

# **Canton High School Athletic Department**



## **Home of the Bulldogs**

### **Student-Athlete and Parent Information Packet 2009-10**

#### **Includes:**

Academic Eligibility Policy  
Rules and Regulations for Participation  
Alcohol-Drug-Tobacco Policies  
Hazing Policies

Checkout the Canton High School Athletics Website for all your Bulldog Information: [www.cantonma.org](http://www.cantonma.org) then click to CHS then Athletics.

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*Canton Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability.*

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY: ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

1. A student must secure during the last marking period preceding the contest (e.g. second quarter marks and not semester grades determine third quarter eligibility) a passing grade in courses which total at least 27 credits.
2. A student cannot at any time represent Canton High School unless that student is enrolled in courses which would provide 27 credits.
3. Final grades from the previous academic year will be used to determine eligibility during the first marking period of a year. This is for students entering grades 10-12, or students repeating grade 9.
4. Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official only on the published date when the report cards for that marking period are to be issued to parents of all students.
5. Incomplete grades count as failing until such time as the grade has been officially completed.
6. Students who are not academically eligible may not participate with the team in any way.

***Note: The MIAA academic eligibility standards are designed to ensure that a student is fully enrolled in school and activity engaged in his/her academic life on a consistent basis throughout the school year.***

### **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

The concern of public education is the maximum development of its pupils. The Canton High School Athletic Program promotes education through the medium of physical activities. It makes its contribution to the growth and development of youth physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially.

First, and foremost, Canton High school is an academic institution. Satisfactory classroom standing must be maintained at all times by students exercising the privilege of athletic participation. Additional help, when needed in academic areas, is encouraged by all members of the athletic staff. Prior arrangements must be made with the head coach of that sport if practice time is to be affected for any reason.

Athletes and parents are encouraged to communicate directly with the coaches concerning academic or other problems. Should you experience difficulty reaching a coach, please contact the Athletic Office or the Main School Office.

CANTON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC OFFICE	781-821-5050 X 111
CANTON HIGH SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE	781-821-5050

The importance of enforcement of all regulations should be apparent. A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to prevent a travesty being made of regulations. High standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. It is our intent to preserve rules that reasonably pertain to the health and safety of the individual and to the orderly conduct of sports.

Athletes are expected to set a positive example to the total student body; conducting themselves always as ladies and gentlemen and endeavoring to be leaders regarding all school policies governing student behavior.

Participation in competitive athletics may result in severe injury, including paralysis or death. Improvement in equipment, medical treatment, and physical conditioning, as well as rule changes, have reduced these risks, but it is impossible to totally eliminate such occurrences from athletics. Athletes and parent are encouraged to consult with the coaching staff relative to the potential dangers of that sport.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS OF CANTON HIGH SCHOOL ARE FOR ALL STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, OR GRADE.**

**RULES, REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT  
FOR CHS ATHLETES**

Canton High School is an active member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (henceforth referred to as the MIAA) and has agreed to conform to all of its rules and regulations governing high school athletics. Canton High School is also an active member of the Hockomock League and adheres to the constitution and by-laws of that League. Student-athletes should be aware of the rules and regulations of the above mentioned organizations. MIAA rules can be found at [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net).

**The following Canton High School Athletic rules, regulations and expectations of conduct are also to be adhered to by all interscholastic team members:**

1. Any athlete who, in the opinion of his/her coach, the Athletic Director or the Principal, has acted in a way which violates the spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, or the positive nature of competition, may be suspended or dismissed from the team. This is not limited to on field behavior.
2. Attendance is mandatory at both practices and games. All absences from practices or contests must be approved ***in advance*** by the Head Coach. Unexcused absences will result in a game/contest suspension. A second unexcused absence in a season may result in further suspension or dismissal from the team. Missing a practice because of detention is not an excused absence.
3. Family vacations are not excused absences, and we ask that every effort be made by families not to schedule such vacations during school sports season. While it is understood that sometimes families have little choice as to when they are able

to travel as a unit, students who miss games or practices due to family vacation will serve a minimum of a game suspension for each game missed. Students who miss practices or games for this purpose are not guaranteed playing time from that point on.

4. No athlete may participate in any way with his/her team on any day in which he/she is absent from school. Students absent from school on Friday may not participate on that day or during the weekend. Students absent on the day preceding a vacation, may not participate on that day or the vacation days. Athletes who miss half or more of the school day, or who leave school grounds during the school day without permission, are considered absent on that day. Students who leave school during the day and who do not return are also not eligible that day. Game forfeitures and/ or suspensions may result from violation of this attendance policy.

**NOTE:** Student-athletes are reminded that Canton High School is an academic institution and that a full day of classes is expected of all students. If it is believed that student-athletes are abusing the “1/2 Day Rule,” coaches and administrators may deem them ineligible.

**EXCEPTION:** Permission to participate on these days may be granted by the AD/Principal in some excused cases (funeral, college visit, etc) when requested and granted *in advance*.

