

## CLARE ATHLETIC CODE

Clare Schools adhere to M.H.S.A.A standards of competition with all athletic programs in agreement with the Philosophy of Education of the Clare Board of Education. It is an honor and a privilege to represent your school and community. If you wish to participate in athletics, you must be worthy of the honor and deserving of the privilege. Obedience to the training rules **does not guarantee participation, nor does it determine playing time.**

### I. TRAINING RULES:

Use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances **and/or performance enhancing drugs** is prohibited. Violations of state statutes (misdemeanor or felony), school rules or ordinances, whether or not criminal charges result, is prohibited. Training rules are in effect the entire year.

- A. Violations of training rules must be: a matter of public record, or be admitted to by the athlete, or shown by a preponderance of evidence.
- B. Reported violations will result in an investigation by the athletic director and/or principal **that will begin** within seven (7) days of receiving the report.
- C. The athlete will have an informal hearing with the A.D. and/or principal or designee to determine if a violation has occurred. The athlete is given an opportunity to deny charges and rebut and present evidence, with the presence of parent if desired.
- D. When the athlete is found in violation, a registered letter will be sent to the athlete's home notifying the parents of the suspension and the reason why. Parents or guardian are to contact the school within 3 business days to acknowledge receipt of the registered letter or to arrange a conference. Failure to contact the Athletic Director within 3 business days, the right to appeal is forfeited.

### II. PENALTIES:

From the date an athlete is found to be in violation of the Athletic Code's training rules, the following penalties will be imposed. Multiple violations will not be regarded as concurrent penalties.

#### A. First Offense

1. Participation in 25% of the scheduled number of contests in the current season will be denied. Current season is defined to be that season in progress at the date of the informal hearing. The denial of participation will extend into the athlete's next season if necessary to fulfill the suspension assigned and the number of games carried over will be pro-rated on a percentage basis. If the athlete is not involved in a current season, then 25% of the next season the athlete participates in will be denied.
2. A student athlete disciplined for substance abuse will be referred to a school approved substance abuse program. After serving the assigned penalty, the athlete may return to athletic contest participation provided the student follows through on the referral and has completed or is in the process of completing the recommended course of action. Failure to complete the assessment and recommended program will result in suspension from athletics until the recommended program is completed.
3. Participate in all practice sessions is at the discretion of the coaches involved..
4. A suspended athlete is to be in street clothes at contests.
5. While on suspension, no athlete will be allowed to be dismissed from school for athletic reasons.
6. The athlete must complete the entire sport season in good standing in order for the athlete to be given credit for serving the suspension.

#### B. Second Offense

1. The athlete will be denied contest participation for one calendar year from the date of the registered letter following the investigation when the athlete is determined to be in violation of the athletic code.
2. An athlete disciplined for substance abuse will be referred to a school approved substance abuse program. After serving the assigned calendar year suspension, the athlete may return to athletic contest participation provided the student follows through on the referral and has completed the recommended course of action. Failure to complete the assessment and recommended program will result in suspension from athletics until the recommended program is completed.
3. Participation in all practice sessions is at the discretion of the coaches involved.
4. While on suspension, no athlete will be allowed to be dismissed from school for athletic reasons.
5. A suspended athlete is to be in street clothes at contests.
6. The athlete may make a written request to the Athletic Director for reinstatement. The **Middle School Principal**, High School Principal and Superintendent will review the written request, including all pertinent information provided by the athlete to determine whether or not reinstatement will be made after six (6) months from the date of the registered letter. Even though the criteria may have been met, reinstatement into athletic competition is subject to the

decision by the review board. The student must demonstrate current or improved standards, including but not limited to the following criteria:

1. Attendance record conclusive to scholastic achievement.
2. No disciplinary referrals.
3. Current or improved grade point average.
4. No further athletic violations.
5. Continued participation in School Activities.

**C. Third Offense.**

The athlete will be suspended one year for each violation.

**III. APPEALS:**

Athletes entering the appeal process remain ineligible for athletic competition until reinstatement is granted through the appeal process. The athlete may request in writing, (given to the Athletic Director), to appeal a suspension to the Review Board, and the School Board, in that order. The Review Board may uphold, dismiss or modify the suspension imposed. Time lines in the appeal process will be as follows:

- A. Parents notify the Athletic Director within 3 business days of receiving the registered letter.
- B. All appeals are to be made in writing within three (3) business days of receiving notification of suspension or notification that the suspension has been upheld in the appeal process.
- C. Appeal hearing will be scheduled within seven (7) business days after receipt of written appeal, except at the School Board level.
- D. Decisions on the appeal will be communicated to both parties within three (3) business days, in writing, either hand delivered or by mail. Decisions rendered in the appeal process may be appealed to the Board of Education.
- E. Written request for appeal should be made to the president of the Board of Education within seven (7) calendar days. The Board of Education will schedule a hearing within 45 days. The athlete will remain ineligible for participation until the completion of the Board of Education process.

