

# **Covington High School**



## **Athletic Handbook**

**2023 - 2024  
School Year**

## **PHILOSOPHY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

The major objective of the program is to provide wholesome opportunities for athletes to develop mental and physical abilities through athletic competition. High leadership qualities are essential to the program so those athletes can learn to develop favorable skills, habits, and attitudes that are productive toward being successful in a democratic world.

Success of an athlete should not necessarily be measured in victory and defeat records, but in personality development factors that are an outgrowth of the major objectives of the athletic program.

The athletic program is an extension of the school itself and should always conform to the general objectives of the school. Student curriculum advancement and development should always be first priority with athletes, coaches, and administration. The opportunity to participate in athletics is considered a privilege and is contingent upon following the guidelines set forth in both the student handbook and athletic handbook, along with those established by individual coaches.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The athlete must pass five solid subjects each grading period in order to be eligible for the subsequent grading period of that duration. If a student athlete does not meet the standard of passing five solid subjects for a grading period, the athlete is to be declared ineligible for competition of all interscholastic sports for the following grading period. The Indiana High School Athletic Association prescribes this minimum of an athlete passing five solid subjects in order to maintain eligibility.

Certain prescribed requirements are established by the IHSAA in regard to participating in athletics outside of school teams. It is the responsibility of ATHLETES to be familiar with these restrictions placed upon them. In the event of uncertainty, they should check with their coach, athletic director, or principal to find out if participating might jeopardize their eligibility for interscholastic athletics.

The school corporation reserves the right to amend this handbook as may be deemed necessary.

Adopted – July 2011

Revised – May 2022

**To Students:** Your high school years will provide some of the most memorable and enjoyable moments you will ever experience. Competition in interscholastic athletics is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which will influence you forever.

**Your participation in high school athletics is dependent on your eligibility.**

**Keep that eligibility; review the rules with your parents/guardians. Ask questions of your principal, athletic director, and coaches.**

**To Parents:** The value of participating in athletics has been well documented. Participants earn better grades, have better attendance, and have a greater chance for success later in life than non-participants.

**Students must meet certain standards in order to maintain the privileges of competition. Ask questions of your principal, athletic director, and coaches.**

**To Coaches:**

Although winning and losing are realities of competition, coaches should remember that our focus should always be to offer an education-based athletic experience with the student-athlete at the center of our efforts and strategies. CCSC coaches should always strive to provide positive leadership when working with our student-athletes.

“In Season” CHS/CMS sports always take precedence over “out of season” sports and workouts with respect to facility usage and athlete well-being.

Recognizing the physical and mental health of CCSC student-athletes, CHS/CMS coaches will adhere to the following guidelines with respect to “out of season” training sessions during the academic school year.

- A. Covington Community School Corporation (CCSC) athletic teams will observe a second moratorium week in addition to the IHSAA mandated moratorium week. The IHSAA will always establish its July moratorium week that will be observed by CCSC athletes and teams as mandated by IHSAA bylaws. Athletes and teams of CCSC will observe an additional moratorium week the first full week of June, beginning Sunday of that week and continue through the following Sunday. Specific dates for this additional week will be determined at the beginning of each school year in August, however the additional moratorium week will always be the first full week of June.

Example: The first full week of June 2022 would begin on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. This moratorium week would run through Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Exemption**

In the event an athlete/team is still participating in an IHSAA state tournament, those athletes would have their additional moratorium week postponed until week following their elimination from the IHSAA state tournament event.

Example: The softball team participates in the IHSAA state championship game on June 10, 2022. Those team members would be allowed to participate in practices and games. Their moratorium week would then begin on Sunday, June 12, 2022 and continue through Sunday, June 19, 2022.