5. Courtesy and obedience must be shown to all staff members and officials. Insubordination or insolence will not be tolerated. Any such violations shall result in suspension or dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the violation.
6. On athletic bus trips, all team members must go and return on the team bus, unless granted permission by the coach. In order for the coach to grant permission, 1. a permission note signed by the parent or guardian must be given to the AD/principal *before* the trip. 2. the student may only go or return with his/her parent or guardian.
7. Destruction or vandalism of personal, athletic, or school property will result in suspension or dismissal from the team, depending on the severity of the act.
8. Student-Athletes are responsible for all equipment or uniforms issued to them. Student-Athletes who lose or damage equipment will be required to pay replacement costs for comparable equipment. Student-Athletes who do not return equipment or pay replacement costs lose eligibility to play any other sports.
9. Appearance while representing the school shall at all time be reasonable and neat. Coaches may refuse to take a player to an away game if his/her appearance would discredit the school.
10. Student-Athletes are expected to represent their teams and school in a positive, classy manner when attending other school contests as spectators. Any athlete

whose actions as a spectator are embarrassing to his/her team or offensive, may be suspended or dismissed from his/her team.

11. Hazing is illegal and will not be tolerated in any form. (See complete Hazing policy on in the following pages.)
12. No student-athlete will be allowed to practice or play unless the athletic office has, on file, a copy of a recent physical exam report. (For purposes of this rule, the copy on file will expire 13 months from the date of the physical exam.) NOTE- If a physical exam is current on the first day of that season, it will be considered current until the end of that season.
13. Each student-athlete is required to have on file in the athletic office a participation permission slip signed by his/her parent or guardian.
14. Student-Athletes should report all injuries to their coaches and the athletic trainer. No player may continue or resume playing without the trainer's consent.
15. If a player visits a doctor for an injury sustained through participation in Canton High School athletics, that athlete will not be allowed to resume participation without completing the MIAA Return to Action Form.
16. The Head Coach may make decisions for dismissal or extended suspensions from a sport for infractions of the athletic code. Appeals of said dismissals or suspensions may be made to the athletic director.
17. Parents/guardians are responsible for picking up their children at the conclusion of games and practices. The supervisory responsibilities of team coaches within the town of Canton conclude at the end of practices or games. For out-of-town competitions, the supervisory responsibilities of coaches conclude once the team has returned to CHS.
18. While transportation is provided to CHS activities outside of Canton, it is the responsibility of the family of the student-athlete to provide transportation to and from events that occur within Canton.
19. Families of student-athletes who are injured while participating in Canton High School athletics must use their own health insurance to cover any medical bills. Certain bills that are not covered by personal health insurance may be covered under a school plan. For claim information, see the Athletic Director or call Lefebvre Insurance Agency at (508)-384-0101.

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT DRUG, ALCOHOL and TOBACCO ABUSE POLICY**

**The use, possession, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is forbidden by state law. It is also obvious that use of such chemicals is a detriment to the health and performance of student-athletes. Therefore, Canton High School's Athletic Department takes the issue of chemical use and abuse very seriously.**

From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana, steroids; or any controlled substance.\* This policy includes products such as "NA or near beer". It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

**FIRST VIOLATION:** When the Principal confirms, following the opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating 25% of the season. A student who becomes enrolled and participates fully, in a counseling program approved by the school, may be allowed to continue to practice with his/her team while serving the game suspension, with the coach's approval.\*\*

If this student is a captain/captain-elect of another sport, that position will be lost.

**SECOND VIOLATION in a school year:** When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a second violation has occurred in a single school year, a ten school-month ban from all CHS athletic teams will be imposed. No participation of any type, including attending games as a spectator, will be allowed during this ban.

If the student becomes a participant in a rehabilitation program approved in advance by the Principal, the student may be certified for reinstatement to activities after a minimum of five months. Students choosing this option may not participate in any way with an athletic team during the 5-month period. Note- All MIAA minimums for a 2<sup>nd</sup> violation must be met as well.

**Both the First Violation and Second Violation periods of suspensions may carry over to the following season or academic school year.**

\* It is important for both students and parents to be aware of the dangers associated with posting photos on internet websites like *Facebook*. Several times in recent years

CHS student-athletes have served athletic suspensions for photos which show students violating the substance abuse policy. Students and parents need to be aware that these sites are only semi-private and can lead to serious problems if not maintained in a respectful manner.

\*\* In order for a student to be allowed to rejoin or join a team for practices during the period of contest suspension, the student must perform the following tasks and meet the following requirements as determined by the head coach.

The student-athlete must:

1. take full responsibility for his/her violation of the chemical abuse policy, with a meaningful and sincere acknowledgement and apology to teammates and the coaching staff.
2. acknowledge to coaches and teammates that he/she fully understands that his/her presence as part of the team is conditional on his/her actions, attitude and reformed behavior.
3. meet with his/her coach to find out what specific conduct, attitude, etc. are expected by the coach upon his/her return to the team.

