

# Churchill Bulldogs



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## Athletic Handbook For Students & Parents

## INTRODUCTION

This handbook describes the rules, policies, procedures, and framework within which the Churchill Athletic Department functions. The content should be carefully reviewed by both the prospective student-athlete and his or her parents/guardians. Upon reviewing the contents, the student and his or her parents/guardians must sign the attached contract and submit it to the coach prior to the first contest.

## ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The Athletic Department of Churchill High School offers the following sports or activities:

- Fall:**
- Cheerleading (Varsity)
  - Cross Country (Co-ed Varsity)
  - Field Hockey (Girls' Varsity & JV)
  - Football (Boys' Varsity & JV)
  - Golf (Co-ed Varsity)
  - Pompons (Girls' Varsity)
  - Soccer (Boys' Varsity & JV)
  - Soccer (Girls' Varsity & JV)
  - Tennis (Girls' Varsity)
  - Volleyball (Girls' Varsity & JV)
- Winter:**
- Basketball (Boys' Varsity & JV)
  - Basketball (Girls' Varsity & JV)
  - Cheerleading (Varsity)
  - Indoor Track (Co-ed Varsity)
  - Pompons (Girls' Varsity)
  - Swimming/Diving (Co-ed Varsity)
  - Wrestling (Boys' Varsity & JV)
- Spring:**
- Baseball (Varsity & JV)
  - Cheerleading (Varsity)
  - Golf (Developmental)
  - Lacrosse (Boys' Varsity)
  - Lacrosse (Girls' Varsity)
  - Softball (Varsity & JV)
  - Tennis (Boys' Varsity)
  - Track & Field (Co-ed Varsity)
  - Volleyball (Boys' Varsity, Co-ed Varsity)

## PHILOSOPHY

The interscholastic sports program is one of a number of programs and experiences available at the high school level to assist students with their personal growth and development. Among its many benefits, athletics assists in promoting the importance of teamwork and team unity; the importance of hard work, loyalty and dedication to tasks, the importance of establishing goals and working toward their achievement and the development of principles relating to sportsmanship and fair play. Winning or losing becomes a secondary issue when compared to the manner in which athletes conduct themselves on the field or on the court, exhibiting dignity and grace in the face of adversity. Winning is secondary, as well, when compared to the extent of the effort put forth by the individual in whatever endeavor he/she undertakes. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but maximum effort, commitment and a positive attitude are expectations for any and all team members.

## SPORTSMANSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP

Churchill athletes and team members are expected to display appropriate conduct and sportsmanship at all times throughout the season, both on and off the field. Specific violations might include - but are not limited to - fighting, theft, use of improper language and misuse of school facilities and equipment. The conduct of individual athletes reflects on the entire team, the Athletic Department and the school. Exemplary behavior is a requisite for continued participation on all Churchill athletic teams.

## ELIGIBILITY

MCPS rules and regulations are determined largely through restrictions imposed by the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) which governs interscholastic athletics in the State of Maryland. Pertinent eligibility rules include the following:

- \* A student must not have reached his/her nineteenth birthday prior to August 31 to be eligible for the following year.
- \* A student is not be permitted to participate in more than one interscholastic sport in one season.
- \* A student who is ineligible for any season may not try-out, practice, or play during the period of ineligibility except for Poms and/or Cheerleaders.
- \* Students must be officially registered in the school which they represent. The student must legally reside in the appropriate attendance area of that school unless a waiver has been granted and signed by the proper MCPS authority.
- \* Students may participate in athletics for a maximum of four seasons during a five-year period beginning with ninth grade enrollment.
- \* Students who legally transfer from another school may participate in the new school's athletic program. An eligibility waiver must be on file with the Athletic Director.
- \* Students must maintain amateur status. Any student who has not used or who is not using his/her athletic skill as a player for financial gain or who has not competed under an assumed name as a player shall be considered an amateur.
- \* Students must meet all the attendance, academic and other eligibility requirements established by the State of Maryland as well as MCPS.
- \* Students may only practice or compete with or against other high school students and teams.
- \* Students may play in one all-star game per sport after they have completed eligibility in that sport. If a student plays in more than one all-star game per sport, then he/she may not play another interscholastic sport during the remainder of the school year.
- \* Students may not have graduated from high school during the previous semester.
- \* If a student voluntarily leaves a team or is dismissed from a team for any reason, he/she is ineligible to participate in any other sport during that season unless they are given prior approval by the Athletic Director and/or the school administration.