- B. All IHSAA rules and guidelines will be followed with regard to “during school year out of season” workouts.
- C. Preseason workouts (“during school year-out of season”) shall be carried out from 6:45am – 7:30am (45 minutes) thereby giving the athletes time to shower and clean-up before the school day starts at 8:00am.
- D. “In season” athletes may not attend an “out of season” workout/practice when they have an IHSAA sanctioned competition that same evening. They also may not participate in an “out of season” activity without a written agreement between both coaches and witnessed by the athletic director, detailing specific

activities and practice schedules. “In season” athletes are prohibited from participating in a workout/practice with a competition the same day. \*Failure to comply may result in suspension of player(s)/coach(s), including but not limited to practice and up to seasonal contests. (Cheer/Dance will be handled on an individual, case by case basis).

- E. “In season” student-athletes may take part in “out of season” workouts only when the parent, student-athlete, and “in season” coach are in agreement.
- F. With consideration given to rest, academic studies, injuries, and other personal obligations, “out of season” (preseason) workouts should ALWAYS be optional for a student-athlete without the fear of retribution and/or retaliation by the coaching staff. (i.e. – “out of season” practices and workouts are optional for CCSC student-athletes). “Out of season” (preseason) workouts and practices should strictly adhere to the IHSAA calendar. In regards to “in season” athlete participation, see Page 2, Rule C.
- G. Lastly, this section (To Coaches) shall be read word for word by both “in season” and “out of season” head coaches to their athletes during the first week of their aforementioned seasons (for every season at CCSC).
- H. These guidelines will also be shared with all athletes’ parents. The athletic department will oversee this task.

## Sportsmanship Tips:

### Sportsmanship tips for student-athletes:

1. Accept your responsibility as a role model. Understand that representing your school and your community is a privilege that's not to be taken lightly.
2. Learn the rules of the games you play. Help your parents and fellow students understand them better.
3. Treat your opponents the way you want to be treated, with respect. Nobody understands how hard they have worked better than you do.
4. Refrain from taunting, trash talking, or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents, especially comments of an ethnic, racial, or sexual nature. No trash talking!
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.

### Sportsmanship tips for parents:

1. Remember that high school athletes are teenagers. They're still learning, which means they make mistakes. It's important to praise them, not criticize.
2. Always respect opposing players, coaches, and spectators. Show appreciation for the outstanding plays they make.
3. Respect game officials.
4. Censor those fans around you whose behavior is inappropriate.
5. Remember that a ticket to a high school athletic event is not a license to verbally assault others, including officials, coaches, and players from the opposing team

### Unsporting Behavior/Ejection:

IHSAA By-Law C-8-3 reads: **Any contestant, spectator, or coach ejected from a contest for an act of unsporting behavior shall be suspended from the next interschool contest at that level of competition and all other interschool contests at any level in the interim, in addition to any other penalties assessed. An ejection of a player, spectator, or coach will result in the discipline by the IHSAA and may result in additional game(s) suspension(s) for Covington High School**

### **ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- A. An athlete who is absent the last three (3) periods of a school day will be unable to participate in an athletic practice or contest later that day unless prior arrangements have been made with the athletic director or principal OR medically excused.
- B. If an athlete is absent from the last day of the school week and the athletic contest is on a non-school day the athlete must get permission from the head coach to participate. Coaches may establish further requirements for participation such as a parent note.
- C. A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate again until the date indicated by the student's doctor in writing.
- D. Daily practice attendance policies will be established by individual sport coaches issued in writing to athletes.

### **CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

No pictures shall be taken with any electronic device in the locker room. This means no texting, calling, and obviously no pictures. **NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.** This rule applies to all players, managers, and coaches (coaches may use a cell phone in their office, not the locker room). Pictures taken without consent/permission, or are of an inappropriate nature will be referred to the Athletic Appeal Council for assessment of discipline.

A violation of this rule will result in immediate penalty, which could include dismissal from the team. If a photograph is taken, that matter may be turned over to legal authorities for possible prosecution.

