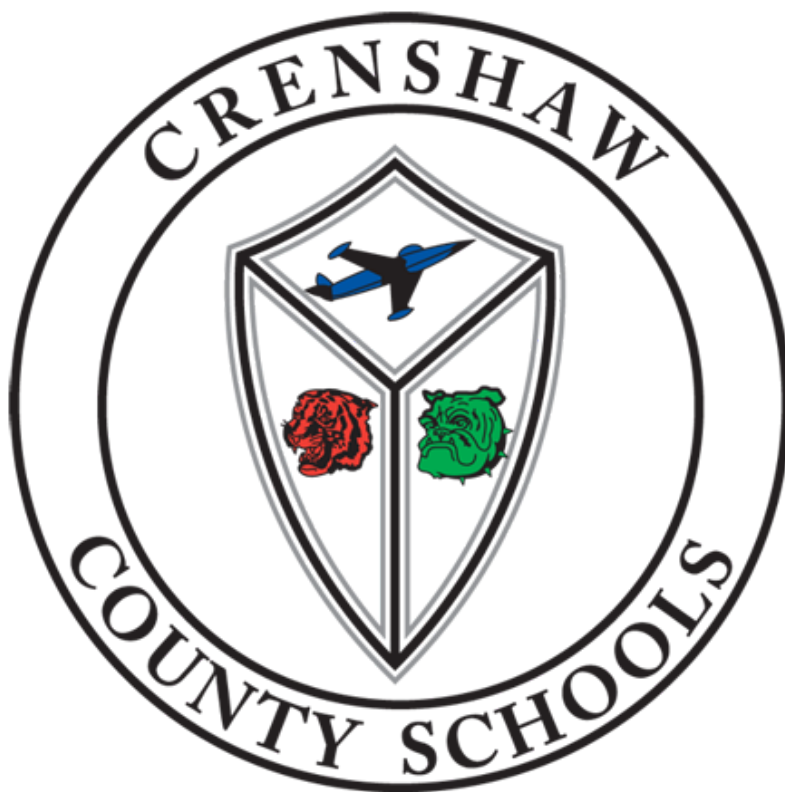


CRENSHAW COUNTY SCHOOLS



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2024-2025

ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This athletic handbook is designed to inform the student athlete, parents, and coaches of the rules, regulations, and information that helped develop the rich tradition of competition in Crenshaw County athletics. Participation in athletics is a privilege, which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the AHSAA, Crenshaw County Schools, and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. Each student athlete represents his/her school and student body. It is the student athlete's duty to conduct himself/herself in a manner becoming the student athlete, his/her family, school and the community. While an attempt has been made to answer as many questions as possible and provide information on all aspects of athletic participation, it is possible that there may be some questions that are not answered here. Please contact the Principal and/or Athletic Director of your school for this information. Crenshaw County Schools will enforce all rules and regulations as described in this handbook.

Departmental Philosophy

The goal of athletics in Crenshaw County Schools is to provide the best opportunities for student athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and character. In addition to developing skill in a sport, the purpose is to provide each participant with experiences that will be positive and memorable and that help develop the capacity for commitment to a cause, acceptance of responsibility and loyalty toward any chosen endeavor.

Student-Athletes and Academic Priorities

Student-athletes attend Crenshaw County Schools primarily for a quality education. Nothing should interfere with this objective. Athletics are a part of education, requiring student-athletes to use discipline and demonstrate good work habits in organizing a study schedule which will help lead to academic success. A student's grades should not suffer because of athletics; however, academic difficulties can occur because of a student's inability to organize their workload adequately. Participation in athletics requires a great deal of personal commitment from the student-athlete. Each student-athlete is expected to organize and discipline him/herself so that academic and athletic endeavors do not conflict. Coaches, sponsors, and administrators can determine student participation in all activities based on academic, behavior, and attendance records. Students first have an obligation to perform in the classroom on a daily basis with acceptable academics, exemplary behavior, and consistent attendance. Participation (not eligibility) decisions for all extra-curricular activities will be made by evaluating each

student, making the final decision with the student's academic, behavior, and attendance record in mind.

SPORTSMANSHIP

A policy statement from the National Federation of State High School Associations expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows:

"The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity."