## ACADEMIC STANDING

The following guidelines determine a student's academic eligibility to compete.

- \* Students who have a 2.0 average with no more than one "E" or "LC" (failure) in the previous marking period will automatically be eligible to participate or practice in any extracurricular activity governed by this regulation during the next marking period.
- \* A multi-hour course is counted as multiple courses when determining whether a student has maintained a 2.0 average, but is counted as one course when determining the number of failed classes.
- \* A grade of LC/E2 or NC is considered a failing grade.
- \* A student may regain his/her eligibility status at the start of the next marking period if all failing grades are reduced to a minimum of one E, LC, or NC and if a 2.0 or higher average is achieved.
- \* Students who are ineligible because of a grade of LC will become eligible as soon as the teacher notifies the activity sponsor/athletic director that the grade has been changed to passing.
- \* Grades recorded as "incomplete" as a result of legally excused absences shall be considered passing until changed. Incomplete grades that are not changed to a passing grade within ten school days after report cards are issued will be considered failing grades for purposes of eligibility until they are changed.
- \* A student may withdraw twenty-five days or less into a course without penalty. For purposes of academic eligibility, a student may not drop more than one passing course after the twenty-five day drop/add period.
- \* When a student withdraws from a course on day twenty-six or later, the student will be given the grade earned at the time of dropping from the course. That grade will be factored into the marking period average for the purposes of academic eligibility only.
- \* A marking period begins on the day a report card is issued and continues until the day that the next report card is issued.
- \* Students taking a minimum of one to two courses must pass each course and maintain a 2.0 average to be eligible.
- \* Senior high school students who do not maintain a 2.0 average with no more than one "E" (failure) in the final quarter will not be eligible in the fall. Students may repeat failed courses in summer school. However, if a failed course is not offered during the summer session, the student will be allowed to take another course in the same subject area, if available. If not available, the student and his/her counselor will decide on the course and/or subject area. The summer-session grade will replace the lowest course grade from the previous marking period and be factored in to determine the 2.0 minimum average for participation.

## EXCEPTIONS

Failing grades from the final marking period of the previous year do not count towards ineligibility for the first marking period of the next year if the failing grades occurred when the student

- \* was in the 7th or 8th grade or
- \* was in a school outside of MCPS or
- \* an unsatisfactory evaluation in a noncredit-bearing course is not considered failing for purposes of student eligibility.

Special Note: If a student has only one failing grade in the fourth marking period and has a 2.0 or higher grade point average for the fourth nine weeks and enrolls in the summer session for remedial or additional course work and fails the summer session, the student is eligible for participation in the fall.

## **TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND OTHER SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The use of alcohol, tobacco and controlled dangerous substances - including steroids - is an extremely serious health issue. Such use places the quality of life for the student-athlete in jeopardy. If use or possession of these substances by a student-athlete during his/her sport season is verified, he/she will be suspended from the team for 30 consecutive school days. Upon verification of a second violation, the student-athlete will be banned from participation in all extracurricular activities for a period of 12 months. Suspension from a team for the remainder of the season includes the loss of all letter awards.