Should an athlete receive a call or text while (s)he is in the locker room, (s)he should take the phone (still in a backpack, book bag, gym, etc.) out to the hall or outside the building before use. **CAMERAS MAY NOT BE IN USE OR OUT IN VIEW IN THE LOCKER ROOM FOR ANY REASON.**

## **SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES**

Student-athletes are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmissions and any information posted on a public domain (all forms of social media). Inappropriate or personal information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. Student-athletes are not precluded from participation in such online social networks; however, student-athletes should be reminded that they serve as representatives of their team, the athletic program, and the Covington Community School Corporation.

Texting, tweeting, and the use of other social networks to disparage or criticize the team, other students, opponents, coaches, or other school personnel is inappropriate behavior and unbecoming of a Covington student-athlete. Any individual identified on a social networking site, which depicts illegal, or inappropriate behavior, due to the Honor Code or other policy, will be considered in violation and subject to athletic discipline or suspension per the CHS Student Handbook.

## **PHYSICALS, INSURANCE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION PERMIT**

Before an athlete is allowed to participate at any level of practice or competition he/she must have a complete physical on file in the Athletic Office. All athletes must have an Emergency Medical Authorization Permit on file in the athletic office.

## **TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES**

Athletes must travel to and from contests away from Covington in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are:

1. Injury to a participant which would require alternate transportation.
2. Parent signature required for an athlete to ride home with parent/guardian.

## **COVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CRITERIA FOR DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION ADOPTED: AUGUST 1995**

1. An athlete must first contact the athletic director if there is interest in dual sport participation
2. A meeting of both head coaches and athletic director.
3. The athlete must meet with both head coaches and athletic director to discuss the guidelines. The written guidelines must be signed by the parent/guardian and student-athlete. This must be returned before the official starting date of both sports.
4. Athletic handbook will be followed for both sports.
5. Maximum number of points earned during the dual sport season will remain at three points.

## **ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE CODE**

### **I. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

A suspension of an athlete shall occur when the principal, athletic director (or their designees) and/or coach of the athlete has evidence which establishes that the athlete has violated the Covington Community School Corporation handbook.

1. Suspension for athletics shall mean suspension from team season contest. A suspended athlete may be

permitted to practice with the team with approval by the head coach. An athlete suspended under Rule II-B3 may not practice or participate with a team in any capacity. Season contests include all tournaments with each tournament game/match being considered one regular season contest.

2. All suspensions shall begin with the notification to the athlete (and parent/guardian) of his/her suspension by the athletic director or head coach.

3. Completion of an entire season, including all tournament games, in good standing is required in order for an athlete to be eligible for a letter or team award.

4. No athlete may quit one sport and turn out for another after the season has begun without mutual consent of both head coaches and athletic director.

5. No existing student or student athlete may join a team after the first season contest without the consent of the new coach. No athlete that has been assigned an athletic suspension may join a team after the season has begun under any circumstances in an effort to complete the suspension.

6. Indiana High School Athletic Association rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting dates, and other related by-laws. Each coach has the responsibility to know these rules; to inform team members and parents of them; and to enforce school and IHSAA regulations as necessary.

7. These rules apply to athletes during the entire calendar year, as well as the athletic seasons.

8. Once an athlete participates in a high school sport he/she remains under the athletic handbook policy his/her entire high school career.

9. Athletic eligibility may be reinstated by the athletic appeal council after a 12 month non-participation period by the athlete. The athlete must request this in writing. It is the responsibility of the athlete to clearly establish that eligibility should be reinstated.

#### LEVELS OF CONSEQUENCES FOR INFRACTIONS

##### Level 1 – 25% of the regular season

- First tobacco policy offense

##### Level 2 – 50% of regular season

- Second Tobacco Policy offense
- First conviction of misdemeanor
- First violation of Theft or Vandalism Policy
- First Alcohol or Drug Policy violation

##### Level 3 – 1 year (365-days)\*

- Third Tobacco Policy violation
- Second Theft or Vandalism Policy violation
- Second Alcohol or Drug Policy violation
- Second conviction of misdemeanor
- First felony conviction

##### Level 4 – Career Exclusion from athletics at Covington Community Schools

- Fourth Tobacco Policy Violation
- Third Theft or Vandalism Policy violation
- Third Alcohol or Drug Policy violation
- Third conviction of misdemeanor
- Second felony conviction

\*Coaches shall have the right to impose further rules, as they deem proper for their activities.

