

Northwestern Local Schools



Athletic Department Student-Athlete Code of Conduct 2022-2023

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to give the students and parents of the Northwestern School District a guide to the interscholastic athletic programs of the Northwestern Local School District.

Philosophy

The Northwestern Local School District believes that participation in sport provides a wealth of opportunity and experience which assist students in personal growth, self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. We strive to provide a positive environment dedicated to achieving excellence in athletic and academic performance and inspiring personal development, which prepares student-athletes to benefit society in a lasting and meaningful way.

Mission of the Northwestern Athletic Department

1. Ensure a high quality, comprehensive program founded on uncompromised integrity.
 - A. Meeting and exceeding both the letter and spirit of the Northwestern Local School District, Central Buckeye Conference, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association policies and guidelines.
 - B. Honesty and ethical standards in interactions with all persons.
 - C. Insistence on high moral standards, which includes fairness, character, and respect for others.

2. Achieve the total development of the student-athlete.
 - A. Emphasize positive interaction and relationship building with fellow students.
 - B. Intellectual growth leading to graduation and a productive life thereafter.
 - C. Athletic achievement in interscholastic competition.
 - D. Service to the community.

3. Enhance the academic mission of the school district.
 - A. Complementing classroom experiences.
 - B. Provide an opportunity of positive statewide exposure for the district through athletic accomplishments, which contribute to the overall success of the school.

Administration of Athletics

The administrative head of each school (principal) shall be held responsible for all matters which concern the interscholastic athletic program.

The athletic administrator represents all principals in matters concerning the athletic program.

In reference to questions concerning the school district, the athletic administrator or principal must make all contacts with the commissioner of Ohio Athletics.

Chain of Command

There is a chain of command that, if followed, will help resolve problem situations more effectively and efficiently.

1. The Coach
2. The Athletic Administrator
3. The Building Principal
4. The Superintendent of the School District

The Student-Athlete

A student becomes an athlete and falls under the policies within this handbook upon the first official day of practice for their particular sport (per OHSAA guidelines).

Your possession of these rules and the fact that you have signed a participation agreement constitutes as a first warning: no further warnings will be given to you. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and the consequences of violating them.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students have rights as bestowed to them by Ohio Law, the Constitution of the United States, the Board of Education, and their parent(s)/guardian(s). In the exercise of these rights, students have basic responsibilities. Every right has a corresponding responsibility. A student may temporarily forfeit his/her right to participation opportunity when his/her conduct disrupts the process, deprives others of their basic right and violates the student rules established herein.

Conditions for Participation

The following conditions must be met prior to the first day of practice per OHSAA guidelines:

1. Completed Physical by a physician on the OHSAA form and placed on file in the athletic office.
2. Completed and submitted all forms and information on Final Forms.
3. Sports participation fee of \$40.00 paid after being selected as a member of team, and prior to first scheduled contest.

Insurance

The Northwestern School District and staff are not responsible for any injuries incurred to students playing interscholastic sports. Each athlete should be covered by adequate insurance before he/she participates. This insurance can either be the school – time coverage offered for a nominal fee or through your own insurance policy. The school offered insurance is designed to be a supplemental

policy, not a comprehensive injury policy and has very limited reimbursement schedules. Please indicate which insurance coverage you have for your son/daughter on the signature form.

Northwestern Local School District Code of Conduct

1. All student-athletes will abide by all the rules and regulations established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).
2. **Personal Conduct** – Participation on an athletic team is a privilege. Participants must earn that privilege to represent Northwestern Local Schools by conducting themselves in such a manner that they are a credit to the school district. Any participant whose conduct is determined by the head coach, athletic administrator, and principal to be a discredit to him/her, the team, or the school, during a sport season shall be subject to disciplinary action. This will apply before, during, and after school hours.
 - **Engaging in Criminal Activity or Violation of Civil Law** - Recognizing the varying degrees of severity of violations (misdemeanor vs. felony) consequences for involvement may result in minor reprimand to the denial of participation for one calendar year, depending on the nature of the offense. Consultation between the coach, athletic administrator, and the principal will be conducted before a consequence is issued.
3. **Daily Attendance** – The Northwestern Athletic Department feels strongly that a student's first obligation is to academic achievement. No student may participate in contests or practices on a day in which he/she is absent. Participation is defined as competing and/or being in attendance as a spectator. Students must be attendance for a full day (**arrival to school within ½ hour of designated time of arrival**).