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

- \* Unexcused absences or chronic tardiness to class or team practice may be sufficient reason for declaring a student ineligible at any time. The coach, in consultation with the Athletic Director and grade-level administrator, will determine the date and duration of ineligibility.
- \* In order to participate in any athletic event or practice, athletes are required to be in all of their scheduled classes and on time the day of the event. The Athletic Director may excuse an athlete and clear them for participation for **ONLY** the following reasons: (1) prescheduled appointments such as a driver's test, (2) court appearance, (3) medical appointments, (4) religious observances or (5) unforeseen emergencies.
- \* All late arrivals/early dismissals to/from school must be reported to the Athletic Director by 7:30 am on the day the student will be tardy. Parent or student must call 301-469-1240 to report the reason for the tardiness in order to be excused and cleared for participation that day. Students are required to attend at least four (4) classes in order to participate in that day's practice or games.
- \* A student who has any absence other than those specified may not practice or compete on that date. A student who violates the above rules or otherwise misses class due to an unexcused absence will not be allowed to compete in the next contest after the violation has been verified.

## **ARRIVING LATE AND/OR MISSING PRACTICE**

Prompt, regular attendance at practice sessions is necessary for the safety and conditioning of the student as well as for the benefit of the team. Team members must notify their coach prior to any practice that they will miss and explain the reason for the absence. Chronic tardiness to practice or unexcused absences will be dealt with by the coach.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPER CARE OF EQUIPMENT**

Most uniforms and equipment are assigned to student-athletes strictly on a loan basis for the duration of the sport season. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to maintain that equipment/uniform and return it in the same condition in which it was received. **All uniforms must be laundered in cold water after every use. Line dry all uniforms – do not put any uniform in the dryer.** Any

damage to, or loss of, equipment/uniform is considered the direct financial responsibility of the student-athlete to whom it was issued.

Any athlete withholding property from one sport is suspended from participating in any other sport until the equipment is returned. He/she is ineligible for any sport award until that equipment is returned.

Student-athletes will be charged the replacement cost of any equipment or uniform not returned. This cost must be paid before participating in any other sport. Financial obligations must be settled with:

1. the coach
2. the Athletic Director
3. the business manager

### **PARTICIPATION AND OUTSIDE TEAMS**

Students, while participating on a school team, are permitted to participate in the same sport outside of school during the sport season. Such participation must meet the following criteria:

1. The outside participation may not conflict with the sports schedule of the school, including district, regional and state championship play. (Sports schedules includes games and practices.)
2. A student who elects to participate on an outside team and does not participate on the school team during the designated sport's season is ineligible to represent his/her school in all meets and games that determine a county, district, regional or state championship.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES**

MCPS states that in the event schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, all after-school activities are automatically canceled. These after-school activities include practices, contests, meetings or other events. Team members should make certain to contact their coach regarding interim or adjusted practice schedules.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION PARTICIPATION**

Any student enrolled in physical education class will be expected to dress and participate in the daily activity. On the day of a contest, his/her participation may be limited if permission is granted by the teacher. Anyone failing to take part in the daily activity without prior permission from the instructor will be ineligible to participate in practice or contests that day.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

Prior to a student's participation in any tryout, practice, or contest with a team, he/she must supply to the coach the following items:

- \* Current medical evaluation form properly completed by a physician/nurse practitioner.

- (Good for 365 days only)
- \* Written acknowledgment of insurance coverage from his/her parents which also serves as parental permission to participate in an athletic activities
  - \* Student-Athlete Code of Conduct signed by the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian
  - \* Student Eligibility Requirement and team standards signed by the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian
  - \* Medical Card for Athlete (white card) completed and signed by parent/guardian
  - \* Transportation Form
  - \* Payment of countywide ECA student activity fee

All students who are candidates for participation in interscholastic athletics are required to have an annual medical evaluation. If a student has a medical evaluation on file from a previous sport or activity, it will be applicable as long as twelve months have not elapsed since the evaluation was completed. The medical evaluation must cover the entire season. Therefore, the twelve months must not elapse before the season has concluded.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Some teams are transported to contests by MCPS busses while others are driven by coaches, parents or other players. Parents/guardians must sign a transportation form granting their child permission to attend contests in the manner checked on the form.

