

NORTHWOOD LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC & EXTRA-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK

Students and Parents Edition

Revised 6/21

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

Philosophy:

The Northwood Local Schools believe that athletics under prescribed rules provide the opportunity for students to develop positive ideas and habits of fair play, initiative, emotional control, and achievement. Every coach is in an enviable teaching position, and the character-building aspects of athletic participation should not be considered lightly. Students involved in athletic programs can be taught to win and to lose gracefully. Athletics provide a means for some students to find purpose in school and in their lives.

Objectives:

1. To always play to win, but never at the expense of sportsmanship. Both coaches and officials have a responsibility to promote good sportsmanship and to establish patterns of accepting victory and defeat gracefully. There is no shame in losing; the only shame is in not doing your best.
2. To encourage participation by offering a program broad enough in scope to provide opportunities for participation for all students.
3. To maintain an athletic program that stresses the priority of instruction and academics over other school activities.
4. To remember that the well-being of students is of primary importance in all programs. This involves parental permission and information, care of equipment, medical examinations, care of injuries, and emotional support when needed.
5. To maximize the educational value of athletics, teaching fair play, honesty, teamwork, tolerance and respect for the rights of others in all situations.

General Principles

Northwood High School and Northwood Middle School belong to and operate under the rules, regulations and guidelines of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Toledo Area Athletic Conference.

All Athletic staff members and students shall be familiar with the Northwood Schools' Athletic policies and procedures, as defined in this document, and abide by all such policies and procedures.

Student participation on school sponsored athletic teams and extra-curricular groups is a privilege and not a right.

The building principal assumes the ultimate responsibility for athletic and extra-curricular programs in the building. The athletic director, in conjunction with the building principal, shall supply an annual written evaluation for the head coach of each sport in the building.

Varsity head coaches are responsible for the conduct of the entire sport under their direction, including high school and middle school programs. Even though elementary programs are not sponsored by the school, head coaches are also encouraged to be involved with those programs where such exist. All coaches in that sport are under the direction of the varsity head coach, and shall implement and carry out duties within the framework of the head coach's methodology, philosophy and goals for the program and the policies of the Board of Education.

-Varsity coaches must communicate expectations to all coaches 7-12 and regularly assist and supervise coaches. Staff meetings shall be scheduled and planned by each head coach to direct, guide and support coaches in that sport. Head coaches in each sport shall provide an annual written evaluation for each coach under his/her supervision.

The middle school programs shall not operate as separate independent programs from the high school. Programs grades 7-12 shall be coordinated to maintain a unified approach to each sport at all levels and to ensure continuity of skills development at all levels.

As a general rule, a "No-Cut" policy from teams is encouraged at the middle school level unless teams become so large that reasonably effective coaching and student participation are limited. The athletic director will make final decisions on whether the no-cut policy is implemented.

The policies and procedures defined in this handbook governing the conduct of students apply to team members, managers, cheerleaders, and any students connected in any way to the athletic program and extra-curricular activities representing Northwood High School.

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AND SCHOOL SPONSORED EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Behavior of student-athletes/participants in or out of school that is detrimental to the team/group/club and/or affects the reputation of our athletic programs/clubs/groups and school, or affects the health, safety or welfare of a student, employee or other

person will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action by the head coach, athletic director or building principal. This discipline could involve, but is not limited to, denial of participation in practices or games, removal from the team/group, forfeiture of awards, and denial of participation for the season, school year, or remainder of the student's high school career.

2. Students are permitted to participate in only one sport per season. *This limitation applies to all interscholastic athletic teams and all cheerleading squads.* Extra-curricular participation is not limited for clubs/groups.
3. Any student who quits an athletic team after the first scheduled contest may not participate in another sport during that season without permission from the athletic director.
4. Each head coach is responsible for issuing and collecting equipment in the sport for which he/she is involved. The coach must maintain an accurate record of the equipment issued to each student. At the end of the season, students must either return equipment or pay full replacement cost of lost or unnecessarily damaged equipment.

Students may not receive awards, participate in any other sport, receive grades/credits, or go through the graduation ceremony until this financial obligation has been discharged. The Athletic Director can provide replacement costs for equipment. Coaches should report lost/damaged equipment to the athletic director, who will in turn notify the school office of financial obligations.

All equipment issued to students must be used only for the purpose for which it was issued, and only by the student to whom it was issued.

5. **Athletic and Extra-Curricular eligibility** is determined according to OHSAA Bylaw 4-4. Eligibility or ineligibility extends from the fifth school day following the end of each grading period through the fourth school day following the end of the next grading period.

The Northwood Local Board of Education prohibits students in grades 7 – 12 from participating in athletics or extracurricular activities if they have earned less than a 1.75 GPA (grade point average) and received more than 1 failing grade (F) in the previous grading period.

*** Students attending Penta Career Center***

Due to the block schedule, athletic eligibility is established with the passing of the lab and one of the two academic classes in addition to maintaining the 1.75 GPA for the quarter.

For purposes of eligibility. Athletics and extracurricular activities are defined as school-sponsored student activities that represent the school (i.e..... Athletic Teams,

Key Club, Homecoming Court, Student Council, Honor Society, Drama Club, Pep Band, Quiz Bowl, etc...).

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time is eligible for the first-grading period, regardless of previous academic achievement. A student enrolling in grades 7 – 12 at any other time will have his/her eligibility determined by his/her academic achievement from the previous grading period.

This policy does not apply to any activities, which are included in the Northwood Local School district graded Course of Study, for which credit is given.

Failure to meet the grading period eligibility requirements will result in the loss of Extracurricular Eligibility for the next grading period.