Sport	Maximum Length of Season (per IHSAA)**	25% of Season	50% of Season
Baseball	29 games	7 games	15 games
Basketball	23 games	5 games	11 games
Cross Country	14 meets	4 meets	7 meets
Football	10 games	3 games	6 games
Golf	19 matches	5 matches	10 matches
Soccer	17 matches	5 matches	9 matches
Softball	29 games	8 games	15 games
Tennis	22 matches	6 matches	11 matches
Track & Field	17 meets	5 meets	9 meets
Volleyball	27 matches	7 matches	14 matches
Wrestling	17 meets	5 meets	9 meets
Cheerleading	Same as current season or following season if Spring		

\*Level 3 Offense – A student may be afforded the opportunity to return to play with an **Athletic Reinstatement Contract** with a recommendation of the Athletic Appeal Council.

\*\*Subject to change should the IHSAA changes seasonal lengths. This would in turn change suspension lengths.

**A. SELF-REPORT and/or HONESTY CLAUSE**

Students may use either the Self-Report Clause and/or Honesty Clause **ONCE** during their four-year career.

**SELF-REPORTING CLAUSE**

It is the intent of Covington High School to assist students with developing responsibility for their actions. Therefore, any student voluntarily reporting a personal violation of a rule in the Athletic Handbook may be permitted leniency. This student athlete may have their athletic suspension reduced one level. Rules and regulations regarding suspensions due to conduct violations are outlined in Rule II-B.

**The Self Report Clause is:**

Used only one time in the student’s four-year career.

1. Only applicable to a student’s first offense
2. Is specific to Section II Rules, Item B regarding possession/use of alcohol and/or drugs; violations of Indiana law or juvenile code.
3. Initiated by the student and or parent/guardian. They must report the violation to the Athletic Director or Principal by the close of the next school day following the violation. The close of the school day is considered 3:30. In the event the violation/report takes place during a holiday or summer vacation, every good faith effort should be made to contact the High School Office or Superintendent’s Office to schedule a meeting as soon as possible.
4. (For illustrative purposes but are not intended to be all-inclusive):

Examples:

Violation on Saturday Night	Reported by 3:30 Monday (Clause Allowed)
Violation on Friday Night	Reported 8:30 Tuesday (Clause Denied)

*A student absence does not extend the reporting deadline. In the event of an absence the student/parent should call the High School Office to report the violation.*

Violation on June 20th	Reported August 16 <sup>th</sup> (Clause Denied)
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**The Self Report Clause is not:**

1. Used in cases of second and third offenses.

**B. HONESTY CLAUSE**

As mentioned above it is the intent of Covington High School to assist students with developing responsibility for their actions. We believe that honesty is a characteristic that helps prepare students for the challenging demands of a competitive global community, as stated in our mission statement. This student athlete may have his/her athletic suspension reduced by one level. Rules and regulations regarding suspensions due to conduct violations are outlined in Section II Rules, Item B.

**The Honesty Clause is:**

1. Is used only one time in the student's four-year career
2. Is only applicable to a student's first offense
3. Is specific to Section II Rules, Items B
  - a. Involving possession, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind without a doctor's prescription. It also involves the violation of theft, misdemeanors, Indiana criminal law of Indiana juvenile code.
4. Is initiated by the student when first questioned by the Athletic Director or Principal. (For illustrative purposes but are not intended to be all-inclusive):

Example: Athletic Director and/or Principal call a student in to question him/her about a possible violation of the athletic code of conduct. The student, when questioned, tells the truth the first time he or she is asked. This will be a documented, hand written response to the question(s) asked by the administrator. This document will be signed and dated by the student and the administrator.