All athletes on teams that take busses are expected to return to the school on the bus unless the coach determines that the student can return with his/her parents and written approval is given. Similarly, students who are driven to contests must have the approval of their coach if alternative means of return travel is arranged. At all times, the coach has the final decision on how a player can return from away events.

### **\*\*\* PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDELINES \*\*\***

#### **PLAYER-COACH RELATIONSHIP**

The player-coach relationship is a very critical aspect of athletics. A parent can have a pronounced effect on this relationship. While you may not agree with all decisions of a coach, it is important to express one's concerns appropriately.

If you express a negative opinion in the presence of your child, it is important to remember that he or she will return to practice the next day and may carry with him or her your convictions. Your negative feelings – as adopted by the athlete - may negatively affect your son or daughter's relationship with the coach. Similarly, receiving technical or strategic instruction at home may interfere and conflict with the instructional process at practice sessions and games. This may ultimately impede your son or daughter's progress and that of their team.

#### **PARENT-COACH RELATIONSHIP**

There is no doubt In your role as a parent/guardian that you love your child and are concerned about their welfare. You want the best for him or her. An athlete, however, can have only one coach. It is imperative that the coach is allowed to instruct and guide their team throughout the season.

Should you have any questions or concerns, do not approach the coach immediately at the conclusion of a contest. At this time, coaches have other responsibilities and it may be an emotional time. Call and make an appointment for a later time and approach this meeting in a calm, courteous and logical manner.

One of the responsibilities which a coach has at the conclusion of a contest is to have a brief meeting with his or her players. Athletes should not pause to talk to parents or friends immediately after games. These brief team meetings are crucial to the learning process involved in athletics.

### **PARENT-PLAYER RELATIONSHIP**

Being positive and supportive is important, but adding pressure and unrealistic expectations can be extremely harmful. Allow your son or daughter to enjoy and grow from this valuable experience. In numerous national studies, it has been determined that most athletes participate in sports for enjoyment or fun. Excessive pressure or expectations can alter this most fundamental reason for playing. Giving 100% effort is all that a coach can ask of an athlete. If they can do that, then they have been successful.

### **RELATIONSHIP WITH OFFICIALS**

There is an age-old refrain often used by irate fans. "How much are you paying the officials?" The home school does not get the officials. The commissioner of each sport assigns all officials and neither team controls which officials are assigned.

Officials agree to and follow a code of ethics. They do not care or have a vested interest in which team emerges as the victor. It is also important to understand that they are a very necessary part of a game. A contest cannot be played without them.

So while you may not agree with all of their calls, do not harass and taunt them. It is also important to remember that they are in charge of the contest and have complete authority to have unruly spectators removed. In many sports, a team will see the same official several times during a season. Coaches, athletic administrators and schools often work hard to establish a good working relationship with officials which can easily be damaged by spectators.

### **SPECTATOR-CHEERLEADER**

It is the Cheerleaders job to infuse spirit into the fans/spectators and to lead them in selected cheers. Taking this responsibility into your own hands is not appropriate. Fans that leave the stands to direct cheers may lead to confrontations with the opponents. Following the Cheerleaders' directions, therefore, is absolutely necessary at all athletic contests.

The emotion and atmosphere at athletic contests can be very exciting. The Cheerleaders need to be allowed to direct and control this aspect of the event.

## **MCPS MISSION STATEMENT FOR ATHLETICS**

One of the missions of the MCPS athletic program is to teach and reinforce values in student-athletes as they relate to wholesome competition, good sportsmanship and fair play. It is expected that spectators reinforce these values by exhibiting appropriate behavior at all athletic events. A condition of entry into an MCPS athletic event is that all spectators agree to recognize the event as an extension of the learning process and that all present have the responsibility to model appropriate behavior. The event is a unique opportunity for spectators to be a part of a positive and productive learning environment.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR**

Applaud players for their efforts.  
Accept the decisions of officials.  
Appreciate participants for their commitment.  
Support school personnel in conducting an orderly and spirited contest.  
Maintain composure when things seem to go against your team.  
Respect the rights of other spectators.  
Reward sportsmanlike behavior through cheering.  
Focus attention on positive aspects of competition.  
Encourage players by showing enthusiasm and positive recognition.  
Demonstrate concern for the safety and welfare of athletes.

