

ATHLETIC PLEDGE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Center Moriches's parents and professional staff believe that active student participation in athletics is vital to the development of a well-rounded individual. In keeping with this belief, we will continue to encourage student involvement, emphasizing the honor and privilege of representing Center Moriches Schools as an athlete. We hold high expectations for academic achievement of all student athletes and expect them to maintain those standards. The honor of participation carries with it the responsibility of Center Moriches's adolescents and young adults to present themselves as role models. Athletes represent not only themselves, but also their coach, their team, the Center Moriches student body, and the Center Moriches community. They are therefore expected to act in a responsible manner at all times. As part of the commitment to a team, regular attendance at practices and games throughout the sports season and conformity to the rules established by the District is expected. The Center Moriches School District Athletic Guidelines are as follows:

ATTENDANCE

Athletes are expected to attend every scheduled practice, scrimmage, and contest. Athletes are to provide coaches with prior notification of all anticipated absences. The Director of Athletics or designee will handle absences due to uncontrollable events on an individual basis.

The athlete must be in school for at least 5 periods to participate in an athletic practice or contest on that day. Exceptions will be made only if the athlete provides evidence of an acceptable excused absence (e.g., driving test, doctor's note, court appearance, educational requirement). Additionally, a student may not leave school after 5 periods and return for practice/contest unless it is an excused absence approved by the building administration or Director of Athletics. Students who arrive at school late without an approved excuse, as defined by the student disciplinary code, or are absent for any part of the day due to illness, will not be considered to be in "regular attendance at school all day" as prescribed by the Interscholastic Athletic Eligibility Policy, and will not be permitted to practice or play on that day.

If an athlete is present during his/her physical education class and is not prepared or does not participate, he/she will not be permitted to participate in the practice/contest that day. However, the athlete is required to attend practice and it is treated as an unexcused absence.

Athletes missing practices or contests due to extended illnesses or injuries will not be permitted to participate in contests until appropriate conditioning is attained as determined by the coach. The school physician must clear disqualified students who miss a practice or contest because of a physical injury before they are eligible to play.

Athletes are expected to be in attendance for the full time of the practice or contest. Being late 3 times or being released early 3 times, without evidence of an acceptable approved excuse, will constitute one unexcused absence. If an athlete has an unexcused absence from a practice/contest, the coach will notify the parent/athlete and initiate the following:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---|
| • First unexcused absence | will result in | suspension from 1 contest/performance |
| • Second unexcused absence | will result in | suspension from 2 contests/performances |
| • Third unexcused absence | will result in | the athlete's being dropped from the team |

Absence over a vacation period is considered a single incident but is treated as specified under Unexcused Absences above, in terms of total practices or game days to be made up. Athletes missing practice time are not guaranteed identical playing time/status until they prove themselves ready through practice.

An external suspension is considered an unexcused absence and is treated as indicated as above. A second offense during the same sport season resulting in an external suspension will result in the athlete being dropped from the team. An internal suspension is considered an unexcused absence and is treated as an Unexcused Absence. Any other attendance or behavior related incidents may result in consequences for the athlete.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

In order for a student to participate in an extracurricular activity, he/she must be in regular attendance at school all day that the said activity is scheduled. Attendance on Friday will suffice for Saturday activities. The principal or his/her designee may grant permission for the student to be absent under special circumstances.

Students who are failing two or more academic classes in a quarter will be placed on probation. Failure is determined as an overall average that is below grade 65 within an academic area. Probation is defined as the following: a student on probation can participate in all aspects of clubs and sports. However, they are required to attend extra help for the subjects they failed and maintain a "good standing" rating by their teachers. Students will remain on probation for the quarter. At the conclusion of the quarter, a new list will be generated.

After every two-week cycle, if a student is deemed "not in good standing," they are ineligible and are not permitted to participate in any activities with their club and/or sport.

Students that are deemed ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities may appeal to administration.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to off-site contests, usually, is provided by the school district. If an athlete misses a bus he/she cannot practice or compete unless transported by his/her parent or guardian to or from the practice or contest with the coach's and/or administrative staff's prior permission. Students may not drive themselves to a practice or contest when transportation is provided. They are ineligible to participate if they do so.