We have a duty to teach and equip our young people for the future. Sportsmanship must be taught, modeled, expected and reinforced in the classroom and in all of our Crenshaw County Schools' competitive activities. Knowing that athletics has become an integral part of the total educational program in Alabama high schools, we must embrace the concepts of good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, officials, coaches and spectators. The contest is exciting, but winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant is outside the spirit and interest of the contest.

All AHSAA sanctioned events are a reflection of our community and school. The conduct of the team is extended to parents and fans before, during, and after athletic events. Expectations of all Crenshaw County Schools' staff, students, and stakeholders

Coaches

1. Follow the rules of the contest at all times.
2. Accept the decisions of contest officials.
3. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
4. Avoid public criticism of game officials.
5. Teach sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship.
6. Be a role model for our players and the community.

Student/Athletes

1. Show respect for opponents, coaches and game officials at all times.
2. Accept the decisions of contest officials.
3. Avoid offensive language and gestures.

4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
5. Follow the rules of the game.
6. Show respect for public property and equipment.

Parents/Spectators

1. Avoid criticism of game officials, players and sideline coaching which may sidetrack athletes from their performance.
2. Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
3. Stay off playing areas while the athletic contest is in progress.
4. Show respect for opposing teams, cheerleaders and bands
5. Show respect for public property and equipment.

All AHSAA sanctioned events are a reflection of our community and school. The conduct of the team is extended to parents and fans before, during, and after athletic events.

***Assault of sports officials, coaches, or administrators (SB-16): This bill became law on March 31, 2002, and creates new crimes of harassing, menacing, and assaulting sports officials, coaches, and administrators. The punishments are harsher than normal for convictions of harassment, menacing, and assault. For example, a second-degree assault can carry a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, but under the new law, a second-degree assault of a sports official, coach, or administrator could result in a sentence of up to 20 years.

CONDUCT RULE/EJECTION PENALTIES

Penalties for coaches and players ejected from one or more contests are as follows:

- First Ejection: A \$300 fine (An athlete's fine can be reduced to \$100 if the athlete being ejected takes the online STAR Behavioral Mode and payment is made within 10 days of the date of the ejection).
- Second Ejection: A one-game suspension and a \$500 fine
- Third Ejection: Minimum penalty of a suspension for the remainder of the season plus a \$750 fine.

****All fines/contest suspensions will be reviewed by the school principal to determine consequences and responsibility of payment.**

****Any fight that occurs during an extracurricular activity will result in a 10 day alternative school placement per the Crenshaw County Schools Student Code of Conduct.**

Note: If any of the ejections or suspensions occurs during the last contest of the season, a monetary fine will be placed on the school. All fines are due within 30 days.

Leaving The Bench Ejection: If players come off the bench onto the court or field and are ejected under National Federation rules, they will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season contests. A tournament would count as one contest except in championship play where the suspension would be in effect contest by contest.

COMMUNICATION

For our athletic teams to be successful, all involved must work together to ensure proper communication. The following information is intended to help our student/athletes have a positive experience in our program. Each coach will conduct a preseason parent meeting to discuss issues specific to his or her sport. General guidelines for all sports are as follows:

Coach's Communication to Parents Will Include:

1. Information on coach's philosophy
2. Location and times of practices and games
3. Coaches expectations for players
4. Team requirements
5. Team fees
6. Request for parental support in helping the student/athletes succeed in the program

Parent's Communication to the Coach Will Include:

1. Individual concerns expressed directly to the coach: This shall include the treatment of their child, areas that the student/athlete can improve and concerns of their child's behavior. It is not appropriate to discuss playing time, team strategy or other students/athletes.
2. Advance notification of any schedule conflict

Procedure to discuss a Concern with a Coach

1. Make an appointment with the coach.
2. Please adhere to the 24 hour rule when attempting discussions with the coaching staff.
Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during or after a game/practice. This can be an emotional time for both the parent and the coach.
3. If this is unsuccessful, contact the athletic director's office to allow the athletic director to facilitate a meeting.
4. After meeting with the athletic director and coach, if the parent is still not satisfied with the result then he/she should contact the principal.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (AHSAA)

Eligibility Requirements

All AHSAA academic requirements for participation in junior high and high school athletics will be followed. Reference comprehensive Eligibility Bylaws at www.ahsaa.com

To represent your school in an athletic contest:

