

CALHOUN



Calhoun City Schools Athletic Handbook 2024-2025

**Information, Expectations, Policies, & Procedures for Student-Athletes,
Parents, and Coaches**

Calhoun City Schools Mission: To inspire all students to become lifelong learners in the pursuit of excellence.

Calhoun Athletic Department Purpose: To promote collective growth and development for student-athletes, coaches, and teams.

Calhoun High School
355 South River Street
Calhoun, GA 30701
706-629-9213
www.calhounschoools.org/high

Calhoun Middle School
399 South River Street
Calhoun, GA 30701
706-629-3340
www.calhounschoools.org/middle

Athletic Department Information

Administration

Superintendent: Dr. Michele Taylor (taylorm@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Principal: Casey Parker (parkerc@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Principal: Dr. Allison Eubanks (eubanksa@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Assistant Principal/CCS Athletic Director: Franco Perkins (perkinsf@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Assistant Principal: Tiffany Watson (watsont@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Assistant Principal: Misty Lewis (lewism@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Assistant Principal/CMS Assistant Athletic Director: Melissa Hawkins (hawkinsm@calhounschoools.org)
CCS Assistant Athletic Director: Kent Howard (howardk@calhounschoools.org)

Fall Sports

CHS Cross Country (Boys & Girls): Justin Lindsey (lindseyjustin@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Competition Cheerleading: Tracy Lester (lestert@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Spirit Cheerleading: Tracy Lester (lestert@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Football: Clay Stephenson (stephensonc@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Softball: Diane Smith (smithd@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Volleyball: Jennifer Quinn (quinnj@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Cross Country (Boys & Girls): Jerry Pruettt (pruetttj@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Competition Cheerleading: Tracy Lester (lestert@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Spirit Cheerleading: Crystal Davis (davisc@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Golf: Roger Gresham (greshamr@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Football: Eric Rigney (rigneye@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Softball: Stephen Gaylor (gaylors@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Volleyball: Scott Carter (carters@calhounschoools.org)

Winter Sports

CHS Boys Basketball: Vince Layson (laysonv@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Girls Basketball: Jaime Echols (echolsj@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Esports: Dr. Cherri Rains (rainsc@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Swimming/Diving (Boys & Girls): Charles Todd (toddc@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Water Polo: Charles Todd (toddc@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Wrestling: Luke Green (greenl@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Boys Basketball: Kent Howard (howardk@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Girls Basketball: Victoria Garnto (garntov@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Swimming/Diving (Boys & Girls): Charles Todd (toddc@calhounschoools.org)
CMS Wrestling: Kyle Smith (smithkyle@calhounschoools.org)

Spring Sports

CHS Baseball: Matt Montgomery (montgomerym@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Boys Golf: Roger Gresham (greshamr@calhounschoools.org)
CHS Girls Golf: Tommy Atha (athat@calhounschoools.org)

- CHS Boys Soccer: Tino Hernandez (hernandezt@calhounschoools.org)
- CHS Girls Soccer: Taylor Sumrall (sumrallt@calhounschoools.org)
- CHS Girls Tennis: Marlee Nicholson (nichelsonm@calhounschoools.org)
- CHS Boys Tennis: Kyle Smith (smithk@calhounschoools.org)
- CHS Track (Boys & Girls): Brant Murry (murryb@calhounschoools.org)
- CMS Baseball: Trey Gibson (gibsont@calhounschoools.org)
- CMS Boys Soccer: Matt Veal (vealm@calhounschoools.org)
- CMS Girls Soccer: Victoria Medina (medinav@calhounschoools.org)
- CMS Tennis (Boys & Girls): Matthew Brookins (brookinsm@calhounschoools.org)
- CMS Track (Boys & Girls): Porter Law (lawp@calhounschoools.org)

1. STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

GHSA Constitution

- Calhoun City Schools is a member of the Georgia High School Association and follows all rules, regulations, policies, and procedures as set forth by the GHSA Constitution. This handbook will include excerpts and references to the constitution; however, the entire GHSA Constitution is linked below.
- [GHSA Constitution](#)

Academic Eligibility

- By-Law 1.50 - Scholastic Standing/ Scholarship.....[page 16](#)

Recruiting/Undue Influence/Following the Coach

- By-Law 1.70 - Recruiting / Undue Influence.....[page 22](#)

Attendance Eligibility

- Students must attend at least a full half day of school on the day of an event in order to participate in any extra-curricular event that occurs after the school day (practice or competition). The halfway point of the school day will be defined as 11:30 am. Approved field trips or school activities will constitute attendance. The school Principal or Athletic Director must approve all exceptions to the attendance rule.