A student will be granted one (1) probationary period in Grades 7 & 8, one (1) probationary period in Grades 9& 10, and one (1) probationary period in Grades 11 & 12, if they meet the minimum eligibility standards as established by the OHSAA (Ohio High School Athletic Association). This probationary period allows a student the opportunity to improve his/her academic standing as well as being able to stay involved with interscholastic extracurricular activities.

The probationary period is only available to a student who has fallen below the required 1.75 GPA requirement. That student must still meet the state minimum requirement of passing 5 full-credit courses and have no more than 1 failing grade (F).

A student's probationary period will be considered as being used if the student plays in an interscholastic extracurricular contest whose season occurs during any part of that grading period.

6. To participate in events, practices or contests, a student must be in attendance at school by the beginning of third period on the day of an event to participate that day or evening, including practices and rehearsals.

The principal or athletic director may declare student's ineligible who demonstrate habitual tardiness on contest days or the days following contests.

Special situations and/or exceptions will be decided by the building principal.

7. All students must submit a completed OHSAA Physical Card and an Emergency Medical Authorization prior to participation in any athletic practice or contest. Coaches are responsible for providing and collecting these, as well as for enforcing this legal requirement.

8. All students must submit proof of insurance or an Insurance Waiver prior to participation in any practice or contest. Coaches are responsible for enforcing this requirement.
9. Sports squads will travel by school bus to and from all contests. When parents are in attendance, the coach has the authority to allow athletes to leave contests with their parents with a signed note from the parent.

TRAINING RULES

Student athletes and extracurricular participants must realize and accept that they represent their school and their teams in all situations on and off the paying field, and at all times, whether during the season or outside of the season.

For that reason, all rules governing the use of tobacco, alcohol and controlled substances (drugs) apply to student athletes and extracurricular participants at all times, twelve months of the year on or off school property.

Student athletes and extracurricular participants may NOT use, possess, sell, transmit or conceal any tobacco products, alcohol or controlled substances at any time.

Each coach/advisor may establish additional team/group/club rules. These rules must be pre-approved by the athletic director/principal and presented to the student-athletes/participants and parents.

It is especially important that student athletes/participants accept a unique role among their peers. When students become athletes/participants publicly representing Northwood Schools, they are expected to be a positive representative of the team, the school, and the entire community.

Athletes representing Northwood are considered athletes in and out of season, not just during practices and contests.

PENALTIES FOR ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUG VIOLATION

Phase I Penalty: Education program and substance test at the beginning of the season.

Phase II Penalty: Denial of participation for a minimum of one contest and removal from team activities for one week of the current regular season or post season, education program, and subject to all random drug screens.

Phase III Penalty: Denial of participation for remainder of current season. Must submit to season-long weekly drug testing for duration of the 1st season you participate in. For extra-curricular groups, this will include removal from participation for a semester

Phase IV Penalty: Denial of participation for one calendar year. Must submit to season long weekly drug testing for duration of 1st season you participate in.

Phase V Penalty: Denial of participation for remainder of career at NHS.

APPLICATION OF PENALTIES FOR ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR DRUG VIOLATIONS

- 1) Student or parent(s) approach coach, athletic director, or principal for help-Phase I (Athletes are allowed one of these referrals in their career.)
- 2) Out-of-season violation – Phase I
- 3) First in-season violation – Phase II
- 4) Subsequent violations result in next level of penalty phase each time
- 5) Refusal to accept Phase I penalty – immediate Phase IV.

** All education and testing programs will be at parent expense.

All offenses must be reported by the coach/advisor to the principal and athletic director. These individuals will determine the validity of the report before any action is taken against the student.

Students will be afforded all due process rights in any action involving denial of participation, including the right to an informal hearing prior to any action being taken by the athletic director/advisor. The athletic director/advisor will administer the denial of participation.

Students and/or parents who wish to appeal the athletic director's decision should contact the building principal, who will schedule an appeal hearing with the Athletic Council. Their decision will be communicated in writing to the parents and student. The decision of the Athletic Council is final in all cases of denial of participation. The building principal makes the final decision for all non-athletic extracurricular activities.

SPORTS AWARDS

Athletic awards will be presented at a dinner, assembly, or other function following each sports season. Award programs are to be planned by coaches with the

cooperation of the Athletic Director and Principal. All awards presented will conform to rules and specifications of the OHSAA and the TAAC.

Middle School Awards are as follows:

Certificate of Participation

High School Awards are as follows:

First year – Chenille letter and metal insert to be awarded only after letter has been earned.

Second year – Metal insert

Third year – Plaque and metal insert

Fourth year – Plaque and metal insert

Varsity Certificates accompany each award. Certificates of participation are presented to all students not earning awards.

Coaches establish criteria for earning awards. These criteria should be in writing and shared with the athletes at the beginning of the season. Criteria will be reasonable and objective, although coaches may also consider attitude, character, team spirit, etc.

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Membership on the Athletic Council shall consist of the high school principal and athletic director, the superintendent of schools, and two members of the Board of Education.

The high school principal will act as chair. Meetings will typically be held at the end of each sports season. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Duties of the Athletic Council include, but are not limited to:

1. Advising the Board of Education on athletic issues and the scope of the total program.
2. Monitoring the school athletic program so it operates under OHSAA rules and by-laws, League rules, and policies of the Board of Education.
3. Promoting athletics as an integral part of the education program of the district.
4. Serving as the Board's designee to hear appeals in cases of athletic discipline and denial of participation.

5. Evaluating all aspects of the interscholastic athletic program of the district.