketball, football or non-competitive cheerleading teams, unless one of the following exceptions applies:

### Exceptions:

1. A student who is ineligible to participate on an elementary team due to age may participate at the middle school level with approval of the middle school principal and athletic director.
2. If there are not enough middle school students to field a team, a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grader may be permitted to compete at the middle school level subject to approval of the middle school principal and athletic director.
3. An elementary student who has participated on a middle school team prior to the 2015-2016 season may participate on said team at the middle school level.

In the event the middle school has a 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team, elementary students shall be eligible to play on these teams, since the middle school does not have 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Whether to form a 6<sup>th</sup> grade team or have entire elementary school teams compete in these games shall be decided by the appropriate middle school coach, principal, and athletic director. All students and/or elementary school teams shall be given an equal opportunity to participate at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level.

Per KHSAA rules a student who turns 13 prior to August 1 of the current school year is not eligible to compete at the elementary level.

Beginning in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students shall have 1 year of eligibility per grade level for participation in athletic competitions. Students will only be eligible in the first year enrolled at each grade level.

Please be advised that 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are considered middle school students by the KHSAA and are subject to KHSAA rules.

Students must have insurance pursuant to board policy.

Students must have a current physical and have the board provided medical forms/permission forms completed prior to competition.

Students with a failing grade in any class will be ineligible to participate in sports until a passing grade is achieved.

Students who are absent on the day of a game will be ineligible to participate in the game that day.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

All players and coaches are expected to practice good sportsmanship. Any player or coach ejected from a game shall be suspended for a minimum of 2 games.

The length of the suspension shall be determined by the Athletic Director after consultation with the Superintendent.

## COACHES

All coaches at the elementary level shall meet the requirements outlined in Board Policy 03.1161.

All assistants/volunteers working with players must have a criminal background check and be approved by the Athletic Director.

A person who is trained in CPR and first aid must be present at all practices and all games.

## MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

The principal of each school shall attend all games held at his/her school and be responsible for overseeing the event.

The principal shall be responsible for making the Athletic Director aware of any and all ejections as well as any other issues arising with players/coaches/parents/fans etc. for which discipline or other action may be appropriate.



## GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

A county wide game schedule and tournament schedule will be developed by the Athletic Director for football and basketball.

Track and Field will consist of county-wide meets held at the athletic complex.

Cheerleading-There will no longer be a cheer challenge. Cheer teams will be judged at the first round of the basketball tournaments and a champion will be determined based on in-game performance.

Elementary cheer coaches may consult with the Athletic Director and submit a proposal to the Board of Education concerning a separate elementary cheerleading exhibition or competition.

## OUT OF COUNTY TRAVEL

No elementary team shall be permitted to participate in games out of the county. If individuals on an elementary team wish to do so they may, but cannot use the elementary team name, uniform, school transportation, etc. Additionally, if an individual on an elementary team chooses not to participate out of county with other members of the team, said individual shall not be penalized in any way, including the loss of playing time.

## PRACTICE

Elementary sports teams shall not practice during the summer, which is defined as the period from the last day of school until the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the following school year.

Elementary sports teams shall be permitted to practice on the following days and times during their specific season.

Sunday	2pm-5pm
Monday	NO PRACTICE (reserved for academics)
Tuesday	4:30pm-8pm
Wednesday	NO PRACTICE
Thursday	4:30pm-8pm
Friday	4:30pm-8pm
Saturday	until 8pm

Practice shall not begin until 4:30pm on school days to allow students participating in sports to also participate in after-school programs.

Practice schedules shall be coordinated with the athletic director and provided to players at least 1 week in advance.

All practices are CLOSED to anyone that has not been approved through the Board of Education.

## SPORTS BY SEASON

### FALL SEASON

Football

Cheerleading

### WINTER SEASON

Girls Basketball 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades

Boys Basketball 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades

Cheerleading

### SPRING SEASON

Boys & Girls Track

Girls Basketball 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades

Boys Basketball 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades

Cheerleading

## BASKETBALL SPECIFIC RULES

- \* 2 coaches per team
- \* Student must play at grade level
- \* Maximum of 15 players per team
- \* Specific game rules will be developed by the Athletic Director and provided to coaches no later than the beginning of practice.