College Eligibility

- [NCAA Eligibility Center Link](#)
- [NAIA Eligibility Center Link](#)

Parent/Player Waiver Forms (Sign-off available on Rank One)

- [Student/Parent Concussion Awareness Form \(English\)](#)
- [Student/Parent Concussion Awareness Form \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form \(English\)](#)

- [Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Student/Parent Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form \(English\)](#)
- [Student/Parent Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form \(Spanish\)](#)
- [CHS Consent to Participate Form \(Student Random Drug Testing\)](#)
 - [Calhoun City Schools Board Policy: JCABB](#)

2. STUDENT-ATHLETE, COACH, & PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

The Athletic Department at Calhoun Middle/High School strives to keep open lines of communication between athletes, parents, coaches and the general public. Much of the information needed to keep current with the events and procedures of the various Calhoun Middle/High School athletic programs can be accessed by the district website, www.calhounschools.org.

Parental Support

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging jobs. By establishing an understanding of each position, we strive to be able to better accept the actions of the other for the benefit of the student-athlete. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our programs, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed upon your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

It is essential that parents and student-athletes demonstrate respect for coaches. The coach has been appointed to a leadership and decision-making position. His/her responsibility is to the individual participant, the team, and the school system. As a result, all coaches have been instructed to make the best decisions they can and not to bow to parent or fan pressure relative to athletic and/or coaching decisions. In all instances, an environment of mutual respect and civility should prevail and the appropriate steps for a solution should be followed.

Communication Your Child Can Expect From Coaches

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all participants on the team.
- Locations and times for all practices and contests as timely as possible.
- Team requirements (ex. Fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
- Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.
- The availability of the coach to speak with you about your child if you should have a concern.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in programs at Calhoun Middle/High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times

when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times respectful discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- The treatment of your child, mentally or physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those that follow, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

- Playing time.
- Team strategies.
- Game play-calling.
- Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the parent and the coach. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, please follow the steps outlined in the chain of communication, to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Chain of Communication

- Athlete and coach.
- Athlete, parent/guardians, and coach.
- Parent/guardians and athletic director.
- Parent/guardians, athletic director, and principal.

The correct procedure to contact a coach is to email him or her or by telephone. Parents are urged to contact the coach directly at the phone numbers distributed at the pre-season orientation meeting. Please do not contact the coach at home unless requested to do so. Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest, a practice, or event. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions. If the coach does not respond to your email or phone call, contact the Athletic Director at perkinsf@calhounschools.org or 706-602-6768 and he will contact the coach on your behalf.

3. SPORTSMANSHIP

Calhoun City Schools believes that athletic programs serve educational purposes in the lives of students. One of these purposes is the development of good sportsmanship. The primary focus of the challenge of achieving good sportsmanship is on the student-athlete, but others are involved. Calhoun City Schools

expects all student-athletes, coaches, parents, and fans to abide by GHSA By-Law 2.70 (Sportsmanship) at any home or away athletic contest or practice.

Individuals who are involved in athletic activities that represent Calhoun City Schools should make every effort to meet the following expectations:

School Administration

- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for athletic events.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
- Show commitment to students and school activities by regular attendance at school events.
- Apply sportsmanship and rule equitably.
- Be prepared to address fan and participant behavior at both home and away events.

Coaches

- Accept decisions of the officials.
- Avoid offensive language and gestures.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Avoid public criticism of game officials.
- Lead by example: respect the rules, the officials, and the opponents.

Student-Athletes

- Show respect at all times for coaches, opponents, and game officials.
- Accept the decisions of the contest officials.
- Avoid offensive language or gestures.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.
- Remember that as a participant for Calhoun you represent your school and community.

Spectators

- Avoid criticism and harassment of game officials and coaches.
- Appreciate good performances by opposing players and teams.
- Respect and show appreciation for coaches.
- Stay off the playing area.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.
- Work cooperatively with school officials and supervisors in keeping order.

Cheerleaders and Band

- Know the contest rules and perform at the proper time.
- Show respect for opposing players and cheerleaders, game officials, and spectators.
- Lead positive cheers and praise for your team.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.

Appropriate Behaviors

- Applause during introduction of athletes, coaches, and game officials.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of contests.
- Applause at the end of a contest for performance of all participants.
- Showing respect for another school's logo, banners, etc.
- Showing concern for injured participants.

Unacceptable Behaviors

- Using disrespectful, taunting, or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures or any cheers that gloat in victory.
- Signaling out individuals on an opposing team for derogatory or insensitive treatment.
- Using hand-held signs containing derogatory language or pictures.
- Throwing any objects onto or near the field of play.
- Displays of temper with an official's call.
- Using yells to antagonize opponents or other fans.
- Refusing to shake hands or to give recognition for good performance.
- Unauthorized visiting of other school's designated seating area.
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game.