**The Honesty Clause is not:**

1. Used in cases of second and third offenses.

**C. DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE**

No discipline will be issued without affording the student-athlete an opportunity for an informal hearing.

Any alleged violation will result in the following:

1. The Principal and/or Athletic Director (or their designee) shall meet with the accused athlete. If the athletic director and principal find the athlete to be in violation of the athletic code, they will recommend imposing a punishment as outlined in Rule II A-D.
2. Parents of the athlete will be notified by mail or personal contact. This notification will inform them of the action taken by the Principal and/or Athletic Director.
3. No discipline will be imposed without affording the student-athlete an opportunity for an informal hearing. If the athlete does not agree with the action initiated by the Principal and Athletic Director (or their designee), they have a right to appeal to the Athletic Appeal Council and the following format will be followed:
  - a. The Athletic Appeal Council will be made up of the Superintendent and two (2) teachers of his/her choosing. In the event of a tie between the two (2) teachers, the Superintendent will be the deciding vote.
  - b. Upon receipt of the notification of the findings, the parents or athlete have five (5) school days (excluding weekends and holidays) to contact the athletic director requesting a hearing.
  - c. Only Level 2 or greater penalties may be appealed to the Athletic Appeal Council.
  - d. Those in attendance will be the Athletic Appeal Council members (2 teachers), Superintendent

(or designee), parents, athlete, Principal and Athletic Director. The athlete/athlete's family may have an attorney available for consultation, but the attorney will not be permitted in the hearing process.

- e. The hearing will proceed as follows:
- A written or oral statement of the charges against him/her.
  - A summary of the evidence against him/her.
  - An opportunity to explain his/her conduct and refute any of the allegations.
  - Once complete, the Athletic Appeal Council shall vote as to whether to uphold the discipline recommendation, alter the recommendation, or remove the recommendation.
- f. The Superintendent (or their designee) shall make the findings of the Athletic Appeal Council known to all parties within 72 hours of the decision by the council.
- g. In the event the student athlete is not present at the commencement of the hearing, any suspension being appealed will be immediately upheld with no further opportunity to appeal.

#### **D. COUNSELING CLAUSE**

A student-athlete that commits a second offense of any policy must obtain principal approved counseling at the expense of the parent before return to participation.

## **II. RULES**

These rules are accumulated during the student/athletes four years of high school.

A. Any civil law infraction or misconduct by a student athlete that is determined by the head coach and/or school administration to be detrimental to the athletic program or school will result in a counseling conference with possible suspension.

### **B. Covington Community High School Athletic Behavior Policy**

The following policies will govern and dictate the behavior expected of the student athletes of Covington High School. Knowingly violating any policy will result in the associated level of consequences for infractions.

#### **DRUG POLICY**

A student athlete shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, caffeine-based pill, substance containing phenylpropanolamine (PPS), stimulant, depressant, inhalant, solvent, ephedrine, or intoxicant of any kind, whether prescription or sold over the counter. Proper use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a health care provider is not a violation of this rule. Possession of any drug paraphernalia such as but not limited to rolling papers or clips is also a violation of this rule. A student athlete who finds himself/herself at a place where any of the above substances are being used is to leave the area to avoid being associated with that behavior.

#### **ALCOHOL POLICY**

A student athlete shall not possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage. A student athlete who finds himself/herself at places where the underage drinking is taking place is expected to leave the area to avoid being associated with the behavior.

#### **TOBACCO POLICY**

A student athlete shall not use or possess tobacco in any form (including but not limited to snuff,

chewing tobacco, smoking tobacco, ecigarettes or vapes (regardless of nicotine or THC content) on or off the grounds of Covington High School. Any student knowingly possessing a vape pen, dab pen, or ecigarette with a THC cartridge will automatically be in violation of the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

#### THEFT AND VANDALISM

A student athlete shall not vandalize property (including but not limited to egg throwing) or have intent to vandalize, have stolen any item, or have their possession any stolen item from any source, including uniforms or equipment from Covington High School, other schools, or communities. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis, consistent with athletic department guidelines.