A meeting must be held, no longer than one week upon return, with the player and coach to evaluate if the above 3 steps have been successfully followed. If the coach is satisfied with the way things have gone up to that point, he/she will allow the student-athlete back with the clear understanding that any future actions contrary to the spirit of the above 3 steps may be cause for immediate dismissal from the team.

*- It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure that other team members respect this process and work to create a positive team dynamic for all team members, including the reinstated player, during this time.*

## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES AND PLAYERS: A POLICY OF THE CANTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The coach has the right to evaluate and select his/her players based on the individual's ability, attitude, commitment, and potential for improvement.

The coach has a right to discipline any player who has violated the Rules, Regulations and Code of Conduct established by the Athletic Department and approved by the School Committee. It is expected that the behavior of team members will reflect well on the school and on the townspeople.

Each athlete will be informed of, and expected to adhere to, the Rules, Regulations and Code of Conduct as well as the written rules established by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director and the Principal.

Within one week of the coach's decision, an appeal of suspension or dismissal of a team member may be made in writing, first, to the Athletic Director and then, if necessary, to the Principal.

The coach will emphasize the importance of academics. Each athlete shall have ample opportunity to attend extra-help and/or make-up sessions.

## **HAZING**

***VIOLATION:*** *Anyone involved in any act of hazing will be removed from the team or activity for that year and receive a minimum school suspension of ten (10) days and possible expulsion. Harassment of a student by another student can be considered an act of hazing. Harassment can include repeated, disturbing and/or unwanted behavior that causes distress for a student or group of students.*

**HAZING** - The Canton Public Schools defines hazing as any intentional action taken or situation created, whether on or off school premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. This would include any action intended as an initiation ritual. (MGL Chapter 269; Section 17, 18, and 19.)

### **III. Reporting Procedures**

In responding to an resolving complaints, administrators will be guided by five goals:

1. focus on changing behavior rather than simply punish the offender
2. engage students and staff in dialogues so that they may learn more than the impacts of behaviors and attitudes
3. maintain, as much as practicable, the confidentiality of the alleged victims and offenders by involving as few people as possible in the resolution of the problem
4. protect the complainant from retaliation; and
5. insure prompt and thorough attention to all complaints.

If a student or employee believes that he/she has experienced any form of harassment, bullying, or hazing or has witnesses such behaviors, he/she shall take the following steps:

1. He/she should verbally tell the individual(s) to stop the offensive behavior that he/she feels he/she has experienced.
2. If the individual(s) does/do not stop the offensive behavior, he/she should file a complaint with any one of the following:
  - the principal, a teacher, a counselor or a nurse
  - The Title IX/Chapter 622 Compliance Officer
3. If a student or employee is told about a complaint, that individual must notify the Principal or Title IX/Chapter 622 Compliance Officer.

### **IV. Investigation**

Reports of incidents of harassment or discrimination must be reported to the Principal. The Principal will either handle the complaint personally or designate an individual of the appropriate gender if it is a sexual harassment complaint. Upon investigation of the harassment complaint, the Principal shall determine if sufficient grounds exist for a more thorough investigation. If the Principal finds sufficient grounds for the harassment complaint, the Principal will contact the Title IX Compliance Officer and report the complaint. The Title IX Compliance Officer will conduct a thorough investigation within 10 school working days. If all the parties involved with the complaint process agree to extend the days for investigation, the 10 (ten) school working days process may be waived. In all cases involving harassment, all parties involved with be given the utmost protection of privacy and the assurance of due process. If a student or parent disagrees with the Principal's initial finding of no grounds for the harassment complaint, the

student or parent may appeal directly to the Title IX Compliance Officer for an investigation.

The Investigation shall consist of interviewing both the complainant and the alleged harasser, individually and privately. The investigator shall document the statements of both the complainant and the harasser.

The alleged harasser shall be informed of the complainant's identity. The alleged harasser will also be informed verbally and in written form that recriminations/reprisals against the complainant shall not be tolerated and are unlawful.

If there are any witnesses to the incident of harassment, they shall be interviewed, individually or privately, without either the complainant or the alleged harasser present. The investigator shall document the statements of the witnesses. It is unlawful to retaliate against any witness for cooperating in the investigation.

The Compliance Officer shall make a written report to the principal and the Superintendent or designee upon completion of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of the district's policy.

If it has been determined by the investigations that harassment has occurred, the harasser shall be subject to disciplinary action. The action taken for the individual will be through the progressive discipline procedure and for the student, as noted in the student handbook.

If the investigation does not substantiate the complaint of harassment, no record of the incident will be placed in the alleged harasser's personnel file unless requested by the alleged harasser. Retaliation or reprisal against any individual for filing a complaint under this procedure or with any state or federal agency, for providing evidence during the investigation or for cooperating in the investigation is unlawful and shall constitute a separate violation of the provisions of this policy for which discipline shall be imposed.

Both parties shall be provided with a copy of the investigator's report after review by the Superintendent.

If either party is dissatisfied with the results of the investigation of the harassment charge, he/she may direct his/her dissatisfaction in writing to the Superintendent or designee for further action.