**2015**

**CLAY COUNTY**

**GRADE SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

**RULES**

## Section I

### PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. All players must play in their grade divisions. They cannot move up or move down.
  - A. Third and Fourth Grade Division - Child must be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade. In the event there are not enough 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> graders, we will take 2<sup>nd</sup> graders that parents sign off letting them play.
  - B. Fifth and Sixth Grade Division - Child must be in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade. A 4<sup>th</sup> grader can play up only if there are not enough 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to complete the team. A child cannot play if the child turns 13 before August 1 going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade year. (If the child turns 13 during the school year they are eligible to play. This makes them eligible to play their senior season in high school. If a child is 13 before the school year they will be eligible to play for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Middle School football team.)
2. In 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Division the weight limit is 145 pounds. By not penalizing kids that grow faster than others it will be up to the head high school coach if a player over 145 pounds can be a skill player. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Division the weight limit is 130 pounds and same applies from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade rule. If the head high school coach deems a player Restricted they CANNOT play a skill position.
3. Restricted players may not:
  - A. Play the quarterback, running back, fullback, or wide receiver position on offense, stand up end, linebacker, or any secondary position on defense.
  - B. Restricted players will be allowed to participate on the punt team, punt return team, kickoff team, and kick return teams, but may not advance the ball (except in the case of a fumble that has not hit the ground or interception)
  - C. Restricted players are allowed to be the kicker and/or punter.
  - D. Restricted players must be a lineman on the offensive and/or the defensive line.

**4. Weigh-in - All players must be weighed in at the Clay County Football Complex by appointment with their team.**

**5. Grades- If a player is failing more than 1 class during weekly grade checks that player is not eligible to play on Saturday of that week. We are to teach the role of the student athlete. Student comes first.**

## **Section II**

### **Safety and Equipment Rules**

- 1. Each Team MUST be equipped with a First Aid Kit on the sidelines.**
  - 2. At least ONE coach must complete CPR/First Aid Training and have an up to date card.**
  - 3. Only rubber cleats are allowed. No metal tipped cleats.**
  - 4. All players' mouth pieces must be in on every play. Officials will stop play and correct the player. Continued violation will result in a delay of game penalty.**
  - 5. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade MUST play with a YOUTH football. (Ex. Wilson GST TDY Youth football). 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade MUST play with a JUNIOR size football. (Ex. Wilson TDJ Football). Failure to do so will result in a 15 yard penalty every time the official ball isn't used.**
- If anyone has a problem or is in need of some equipment please contact the High School Football Staff and if possible we will get it taken care of.**

## **Section III**

### **Team, Coaches and Parent Rules**

- 1. Only 4 coaches will be allowed on the sidelines per team. (1 Head Coach and 3 assistants.) As a Head Coach it is your job to make sure your sideline is following the rules with no parents on the grass because that is your sideline.**
- 2. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams are to line up in the spread formation on offense. 2 X 2, 2 X 1 w/2 Backs, 1 X 3, 3 X 2. Coaches may also go under center inside the 20 yard line (Redone) and with 2 minutes left in both halves running ONLY the I formation, Power I formation and Ace Under Formation. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams can line up in the I formation, Power I and Ace Under Formation on offense. (See playbook.)**
- 3. Both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions must run either a 3-5 or a 4-4 Defense. Blitzing IS allowed in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions ONLY and blitzes are to only take place inside the tackles with only one player blitzing each play. No edge blitzes. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade division blitzing is NOT allowed. Failure to follow this rule will result in a 15 yard penalty.**

4. **One coach will be allowed on the field during offense in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade division. NO coaches are allowed to be on the field while playing defense in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade division. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade division one coach is allowed to be on the field for offense and one coach is allowed to be on the field for defense. Once the huddle breaks the coach has to be 10 yards behind the players. (5 yard penalty after first warning.)**
5. **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade team linebackers should be NO closer than 3 yards from the line of scrimmage unless blitzing. Corners should be 5 yards off the outside receiver with their behind turned slightly to the sideline and looking at the QB. Safeties are to be NO closer than 10 yards from the line of scrimmage.**

**6. Punting**

**A. If you decide to punt, please tell the referee.**

**B. No fake punts, no rushing the punter.**

**C. The center may snap the ball to the punter or just hand it to him.**

**D. There are no fumbles when punting the ball.**

**E. Once the ball has been kicked, wherever the ball stops the ball is dead and that's where the offense will take over.**

**F. No returning Punts! If a player comes up to catch a punt and they muff the football the ball is dead where the player tried to catch the football.**

**G. In the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade division if a punt is shanked and goes less than 30 yards the ball will automatically be placed 30 yards from the line of scrimmage.**

**H. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade can punt or tell the Official you wish to punt without a punter and the official will move the football 30 yards from the line of scrimmage simulating a punt.**

**8. Kick Offs**

**We will be doing Kick offs for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade division. Kick off has to have a minimum 4 players on one side of the ball. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade division will start at their own 30 yard line.**