#### FELONY CONVICTION

A student athlete who is convicted of felony will face the consequences listed in Levels of Consequences for Infractions in addition to any sentence that is prescribed by the courts.

#### MIDEMEANOR CONVICTION

A student athlete who is convicted of felony will face the consequences listed in Levels of Consequences for Infractions in addition to any sentence that is prescribed by the courts.

#### ARRESTS

A student athlete who has been charged with a crime and/or arrested with a crime or delinquent act which would be a crime if committed by an adult will be suspended from the team for at least one contest. The Athletic Appeal Council will hold a hearing within five school days of the suspension. The hearing will decide if the student will be suspended until charged or if charges have been filed until his/her trial is concluded or if the suspension will be lifted before the conclusion of the trial. The Athletic Appeal Council will determine the length of a student athlete's suspension on a case-by-case basis. If the student athlete is found guilty of a misdemeanor, felony, or a juvenile delinquent act which would be a misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult, then the appropriate penalty will apply at the time of the conviction.

#### C. CARRY-OVER SUSPENSION

If the violation of conduct occurs in the last part of a sport's season and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her violation in that sport, the suspension will carry-over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes the next sport or the same sport next year.

#### D. COUNSELING CLAUSE

Any athlete committing a Level 2 violation must obtain administration approved counseling at the cost of the parent before return to participation.

#### E. ATHLETIC REINSTATEMENT CONTRACT

In the calendar year of exclusion from athletics, the athlete will have the opportunity to play with a reduction to a Level 2 Consequence with the Athletic Reinstatement Contract. This must be approved by the Athletic Appeal Council. This contract will be in effect for 365 days.

#### **Athletic Reinstatement Contract**

- **Grade Check** – increments of 30 days for the remainder of the suspension. IHSAA guidelines met, grades must be trending upwards or sustained.
- **Attendance Checks** – increments of 30 days the remainder of the suspension. Must be at 90% or greater for unexcused absences.
- **Mentoring Program** – meet with administrator or designee weekly for the remainder of the suspension. It is the athlete's responsibility to assist in the scheduling of meetings and the athlete may not cancel or miss more than one meeting.

- **Drug and/or Alcohol Counseling** – accredited and principal approved program that is the financial obligation of the parent. Proof of enrollment, continuation, and completion of the program.
- **Drug Testing Program**- increments of 30 days remainder of the suspension. Positive test results in a voided contract.
- **Waiver of Athletic Due Process Rights** – the athlete will sign a waiver of athletic due process rights. In the event the athlete violates any policy during the 365-day suspension, the athlete waives their athletic due process rights to a hearing before the Athletic Appeal Council.