**OTHER ATHLETIC RULES**

- I. In addition to the training rules, the following rules exist for Clare Public Schools athletes.
  - A. Behavior which is detrimental to the team shall be punished by the coach. Detrimental behavior may include, but is not limited to such things as: profanity, missing practice or contests without being excused by the coach, insubordination, being associated with controlled substances, or poor attitude.
  - B. Adherence to the school board policy for transportation to and from practices and contests.
  - C. Curfew is 10:30 P.M. provided there is school within one day, or an athletic contest within two days. On other days it will be 12:30 A.M. The coach may alter the curfew when he/she feels it is advisable to do so. Failure to comply with the established curfew will result in possible disciplinary action by the coach involved.
  - D. All clothing and equipment issued to students, remains the property of the school. It is the athlete's responsibility to take reasonable care of all property in his/her possession and to return it in as near-issued condition as possible. Athletes will be charged a reasonable amount (not to exceed replacement value) for damage to or loss of any school issued clothing and equipment. Athletic equipment or clothing is not to be used for physical education or any other non-athletic activity unless given permission by the coach. Failure to reimburse for lost or damaged equipment will prevent the student from participating in athletics until the matter is cleared up awards will be given to such individual until the problem is solved. If a paid-for item is found at a date and returned to the athletic department, the student will receive a refund. Possession of school equipment or clothing that has not been issued to the student is a violation of school athletic rules.

**II. PENALTIES:**

An athlete may be suspended by a coach for disciplinary reasons for a period of one week or less. Written notification of the suspension must be made to the athletic director within one working day. Additional disciplinary action may result.

**III. APPEAL:**

The athlete may request a meeting with the athletic director and the coach involved to appeal the suspension.

**ATHLETIC GUIDELINES**

Clare athletes may participate in only one sport during each season of the year.

- I. Athletes who quit or are dismissed from a sport after the first interscholastic contest may not participate in any other interscholastic or intramural sport or activity until that season has been completed without permission of both coaches involved and the athletic director.
- II. Starting practice dates for each sport are established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
- III. Practice sessions with three or less students may begin at the half way point of preceding season.

- IV. Weekend and vacation day practice shall be cleared through the athletic director. There are to be no Sunday practices with the exception of during the M.H.S.A.A. tournaments and in case of a league contest scheduled for a Monday. Such Sunday practices are voluntary for the students.
- V. When school has been canceled because of inclement weather, there will be no practice (scheduled or voluntary) on the first day. In the event that an extended number of days off occur in succession, practices may be scheduled with prior approval from the athletic director. However, anyone who cannot make it in to school may be excused by contacting the coach.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

In order for an athlete to participate in a practice or contest, he/she must be in attendance for the ENTIRE SCHOOL DAY. If he/she misses any portion of the day due to illness, oversleeping, etc., they will not be allowed to practice or compete on that day. There are exceptions; school sponsored activities, scheduled appointments (dentist, doctor, optometrist, orthodontist, etc.) and funerals are not considered illness. Athletes providing proper documentation of appointments and prior notification of funerals will be allowed to practice and compete.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

To remain eligible to represent Clare Public Schools in athletic events, a student must meet Clare Public School's eligibility policy and meet the requirements prescribed by the M.H.S.A.A.

##### **A. Current Season**

A student must be passing at least two credit hours (four classes) at all times. In addition, any student failing more than one class will be placed on academic probation for one week. Any subsequent failure of more than one class will result in an ineligibility for the following week. All eligibility problems are reviewed on a week-to-week basis by the athletic office.

##### **B. Previous Semester**

Any student passing less than two credit hours for a semester is ineligible for the following semester.

Any student failing more than one class for a semester will be ineligible for the following semester.

#### **AWARDS**

Letter awards can be earned as a result of participating in interscholastic athletics. Awards are on loan to students until graduation or until the student transfers to another school.

1. A student will receive a letter, certificate, and pin for the first varsity sport in which he/she earns a letter. A certificate and pin will be awarded for each subsequent varsity award.
2. A student will receive a smaller letter and certificate for the first junior varsity sport in which he/she earns a letter. A certificate will be awarded for each subsequent junior varsity award.