Any individual violating this code of behavior will be warned and/or may be removed from the contest and may be banned from future athletic events.

4. COACHING EXPECTATIONS

Supervision

- Students should be supervised and monitored by a staff member at all times while on-campus or during an off-campus event/competition.
- Students should not be given access to facilities without appropriate adult staff supervision.
- Staff members should not share their key or access card with students at any time.
- Facilities should remain locked and closed when adult staff supervision is not present.
- The supervision of students applies to both in-school and after-school activities.
- Coaches must stay until the last player is picked up from practice or a game

Coaching Staff

- High School head coaches are in charge of his/her middle school program.
- All staffing decisions must be approved in advance by the athletic director and the principal.
- This includes the hiring/placement of head coaches, assistant coaches, community coaches, and other skill/position specialists.
- All coaches will complete the GHSA rules clinic by the assigned due date. All fines levied as a result of non-compliance will be paid by the individual responsible.
 - [GHSA Rules Clinic Link](#)

- Any and all community coaches (non-school employees) must be approved by the athletic director, principal, and board of education. No community coach should participate in any team related activities until they are approved by the board of education.

Required Meetings and Recognitions

- Pre-season participant/parent meetings to outline school and program expectations.
- Post-season participant/parent meeting (banquet, student recognition, etc.)

Communication

- All coaches will consistently and continually communicate game/competition schedules, practice dates, team or program expectations, etc. to team members, parents, and booster club volunteers.
- 8th graders must be approved to participate in High School Junior Varsity competition by the Athletic Team.

Transportation

- All coaches are responsible for arranging school-sponsored transportation for off-campus athletic events.
- Coaches are responsible for identifying a bus driver in advance of the event and completing all necessary transportation paperwork required for all trips.
- Permission must be received in advance by the athletic director and principal for a team to arrange individual transportation (not taking a school bus) to an off-campus event.

Facility Usage

- Teams in-season should be given priority to use the appropriate facilities.
- Off-season facility usage can be reserved through the athletic director.
- Facilities will operate under a first come, first serve basis if not reserved ahead of time.

Budget

- All head coaches are expected to responsibly manage and efficiently use their local budget to meet the needs of the program.
- Any purchase using local school funds should be approved in advance by the principal, athletic director, and bookkeeper.
- Head coaches should seek fundraising opportunities to supplement their local budget.

Scheduling

- All head coaches are responsible for creating and organizing an appropriate game or competition schedule.
- Head coaches should communicate with region head coaches and other region representatives to ensure region games and competitions are given priority during the scheduling process.
- Head coaches are encouraged to seek competitive non-region competitions to prepare teams and players for high-level state tournament competition.

Checklist for Coaching Staffs (Directed by Head Coach)

- Make sure all of the following tasks are completed:
 - *Before the first official practice:*
 - Organize game and competition schedules well in advance of the season.
 - Work with the CCS Athletic Team and Principal to fill coaching staff needs.
 - Report any facility needs directly to Franco Perkins.
 - Submit an emergency action plan to the athletic director before the first GHSA practice date (coaches only need to complete and submit page 3 - [Emergency Action Plan](#)).
 - Current Physical Form for all student-athletes (school nurse must have a copy on file before any participation may occur).
 - [English Version](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
 - Verify all student-athletes are academically eligible as soon as the team roster is set (see Franco Perkins for confirmation of roster eligibility).
 - Send a copy of your roster to Franco Perkins via email.
 - *Before the first competition of the season:*
 - Ensure a current roster and game schedule is uploaded in [Rank One](#).
 - Ensure all current players and parents/guardians have completed all necessary forms and documents through Rank One.
 - Signed Concussion Awareness Form for all student-athletes (Rank One).
 - [English Version](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
 - Signed Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form for all student-athletes (Rank One).
 - [English Version](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
 - [Signed Random Drug Testing Form](#) for all high school student-athletes (Rank One).
 - Make sure all coaches have passed the [GHSA rules clinic](#) by the deadline.
 - All coaches should download rules clinic certificates and save a copy in case verification is needed.
 - Make sure all coaches have completed the [GHSA Traumatic Head Injuries Course](#) (CDC Website).
 - Schedule a pre-season parent/player meeting with coaching staff to outline expectations of the program.
 - *After the last competition of the season:*
 - Schedule a post-season player recognition after the end of the season.
 - Make sure all equipment is collected and accounted for.
 - Communicate any coaching staff changes to the athletic director.