1. Students entering the 10th, 11th and 12th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units. Four core courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are core curriculum courses. Any combination of these courses is accepted.
2. Students entering the 8th or 9th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade.
3. Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible.
4. Students may regain eligibility at the end of the first semester by meeting the same requirements listed above during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school.
5. A maximum of two units (or subjects) earned in an approved summer school may be counted.
6. Units earned through Credit Recovery may also be among the maximum two summer units counted and must be completed before Sept. 1. If Credit Recovery is used to make up Carnegie units, those units can only be accepted if they are earned through a State Department of Education-approved program.
7. The eligibility of a student that has attended another school during the preceding year must be established by a transcript from that school before the student is permitted to participate at the new school.
8. You must NOT have reached your 19th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year in order to be eligible for the entire school year. A student reaching their 19th birthday on or after August 1 is eligible for the entire school year.
9. A student may be eligible only eight consecutive terms after entering the 9th grade. School attendance of 15 days or more of any semester is counted as a semester.

Residency Requirements

All student athletes must meet the residency requirements of the Crenshaw County Schools Board of Education as well as all requirements that the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) may impose. Students whose parents make a bona fide move completely out of one school district into another may transfer all of his/her rights and privileges to the member school that serves the area where his/her parents reside.

****AHSAA guidelines determining a bona fide move include:**

1. Household furniture of the family must be moved.

2. All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence.
3. The original residence should be closed, rented or disposed of and not used by the family.
4. Nine months at the new residence will be required to make a bona fide move.

Before a student's name is sent for eligibility approval, the following items must be completed:

- * Birth Certificate – Every student athlete must have on file a valid birth certificate in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. A passport is accepted for students from another country.
- * Physical - In order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, he or she must have a current AHSAA Physical Form on file at the school. A physical is considered valid for 1 calendar year from the month the physical is taken. The Physical MUST be performed by an M.D. or a D.O. (Not a Nurse Practitioner).
- * Sportsmanship Requirement – In order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, he or she must complete the "STAR Sportsmanship Course". Make sure each athlete print a copy of the certificate as proof of completion.
- * AHSAA Release Form – In order for the state to calculate the academic eligibility of each student-athlete, the parent and student-athlete must sign a release form.
- * Signed Concussion Form – As required by the State Legislature.

INSURANCE

Student athletes are required to be covered under medical insurance provided by the family. Insurance verification form is in the form section. If the family does not have medical insurance it can be purchased through National Security Group, Inc.

COACH CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Coaches at member schools prior to 2001-02 are exempt from the course requirements but must have an active CPR certification.
- A school using a non-certified coach that is not involved in the Coaches Education Program will be fined \$300 and the coach will be suspended.

Certification Requirements

In order to be certified, all coaches and non-faculty coaches (Volunteers) must meet the following standards for certification: All steps must be completed before a person interacts with students.

1. Must complete both courses for professional development or personal development. (Courses below)
2. Must have completed the coaches' portion of STAR Sportsmanship, Heat Illness Prevention, Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest courses.
3. Must be CPR certified. Certification must be active each year

4. Coaching Principles course: Fundamentals of Coaching (Fee: \$85)
5. Sports First Aid course (Fee: \$85)
6. CPR card (up-to-date)
7. STAR Sportsmanship course (Free online)
8. Concussion course (Free online)
9. Heat Illness Prevention course (Free Online)
10. Sudden Cardiac Arrest course (Free Online)

****A certificate for all courses above plus a copy of the CPR card must be on file in the principal's office.**

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

(Practice & Games)

****Student must be enrolled in the Crenshaw County School system in order to tryout or participate in extracurricular activities.**

Daily attendance at school and practice is expected. In order for an athlete to be eligible to participate in any after school activity he/she must be present in school on the day of the activity. To be considered in school, a student may be in school at least half of the school day. If he/she does not attend at least one half of the school day then he/she is not eligible to participate or be involved in any way with practice or games. Any exceptions must have the approval of the principal. An athlete must be in school on a regular basis in order to be eligible to participate in athletics. An athlete who accumulates an excessive number of absences or tardies as designated in the student handbook will be placed on probation for a specified time period. If absences continue during this time, the athlete will then be suspended from athletic participation until it is clear that the attendance problem is resolved. An athlete who has excessive tardies to school and/or classes may be subject to restriction from athletic participation.