ATHLETIC ATTIRE

Athletes are to wear only school-issued uniforms for contests. In addition, the school dress code is in effect for athletic practices and contests. Athletes are not permitted to wear clothing considered inappropriate. This includes clothing that is vulgar; obscene; libelous; or that denigrates others on account of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability; or that promotes and/or endorses the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourages illegal or violent activity. Center Moriches athletes are expected to be role models for all students. They are expected to demonstrate positive behavior through their actions and attire.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

All student expectations and responsibilities fall under the Center Moriches School District Code of Conduct. Those students who exhibit a failure to abide by the Code of Conduct may be excluded from all extracurricular activities. Athletes are responsible to review the Code of Conduct in their student handbooks and be aware of its contents. Center Moriches athletes are expected to behave at all times as responsible members of their teams, in addition to meeting Center Moriches's high standards for academic achievement and exhibiting respectable behavior in keeping with the Code of Conduct. At no time may an athlete gossip about, disparage, belittle, ridicule, criticize, or bully any other person for any reason whatsoever. Causing social or emotional distress to another individual will jeopardize the athlete's continuance on the team. Unauthorized, inappropriate use of photo or video of Center Moriches athletes or teams is prohibited and will result in discipline, suspension, or removal from team.

AWARDS

School District awards are issued only to those athletes who complete their season in good standing. Athletes who are dropped from a team or quit prior to the last contest are not eligible for awards. Athletes who fail to return or reimburse the cost of equipment or uniforms are ineligible for awards. These athletes will not be eligible to participate in a subsequent sport season until the return or reimbursement is satisfied.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

An athlete may not be in possession of, use, or sell alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substances at any time. Any athlete found to possess, use or sell alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal drug on or off school property at any time, including weekends, preceding or during a season, will be disciplined or suspended from participating in that sport. If a student self informs a coach or other school official about his/her or another's substance abuse, suspension may be waived if the athlete is willing to take active steps to remedy the problem. Refer to Board of Education Policy #7420 for specific consequences.

HAZING/SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Hazing, a form of harassment whether it is physical or verbal, cannot be tolerated or condoned by a victim, a coach, staff, family, school administration, fellow students and especially team members. Any student found to have committed an act of harassment against any student in the Center Moriches District, including team members, will face disciplinary action, which may include suspension from an athletic team and suspension from school. Team members are expected and required to notify a coach or other school official if any such behavior is rumored or observed. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome verbal, electronic, or physical interaction between two or more people. Sexual harassment can happen between people of the same gender or people of different genders. Any athlete, male or female, proven to sexually harass any other student will be subject to suspension or removal from the team, a program, or the school.

BEHAVIORS

Foul language and insulting remarks are not permissible. Students will not be permitted to fight or strike teammates or opponents unless in the context of a contact sport where such physical conduct is required and controlled in accordance with contest rules. Athletes are expected to obey a coach's directions. Disobedience, unwarranted comments, and other subversive behaviors may interfere with the coach's ability to conduct a practice/contest and may distract from the time a coach should be devoting to the team. Athletes are expected to communicate with coaches before or after practice to avoid detracting from team practices/contests and team goals. Athletes are also expected to follow the rules and protocol of their sport and not intentionally violate the rules of the sport that they are playing during practice or competitions. The coach, building administrator, or athletic director will impose all penalties for violations. Penalties will be consistent throughout the athletic program and dependent upon the severity of the violation and behavioral history of the violator.

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS FOR A CENTER MORICHES ATHLETE

It is important for all athletes to remember that participation is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsman-like conduct. The Center Moriches athlete is to demonstrate self-control and respect for teammates, opponents, other athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators at all times. Center Moriches athletes are expected to treat opponents with respect before, during and after competitions. Saying, "Congratulations," shaking hands, and showing other acts of good sportsmanship are expected from the athlete. Center Moriches athletes are expected to follow the following SPORTSMANSHIP code:

1. Follow the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. Make no remarks or gestures at any time toward any other person, which would be considered belittling, disparaging, bullying, or in any way judgmental or critical of that person.
3. Stress values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. Show cordiality and courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. Establish positive relations with visiting teams and hosts.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
7. Follow the Section XI, NYSPHSAA and the school rules of eligibility.
8. Encourage leadership, initiative and good judgment in teammates.
9. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, moral, social and emotional well-being of the players.
10. Remember that an athletic contest is ONLY A GAME for the athlete, coach, school, spectator or community.

APPEALS

An appeals process is available to students. Students, parents, advisors or coaches may initiate appeals. Such appeals will be heard by a committee, convened as necessary, consisting of a building administrator, a representative from the counseling center, and an advocate selected by the student. Appeals will be heard in as timely a manner as possible.

I have read the above guidelines for a Center Moriches athlete and I am willing to adhere to all rules and expected behaviors. I am also aware that disciplinary actions will be initiated if I fail to adhere to the rules and expected behaviors. I understand that all athletic policies are governed specifically by the Board of Education Policy 7420 and it is my responsibility to know, understand, and follow those expectations.

Student-Athlete Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name

Team