- A. All varsity athletic letters will be made through the recommendation of head coaches as to their individual sport. The athletic director must approve these recommendations.
- B. Varsity letter winners will receive a certificate and be recognized at the individual sports banquet.
- C. An athlete must complete the season in good standing to earn an athletic letter unless recommended for waiver by head coach to the Athletic Director.
- D. Covington High School Athletic Booster Club will purchase athletic letter jackets using the following guidelines.
1. Two (2) points will be awarded to those athletes earning a varsity letter in each individual sport.
  2. One (1) point will be awarded for successfully completing an individual sport but not earning a varsity letter.
  3. One (1) point will be awarded each time an athlete participates in the same sport the next year. This point can only be earned by the athlete in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. The athlete must end the sport season in good standing.
  4. An athlete may only earn a maximum of (3) points during any given season (i.e. - fall, winter, and/or spring)
  5. Letter Jacket Award: An athlete must earn 11 points and have earned at least 1 varsity letter to receive an athletic jacket. If 6 or more of these points are cheerleading points, the letter will have a megaphone. If 6 or more of these points are managerial, the letter will have MGR on it. If 6 or more of these points are dance team, the letter will have a dance logo on it.
  5. Cheer will no longer earn points for both fall and winter seasons; points will be awarded at the end of the fall season. Dance points will be awarded at the end of the winter season.
- E. Miscellaneous Awards:
1. 4 Year Plaque: An athlete must have participated in the same sport for 4 consecutive years.
  2. Leroy Keeling: The recipient must have committed all 4 years to the same Fall, Winter, and Spring sport.
  3. Jack Hunter "Trojan Pride Award": Selected by the Athletic Council with the criteria being a senior athlete: multiple sport athlete, competitive spirit, positive attitude, good sportsmanship, leadership, dependable, motivated, high school involvement, and tremendous school spirit.
  4. Outstanding Trojan Award: Athlete must have earned the following: 9 Varsity letters in an IHSAA recognized sport (manager letters not included) plus 1 All-Conference Award. Any senior athlete during his/her four (4) years as a high school student may qualify for the "Outstanding Trojan Award" which is a blanket with a large "C" in its center and athlete's name in the lower corner.
- F. The athletic department will honor all certified varsity letters from transfer students who attend and participate in athletics at Covington High School.
- G. All letter awards are property of the athletic department until the recipient has graduated from high school. The athletic department may recall these awards if the athlete brings dishonor to Covington High School because of his/her conduct.
- H. After earning his/her first varsity letter an athlete is eligible to join the letterman's club.

## **INDIVIDUAL SPORT REQUIREMENTS AND OPTIONAL AWARDS**

**FOOTBALL:** Play in one-half of the varsity quarters for which the athlete is physically fit.

1. Most Valuable Player - selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff.
2. Mental Attitude Award - selected by the coaching staff at the end of the season.
3. Skilled Player Award - selected by the coaching staff at the end of the season.
4. Lineman Award - selected by the coaching staff at the end of the season.
5. Tackle Award - player with most recorded tackles in varsity competition and approved by head coach.
6. Most Improved JV Player - selected by the coaching staff at the end of season.

**VOLLEYBALL:** Play in one-half of all varsity matches, including tournaments for which athlete is physically fit.

1. Most Valuable Player -selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff.
2. Mental Attitude Award - selected by the head coach at the end of the season.
3. Serving Award - player with the highest percentage of good serves during varsity competition.
4. Most Improved JV Player - selected by the coaching staff at the end of season.

**TENNIS (B/G):** Play in one-half of all varsity matches including tournaments for which athlete is physically fit.

1. Most Valuable Player -selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff.
2. Mental Attitude Award - selected by the coach at the end of the season.
3. Ray Derringer Sportsmanship Award - elected by tennis team and approved by the coach. This player must reflect high qualities of sportsmanship, leadership, and a positive attitude toward tennis.
4. Most Improved JV Player - selected by coaching staff at the end of season.

**CROSS COUNTRY (B/G):** Run in one-half of the varsity meets which the athlete for which the athlete is physically fit. Be certified for the conference or sectional meet.

1. Most Valuable Runner - is given to the team member that earns the greatest number of points. (and approval by the head coach)
2. Mental Attitude Award - selected by the coach at the end of the season.
3. Most Improved Runner - selected by the coach at the end of the season.

**GOLF (B/G):** Golfer must be a top five finisher for Covington at least one-half of the meets for which athlete is physically fit. Be certified for the conference or sectional meet.