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

(Tryouts)

Each coach has his/her policy on how he/she will choose his/her team. Arrangements for tryouts must be made for athletes involved in overlapping sports seasons. It is the responsibility of the student athlete to contact the coach and discuss possible conflicts well in advance of tryouts. A student athlete may be cut from a team anytime during a season for appropriate reasons.

Students must submit an up-to-date physical and proof of insurance before he/she can try out.

Each school is permitted one Evaluation Period per sport during the off-season. All sports except football may be a maximum of five days in a consecutive 10-school-day calendar period. Football is permitted a maximum of 10 days in a consecutive 20 school day calendar period. The evaluations for spring sports allow spring sports the option to either conduct their evaluation period anytime from the end of their season to the end of the school year or to conduct it during the first semester. All students may participate in the evaluations.

ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES

Every school is required to have an Athletic Emergency Action Plan (AEAP) for each venue for athletic contests. A copy of each AEAP must be placed in the Eligibility file for audit review in the principal's office and a copy should be available at each venue. A template is available at www.ahsaa.com. All injuries, no matter where they occur, should be reported to the coach, athletic trainer and school nurse.

Doctor Visits

Medical expenses are the responsibility of the athlete/family. Written verification from the doctor is required when a physician removes an athlete from practices or games. Written verification from the doctor is required to return to athletic competition.

CHANGING A SPORT/QUITTING A TEAM

If a student athlete is cut from a team, he/she may join another team or program in that sport season. A student athlete cannot quit one sport to join another sport until that sport season is concluded. For example, one cannot quit football to participate in basketball until football season is completed. However, athletes will be allowed to transfer from one sport to another during a given season upon mutual agreement of both coaches. Appeal can be made to the athletic director if circumstances warrant consideration.

ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN OUTSIDE SPORTS

A student who is a member of any school athletic team (grades 7–12) may not participate (includes practice) on a non-school team in the same sport during the season of that sport. A student athlete may participate on a team of a different sport during a sports season but the school sport will take priority over any conflict, which includes practices, travel and games. The school athletic program will take priority and is not expected to work around conflicts involving outside sports teams. The head coach of the school team may work with a student athlete; however, conflicts may result in the athlete making a choice of which team to participate.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND PRACTICE/EVENTS

If school is closed due to severe weather, all athletic events, including practice will be cancelled.

PLAYING ABOVE GRADE LEVEL

In grades 7-12, the head coach of each sport will make the decision whether or not a student should play at a higher-grade level.

SOCIAL NETWORK GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Social Networks: Social network sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Snapchat, and other digital platforms and distribution mechanisms facilitate students communicating with other students. Participation in such networks has both positive appeal and potentially negative consequences. It is important the Crenshaw County Schools student athlete be aware of these consequences and exercise appropriate caution if they choose to participate. Student athletes are not restricted from using any online social network sites and digital platforms. However, users must understand that any content they make public via online social networks or digital platforms is expected to follow acceptable social behaviors. These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for student athletes to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment.

As a student athlete in Crenshaw County Schools should:

1. Be aware that potential current and future employers, college admissions and recruiting offices often access information you place on social networking sites. You should think about any information you post on Facebook or similar directories potentially providing an image of you to a prospective employer or school. The information is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of years from now.
2. Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.
3. Remember photos put on the social network site's server become their property. You may

delete the photo from your profile but it still stays on their server. Internet search engines like Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. Think long and hard about what type of photo you want to represent you.

Things student athletes should avoid:

1. Derogatory language or remarks about teammates or coaches; other Crenshaw County student athletes, teachers, coaches, athletics administrators or representatives of other Schools.
2. Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, bullying, hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances or any other inappropriate behaviors.
3. Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
4. Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation—regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Student athletes shall not possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs such as marijuana, controlled drug substances (hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, or any other narcotic or controlled drug) or possess, use or transmit paraphernalia for the use of such substances. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician will not constitute a violation.)
 - A student violating the substance abuse rule, on the first offense, will be required to meet with the head coach and athletic director to evaluate the situation. Parents will be notified immediately and given the opportunity to attend the meeting with their child. A student violating the substance abuse rule will be placed on suspension from athletic competition for a minimum of 20% of their scheduled playing dates for the season. Circumstances may warrant a longer suspension or removal from the team.
 - Any succeeding offense may result in permanent dismissal from athletics.
 - Student Athletes are expected to leave situations immediately where drugs and/or Alcohol is present. Failure to do so may imply guilt and violators will be dealt with accordingly.
2. Violation of school rules, disruptive behavior, showing disrespect toward school staff, unsportsmanlike conduct, sexting and/or committing any act that reflects negatively on Crenshaw County Schools will not be tolerated and such action(s) may lead to eligibility restrictions, probations, or suspension.
3. A student who is uncooperative, i.e. sleeps in class, refuses to complete work, etc., will be considered a discipline problem which could result in suspension from athletic competition.
4. Team members are expected to be present at all practices, meetings, and games. Doctor's