These young men and ladies are students and not professional athletes. They will make errors in the course of competition, as will game officials and coaches. However, all participants are trying their best. Negative criticism and booing will not help them to improve and are unacceptable forms of expression at any event. You can assist in their development as athletes by focusing attention on the positive aspects of their performance. Your cooperation is important and is appreciated.

## **ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND**

At Churchill High School, the following chain of command is in effect:

Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Athletic Director  
Head Coach  
Assistant/JV Coaches  
Players

If there are any questions or issues concerning our athletic program, the athletes should first contact the appropriate coach. If there is no resolution, he or she should then go to the head coach, etc.

## **EXPRESSING CONCERNS**

When expressing an occasional concern with a coach, please refer to and use the following guidelines:

- \* Never approach a coach immediately after a contest. This is not the proper time or place for a discussion concerning your child or the team.
- \* Call the following day and make an appointment to meet which is convenient for both you and the coach.
- \* Raise your concern in a calm and civil manner. Yelling, being rude or using foul language is totally unacceptable.
- \* Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Often a parent may be blinded by emotion and this overrides logic and reason. Listening receptively will help you understand the explanation that is given.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Since athletics are educational in nature, it is important that parents demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as role models for our athletes and students. Sportsmanship is an acceptable display of respect for the game as well as the rules of the sport. It also involves a commitment to fair play, integrity and ethical behavior. This means:

- \* There can be no vulgar or inappropriate language from our fans or spectators.
- \* Taunting and disrespectful behavior toward our opponents and their cheerleaders will not be tolerated.
- \* Spectators will not leave the bleachers or enter onto the court or field during a contest.
- \* Fans must be supportive and positive. Cheering should be done for our team and not against our opponent.
- \* We should not impede or interfere with our opponent's cheerleaders as they lead their cheers.
- \* In some specific sports such as basketball and volleyball, we should not yell at an opponent during a foul shot or while a player attempts to serve.
- \* School officials have the authority to remove a spectator from a contest for unruly or improper conduct. The individual may be removed for the duration of a particular contest or for any extended period of time depending on the severity or frequency of the improper conduct.
- \* Possession of intoxicants and/or illegal substances is strictly prohibited. Smoking is also prohibited on MCPS school grounds.
- \* Do not walk or stand on the court/field after one game while the second game is about to begin. Allow the next team the use of the entire court/field to warm up for their contest.

### **ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**

- \* Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- \* Accept all decisions of the officials.
- \* Shake hands at the end of the contest regardless of the outcome.
- \* Treat the competition as a game for everyone's enjoyment.
- \* Congratulate opposing coaches and players.
- \* Show concern for an injured player regardless of school affiliation.
- \* Encourage only sportsmanlike conduct which includes class, dignity and respect.

## **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**

- \* Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free-throw attempts.
- \* Performing disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
- \* Booing, heckling or criticizing officials.
- \* Yelling anything that might antagonize the opponents.
- \* Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- \* Blaming loss of game on official, coaches, or participants.
- \* Taunting or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- \* Using profanity or inappropriate displays of anger.
- \* Performing your own cheers instead of following lead of the cheerleaders.
- \* Coaching your child's team from the sidelines.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

MCPS will present Sportsmanship Awards in each sport to varsity teams whose spectators and team personnel best exhibit sportsmanship over the course of the season. The award will be based on ratings conducted by officials, athletic directors and school administrators.