1. Most Valuable Player - golfer with the lowest total of strokes for all regular scheduled meets. (and approval by the head coach)
2. John Shambach-GPA Award (Boys)– senior golfer with highest GPA-minimum requirement 3.0
3. GPA Award (Girls) - senior golfer with highest GPA-minimum requirement 3.0
4. John J. Wichus Most Improved Player (Boys) - selected by coach at the end of season.
5. Most Improved Player (Girls) - selected by coach at the end of the season

**SOCCER:** Play in one-half of the varsity halves for which the athlete is physically fit.

1. Most Valuable Player - selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff.
2. Mental Attitude Award - selected by the coaching staff at the end of the season

3. Leadership Award - selected by the coaching staff at the end of the season.
4. Defensive Player Award - selected by head coach.
5. Offensive Player Award - selected by head coach.
6. Most Improved JV Player - selected by the coaching staff at the end of season.

**WRESTLING:** Wrestle in one-half of the varsity meets which athlete is physically fit. Be certified for the conference or sectional meet.

1. Most Valuable Wrestler - selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff.
2. Most Take Downs - wrestler with the most varsity match takedowns during the season and approved by the head coach.
3. Most Pins - wrestler with most varsity match pins during season and approved by head coach.
4. Most Improved JV Wrestler - selected by coaches at the end of season.

**BASKETBALL (B/G):** Play in one-half of scheduled varsity quarters for which the athlete is physically fit. Also be certified for one varsity tournament.

1. Most Valuable Player - elected by varsity team and approved by the coach (boys & girls). Change to Most Valuable Offensive Player and Most Valuable Defensive Player, selected by the coaches using stats. selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff using stats as a primary criteria.
2. Free Throw Percentage Award - player with highest free throw percentage in varsity competition and approved by head coach (girls).
3. Miss Hustle Award – selected by coaches at the end of the season (girls).
4. Trojan Award-Leadership, Dedication, and Toughness – awarded to the player(s) that most demonstrates and embodies these attributes. Selected by coaches at the end of the season (boys).
5. We Before Me Award - awarded to the player(s) who demonstrates a TEAM first attitude through the season or his career (boys)
6. Bruce Bennett Award (boys & girls) - senior with the highest GPA, minimum requirement - 3.0
7. Most Improved JV Player – selected by the coaches at the end of the season (boys & girls).
8. Freshman/C-team Most Improved Player – selected by the coaches at the end of the season.

**BASEBALL:** Play in at least one-half of varsity innings during a season for which athlete is physically fit.

1. Most Valuable Player - selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff.
2. Earl Strawser Memorial Award - leading batting average at the end of season. Player must have at least 25 at bats.
3. Dick Ashton: E.R.A. Award - pitcher with lowest earned run average at the end of the season. Must have more than 18 innings of varsity competition.
4. Most Improved JV Player - selected by coaches at the end of the season.



**SOFTBALL:** Play in at least one-half of varsity innings during season for which athlete is physically fit.

1. Most Valuable Player - selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff.
2. Mental Attitude Award - selected by the coaching staff at the end of the season.
3. Batting Average Award - leading batting average at the end of the season. Player must have at least 25 at bats.
4. Most Improved JV Player - selected by coaches at the end of season.

**TRACK (B/G):** Run in one-half of the varsity meets for which athlete is physically fit. Be certified for the conference or sectional meet.

1. Most Valuable Runner - athlete who has scored the most points by the end of season. (and approval by the head coach)
2. Most Valuable Field Event – athlete who has scored the most points by the end of the season. (and approval by the head coach)
3. Most Improved - selected by coaches at the end of season.
4. Trojan Pride Award (Mental Attitude Award) - selection process determined by the head coach and his/her coaching staff.

Note: Coaches are not required to issue every award listed for a sport. If the situation warrants the athletic department may add or remove awards to meet special needs of individual coaches, athletes, and teams.

### **DRUG TESTING POLICY**

The Covington Community School Board has developed a Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy. The Parents and Athletes will be required to sign a statement that will place the student in a random drug-testing program.

It will be mandatory to sign the policy in order to participate in sports and extra- curricular activities.

The terms of the drug and alcohol testing policy contained in the student handbook are incorporated by reference.