appointments or other similar outside activities should be arranged to avoid conflicts with practices or games.

5. Coaches may determine student participation in athletic events based on practice attendance, skills, effort, team strategy, and understanding of rules.
6. Any serious breach of school policies, both on and/or off campus, could result in suspension of athletic participation and/or removal from the team.
7. Students suspended from school will not be allowed to participate in athletic events while they are on suspension (this includes alternative school). If a student has to attend an after School detention hall, the student will be required to attend the detention over any athletic activity.
8. Attendance in academic classes is mandatory on a game day. Students must be in attendance at school to be eligible to participate in athletics. A student must be present for half of the school day or they will be unable to participate in any athletic activity.
9. Team uniforms are the property of the school and should only be worn during athletic contests. Uniforms should be returned to the coach immediately after the season has been completed. Lost uniforms are the responsibility of the athlete. If an athlete loses or damages a uniform (other than the normal wear and tear), he or she is responsible for reimbursing the school full replacement cost for the uniform.
10. Travel attire to away games for students is up to the head coach. Regardless of the specifications, Crenshaw County student athletes should always project a favorable image of the team and the school.
11. Student athletes are expected to maintain high standards of behavior and sportsmanship. use of profanity and displays of anger toward teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and fans will not be tolerated. Any infringement could result in disciplinary action.
12. Hazing is intolerable in any form and will result in disciplinary action.
13. Coaches are not allowed to give private lessons or extra help and receive compensation in any form to student athletes trying out for teams they will be choosing.
14. Athletes are expected to behave appropriately towards themselves, their families, coaches/staff, teachers and all Crenshaw County Schools on social media.
15. Fighting at an extracurricular activity will result in a 10 day alternative school placement. Students are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities if placed in alternative school

TEAM TRAVEL GUIDELINES

1. Crenshaw County transportation policy require that student-athletes travel to and from athletic contests with their team when transportation is provided or arranged by the school. If a bus is provided for transportation then all athletes must ride the bus. Coaches can let athletes ride home with their parents if he/she choses with proper documentation. (see forms)
2. When traveling to destinations outside Crenshaw County, students may only be transported by vehicles owned by Crenshaw County Schools or charter bus. Students can be transported by parents only if extenuating circumstances arise. Transportation by parents must be approved by the school administration.

PARENT PICKUP

A coach or designated adult will remain with athletes until all are picked up after practices and games. Please respect the time of our coaches by picking up your student-athlete immediately following practices and/or games. If you are not able to transport your student-athlete home, please make other arrangements prior to the event.

FUNDRAISERS

All fundraisers must follow the Crenshaw County policy for accountability. The school bookkeeper can provide the forms needed. ALL fundraisers, whether initiated by the coach of that sport or the sport's booster club must be approved by the building principal.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the athletic handbook and have read the rules concerning eligibility and conduct for student athletes in the Crenshaw County School System. I am aware a copy of the athletic handbook can also be found at www.crenshaw-schools.org. I understand the rules and realize that I am subject to disciplinary measures should I violate them. I do agree to participate and conduct myself in accordance with the rules of our athletic program, school rules as addressed in the student handbook, and with any other specific rules of my coaches.

Student Athlete

I have read this athletic handbook and agree to abide by all regulations set forth. I understand participation in athletics is a privilege and agree to represent the Crenshaw County School System with character, integrity, and sportsmanship on and off the field or court.

Signature of Student Athlete

Printed Name of Student Athlete

Date

Parent/Guardian

I have read this athletic handbook and understand the policies and regulations of the Crenshaw County School System will be enforced.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Date