The schools whose teams have won the greatest number of team sportsmanship awards in the course of the year will be recognized as the county's "Sportsmanship Champion" for that year and will receive a monetary award.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ATHLETE**

Coaches expect an athlete to adhere to the following guidelines:

- \* The team's goals, welfare and success must come before any individual.
- \* An athlete needs to consistently attend practice sessions. This also includes weekend and holiday periods.
- \* Players must be receptive to coaching.
- \* Team members are responsible for all issued uniforms and equipment.
- \* As a member of a team, an athlete must agree to and follow the team's rules. Athletes need to remember that they are ambassadors and represent not only themselves, but also the coaching staff, school and community.
- \* If injured, an athlete must report all injuries to the coach.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES THE OF A COACH**

At Churchill High School, a coach has the responsibility for the following:

- \* Selection of the squad.
- \* Determination of the style of play, including the offensive and defensive philosophy.
- \* Teaching and instruction at practice sessions.
- \* Determination of who starts and how long an athlete plays in a contest.
- \* Decision of who plays in what position.
- \* Creation of team rules.
- \* Selection of team captains.

- \* Determining criteria for earning a letter.
- \* Communicating with athletes and parents with respect to when practice sessions will be held, and when the sessions will start and finish.

## **PARTICIPATION AND SELECTING THE TEAM**

It is important to understand that participation on an athletic team at Churchill High School is a privilege and not a right. Being on and maintaining one's membership means accepting all the responsibilities of that team. However, unlike recreation or intramural teams, equal or guaranteed playing time does not exist. In an effort to win, a coach will use players best suited to the conditions or demands of the contest at that time.

It is also important to remember that players from the previous year's JV team, for example, do not automatically make either the JV or varsity squad the following year. Having been a member of a team during the previous year or even being a senior does not ensure that an athlete will make the squad.

Parents should expect that every candidate will be treated fairly and given every consideration. Coaches are sensitive to feelings of disappointment, will handle the task as positively as possible and will be available to address athletes' questions.

While we understand that being cut is disappointing for many athletes – as well as their parents – it is impossible to keep everyone. Anyone cut from a team is welcome to tryout again the following season or can optionally stay involved with the team in a managerial position. When parents and athletes understand and support the coach's decision, this difficult process becomes a less painful experience for all.

## **THE PURPOSE OF A JV TEAM**

JV Teams exist to provide those athletes who are not ready to participate on the varsity squad an opportunity to develop skills and gain experience. While the athlete's age, size or skill level may be the limiting factor in not making the varsity team, participation on a JV team may enhance the athlete's chances to make the varsity squad in the future.

A caution, however, must also be given. Being a member of a JV team does not guarantee that an athlete will automatically move up the following year to the varsity squad. The athletes best suited for varsity competition will make the squad each year.

Striving to win is important in athletics. However, compiling a great record or winning a championship should not be the primary objective of a JV team. The development of athletes should be the ultimate purpose of a JV squad, while at the same time acknowledging the value of winning, learning and having fun.

## **PRACTICE SESSIONS AND GAMES**

Tryouts and practice sessions are normally closed to spectators. There is a very sound reason for this. These sessions are the equivalent of a teacher's classroom and there is real, quality instruction

taking place. Interruptions and interference with an athlete's concentration and focus cannot be allowed any more than a disruption would be tolerated in an academic setting. Education in any setting cannot be compromised.

At Churchill High School, practice sessions:

- \* May last two hours.
- \* May start and end at different times due to the schedule of the coach or of our facilities. (Check with the coach for the specific times.)
- \* Will not be held when school is dismissed early due to inclement weather.
- \* Will not be held when school is not in session due to inclement weather.
- \* May be held on Saturdays and during holiday periods.

Spectator attendance at games, however, is very much encouraged. Positive and nurturing support of teams and athletes is very helpful to performance in athletic contests.

## **ATHLETIC AWARD LETTERS**

Coaches determine the requirements for the following awards:

### **Varsity**

Letter (One per entire high school career)  
Sport pin  
Manager pin  
Captain pin  
Varsity certificate  
Minds in Motion 3.25 certificate

### **JV**

JV certificate  
Minds in Motion 3.25 certificate

## **HAZING/INITIATIONS**

In athletic settings, some may view hazing/initiation as a harmless rite of initiation or an important activity for team bonding. However, it is actually a form of harassment and represents a MCPS Disciplinary Code offense. Hazing/initiation, therefore, cannot and will not be condoned or permitted in the athletic program at Churchill High School. This means on the field or courts, in the locker rooms, on the bus or at any other activity in which athletes represent Churchill High School.