Calhoun City Schools
2024-2025 Athletic Code of Conduct & Parent Expectations

Student-Athlete's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Sport(s): _____

The Calhoun City Schools' administration, coaches, and staff believe that students who are selected for the privilege of membership on athletic teams should conduct themselves as responsible representatives of the schools. Since athletic competition on our sports teams is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct established by the administration, and other specific rules established by respective coaches per their sport. As recognized representatives of our schools, members are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior during the season or out of season, in uniform or out of uniform, and on campus or off campus. The principal, CCS athletic team, and head coaches shall enforce all rules and regulations as described in the Code of Conduct for athletes.

1. A student-athlete who is found in possession of alcohol, nicotine, or has a positive test in the CHS Drug Screening Program are subject to the following. Students who use or possess illegal drugs on campus are subject to more severe consequences which could result in additional athletic loss of privilege.

- a. First Offense
 - i. Loss of athletic participation for 10% of game competitions. This applies to the current season or the next season the student- athlete will participate.
- b. Second Offense
 - i. Loss of athletic participation for 30% of game competitions. This suspension can be carried over to the next season or sport for the student-athlete.
- c. Third Offense
 - i. Loss of all athletic participation for one calendar year.
- d. Fourth Offense
 - i. Permanent loss of all athletic participation at Calhoun High School.
- e. The head coach may add other disciplinary actions, such as loss of team captain, conditioning drills, or community service.

2. A student-athlete who commits the following offenses shall be disciplined. The discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension or permanent dismissal from the team.

- a. Fighting/Battery.
- b. Theft.
- c. Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner when representing the school.
- d. Any act at school or away from school, which results in discipline by school administration.

3. Calhoun City Schools will not condone bullying or hazing among its students. Students suspected or guilty of bullying or hazing will be immediately referred to school administration. A student-athlete should report any concerns regarding bullying or hazing directly to the coach, athletic director, or school administration.

4. A student-athlete who loses their equipment or fails to return equipment or uniforms to their coach must financially repay for the respective loss. The student-athlete is not allowed to participate in another sport or attend the sports award program until all debts are cleared.
5. A student-athlete who is placed in out-of-school or in-school suspension cannot participate in or attend any games or practices during the suspension or on any day the student was suspended from school.
6. A student-athlete who quits a team, or is removed from the team, once it has begun official practices within the GHSA prescribed dates, cannot begin another sports season until the sports season ends that he or she quit or was removed. If there is a mutual decision by the coach and player to discontinue a player's participation on a team, then the player can begin practice with another sport without penalty.
7. Each coach of a student-athlete has the right to establish additional rules pertaining to the activity supervised. These rules may include attendance at practices, curfew, dress code, locker room cleanliness, horseplay, being on time, and general conduct on buses or at off-campus activities.
8. Each coach has the right to administer individual consequences in a situation where a student-athlete does not represent their team or group with dignity or violates a team rule.
9. Any student athlete who is found guilty of a felony will not be allowed to participate in athletics.

A student-athlete and his or her parents may appeal a decision to the athletic director/school administration within three days of the disciplinary decision. The athletic director/school administration will hear both sides of the appeal and will take action upon which they consider to be in the best interests of the student-athlete, the team, and the school.

As the Parent/Guardian:

- I pledge to communicate with my child's coach in a professional manner when issues arise, and that I will not approach my child's coach during or after a contest or practice.
- I understand that appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach are: the treatment of my child mentally and physically, ways to help my child improve, and concerns about my child's behavior.
- I understand that issues not appropriate to discuss with the coach are: playing time, team strategy, play calling, or other student-athletes.
- I will express my concerns directly to the head coach. Sharing concerns with other parents, community members, other coaches, etc. is not appropriate and negatively impacts your child's team.
- I pledge to support my child and his/her team positively on social media and will not post negative comments about the coaches, other players, other teams, or contest officials.
- I pledge to follow all GHSA rules, specifically those outlined in bylaw 1.70 (Recruiting/Undue Influence). Any questions regarding undue influence, student transfers, or coaching involvement should be directed to CCS Athletic Team, for clarification and guidance.
- I understand my child and I are considered boosters of Calhoun City Schools and our actions can have consequences for the school and my child's team.
- I will contribute to the goal of a family environment within Calhoun City Schools by promoting good sportsmanship, by celebrating team accomplishments, and by giving value to my child's opportunity to be a member of a team.

My signature acknowledges that I have read the Athletic Code of Conduct and the [Athletic Handbook](#) in its entirety and agree to abide by all rules and stipulations contained above.

My signature releases Calhoun City Schools to post my child's name and picture on the school website, social media, or press release.

My signature releases my child's head coach to discuss my child's participation with college recruiters and their respective Calhoun City Schools' athletic teams.

Player Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date