**9. Scoring**

**A. Touchdowns will be worth 6 points.**

**B. Extra points will be spotted at the 3 yard line.**

**C. Two points will be awarded for a successful run conversion.**

**D. Two points will be awarded for a successful passing conversion.**



**E. Three points will also be rewarded for a successful kick. So you will have the opportunity to kick a PAT for 3 points. There will be NO RUSH on attempted Field Goal PAT's.**

**10. A team leading by 20-points or more is not to blitz on defense. (15 yard penalty if rule is broken.)**

**11. Crack back blocks and blocks downfield must be above the waist.**

**12. All players and coaches must remain between the 25 yard lines during the game.**

**13. Each team will be allowed 30 seconds in the huddle. (Referee will notify you at the 10 second mark.)**

**14. During time outs, two coaches from each team are allowed on the playing field at one time.**

**15. Each team will be allowed three (3) 1 minute time-outs per half.**

**16. All games played through the third quarter will be considered official games if stopped due to weather or any other reason.**

**17. Parents may sit in the stands only. They are not to be on the field, track or picnic tables at any time unless there is an injury to their child.**

**18. If you are yelling and verbally abusing the officials as a coach, you will get a warning and then the next time you will be ejected and will be suspended a minimum of 2 games. If parents are yelling and verbally abusing the officials they will get a warning and if it continues the parent will be ejected.**

**19. Conduct yourselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. This goes for players, coaches, parents and fans.**

**20. Emphasize the importance of being good students as well as good athletes.**

**21. Striking any other coach, official, spectator or other adult participants, shall result in the head coach and/or assistant coach, player, or parent being suspended indefinitely.**

**22. Do not grab a child by the face mask, shove, push, or handle a child in an aggressive or abusive manner.**

**23. Profane, obscene, abusive or degrading language in the presence of anyone connected with the game is unacceptable and you will be warned on the first offense but second time you will be ejected.**

**24. If a coach is ejected they will be suspended for a minimum of 2 games.**

25. In 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade division there will be 4, 8 minute quarters with a running clock after a team has a 30 point lead. If a game goes into overtime the ball will be placed on the 10 yard line and you will have 4 tries to score. If we are still tied after the second overtime then the PAT from there on out must be a pass for a two point conversion.

26. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade division there will be 4, 6 minute quarters with a running clock after a team is ahead by 24 points. If a game goes into overtime the ball will be placed on the 10 yard line and you have 4 tries to score. If we are still tied after the second OT then the PAT must be ran from the 5 yard line.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

\* Concessions will be sold by the each individual team. Each School will be designated to have concessions on certain weeks. (Ex. Week 1 Hacker Elementary will be responsible for concessions then week 2 Paces Creek will be responsible for concessions.) This is all profit for the teams and may be used however you like. I really want to see each grade school have a 5 man sled, 1 tackling sled, 1, 2 man lineman chute, agility bags and hand shields by the end of year 3 of this program.) Concessions are to be sold all day by the school that is designated to sell concessions. This is clear profit for your football team. CCHS Football will supply the ice for your coolers and that is it. Nothing more.

\*All Games will be played at Tiger Stadium. If there is a cancellation due to weather we will make the game up at the end of the schedule or on a weekday before the tournament.

\*End of season tournament. Tournament will be seeded.

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## **COACH AGREEMENT**

As a coach in the Clay County School System, I hereby agree that I have received and read the Athletic Handbook for Clay County Elementary Schools. I agree that I will comply with the rules and guidelines outlined in the Athletic Handbook as well as all applicable KHSAA rules and regulations, all District Policies and Procedures , Student Code of Acceptable behavior and employee handbook. I understand that violations of rules and regulations can result in my removal as coach. It is my responsibility to provide a copy of the Athletic Handbook to each member of my team and staff, discuss the contents with my team and staff, and obtain and return the signature page for each team and staff member to the Athletic Director. As coach, I agree that no athlete will participate on the team I coach if that athlete and his/her parent have not signed and returned the agreement by the announced deadline.

Printed Name of Coach

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Signature of Coach

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Date:

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## STUDENT ATHLETE AGREEMENT

As a student/athlete in the Clay County School System, I hereby agree that I have received and read the Athletic Handbook for the Clay County Elementary Schools. I agree that I will comply with the rules and guidelines outlined in the Athletic Handbook as well as all applicable KHSAA rules and regulations, all District Policies and Procedures , and Student Code of Acceptable behavior. I understand that violations of rules and regulations can result in my removal from teams on which I participate. I understand that failure to sign and return this form or any other required forms contained in this handbook may result in my being declared temporarily ineligible for practice or competition.

As the parent/guardian of the minor student signing below, I have received and reviewed the Athletic Handbook.

Printed Name of Athlete

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Signature of Athlete

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Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Date:

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