## **SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB**

Churchill High School's Sports Booster Club exists to support all teams and the entire athletic program. Our Booster Club has three primary goals: raise funds to assist the athletic programs, increase school spirit and encourage good sportsmanship. It is a service and support organization,

which works in harmony with Churchill High School and its athletic program.

The Athletic Director serves as liaison between the club and the school. All requests for purchases come through the AD who determines their priority. All requests are considered in terms of need, budget, equity and future. No individual coach or team should directly approach the Booster Club without first contacting the Athletic Director.

### **WEB PAGE**

Churchill High School Athletics has its own web page at [www.churchillbulldogs.org](http://www.churchillbulldogs.org). You can find all important information at this site.

### **E-MAIL AND WEBSITES**

The Churchill High School athletic department has adopted the following policy regarding the use of e-mail messages, websites, blogs or other electronic communication:

“The use of e-mail messages, blogs, websites or other electronic communications to make inflammatory or derogatory comments, and/or inappropriate descriptions or pictures regarding another team member, another student, a coach, another school or team, or other staff member is strictly prohibited. For the purposes of this policy, inappropriate comments may include, but are not limited to, inappropriate comments/pictures/descriptions regarding another person’s race, ethnic background, culture, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.”

Possible consequences for violating this policy are: (1) Single game suspension; (2) Multiple game suspension; (3) Dismissal from the team.

### **ADMISSION TO ATHLETIC EVENTS**

MCPS mandates that each high school charge admission to most athletic events. Admission is charged on a sliding scale for adults, students and children. Season and Yearly Passes are also available. Senior Citizens – those individuals 62 years of age and older – are free. Be advised that proof of age via picture ID may be required. Admission for post-season contests is determined by the State (MPSSAA).

### **POST SEASON ACTIVITIES & CELEBRATIONS**

In accordance with MCPS policy, alcohol may not be consumed at any school event. This includes all parties and banquets. These celebrations are considered a school activity and as such are subject to MCPS rules and regulations.

# Churchill High School

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### I. SPORTSMANSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP

All Churchill High School student-athletes are expected to consistently demonstrate the highest levels of conduct, sportsmanship and positive behavior whenever they represent the school. Specific violations of the above include actions such as fighting, theft, use of improper language and misuse of school facilities and equipment.

### II. ATTENDANCE

In order to participate in any athletic event or practice, athletes are required to be in all of their scheduled classes and on time the day of the event. The Athletic Director may excuse an athlete and clear them for participation for **ONLY** the following reasons: (1) prescheduled appointments such as a driver's test, (2) court appearance, (3) medical appointments, (4) religious observances or (5) unforeseen emergencies. All late arrivals/early dismissals to/from school must be reported to the Athletic Director by 7:30 am on the day the student will be tardy. Parent or student must call 301-469-1240 to report the reason for the tardiness in order to be excused and cleared for participation that day. Students are required to attend at least four (4) classes in order to participate in that day's practices or games

### III. DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO USE

All Churchill student-athletes are required to refrain from the use of drugs, alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco products 24 hours a day, on and off school property. If he/she violates these requirements, they will face the following penalties:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** - if the student is verified to be in possession or use of illegal substances, the student will be suspended from extracurricular activities for 30 **consecutive** school days.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** - if the student is verified to be in possession or use of illegal substances a second time, the student will have a 12 month to 2-year ban (from the date of infraction) on participation in an extracurricular event from the date of the initial suspension.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** - suspension from all extra and co-curricular activities for the duration of high school.

In all cases, the student will have the right of appeal as outlined in the STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES HANDBOOK.

**By signing this page, I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to abide by all polices set forth in the Churchill Athletic Handbook.**

Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_