We do, however realize that circumstances may arise that would require a student to miss school on the day of an event or practice. Such things as doctor's appointments, family emergencies such as funerals, etc., will be excused and the athlete permitted to participate as long as arrangements are made in advance (one day prior) with the Building Principal.

In extenuating circumstances not covered above, the Building Principal will render a decision regarding participation.

4. **Tardy** – After the fourth (4) tardy in a semester, students will not be permitted to practice or participate in contests on days in which they are tardy (**arrival to school after the beginning but within ½ hour of designated time of arrival**).
 - Student-athletes with a tardy or excused absence on Friday may participate in activities on Saturday.
5. **School Vacations** - Athletic practices and contests may be scheduled during school vacations. Attendance at practice and contests is essential. Family vacations scheduled during school breaks are excused absences provided that the coach is notified at the start of the season.

6. **Use Of Athletic Equipment** – All equipment issued is the property of the school. When equipment is issued to a student-athlete, he/she becomes responsible for it. Student-athletes are responsible for the cost of replacing lost or damaged equipment.

Any athlete who steals or possesses equipment illegally may be denied participation from all athletics for one calendar year and may face prosecution.
 - No athletic equipment worn in PE class.
 - No game uniforms are to be worn in practice
 - No game or practice equipment is to be worn outside of games or practices, nor is it to be given to anyone else to wear.
 - No equipment is to be altered in any way without the advanced permission of the head coach.
7. **Multiple Sport Participation** – An athlete may participate in only one sport per season unless approved by the coaches involved and the athletic administrator.
8. **Team Transportation** – When a bus is provided for an athletic event, all participants will travel to and from the contest on the bus, unless a parent/guardian, in person, presents to the coach a written request to take the student to the contest or home **in an emergency situation**.
9. **Quitting Team** – Any student-athlete quitting a team without the permission of the head coach will be considered in bad standing. A student-athlete leaving a sport in bad standing must have a hearing with the athletic administrator, coach of the sport left, and coach of the sport entering before he/she is permitted to participate in any training activities for another sport (i.e. open facility, lifting, and conditioning). A student-athlete can be released from one sport to another with the approval of both coaches involved.
10. **Grooming** – Personal appearance should be a matter of pride with coaches and students participating in athletics. Coaches may establish dress and grooming guidelines.
11. **Return To A Team After Injury** – Any athlete, who is under a doctor’s care, must furnish a physician’s release before being able to participate in practice or contests.
12. **Eligibility** – Each student athlete must complete an OHSAA “Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin”. This form will be kept on file in the athletic office.
 - **Academic Eligibility (Grades 9-12)** – In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation. In addition, students must attain a minimum grade point average of 1.67 in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - **Academic Eligibility (Grades 7-8)** – A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding

grading period and received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses. In addition, students must attain a minimum grade point average of 1.67 in the immediately preceding grading period.

- **Academic Probationary Status** - Student-Athletes grades 7-12 may apply for a one-time probation (once in middle-school and once in high school), if they fall below the minimum grade point average. Conditions for probation:
 1. Request a conference with the building principal.
 2. Meet OHSAA academic eligibility standards.
 3. Student-athlete and parent/guardian participate in a scheduled conference with the principal.
 4. Student-athlete agrees to attend all study tables as assigned per aforementioned conference.
 5. Failure to adhere to the above terms will cause the probationary status to be revoked and the student-athlete rendered ineligible.

Note: Semester and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.

13. **School Discipline and its effect on Eligibility:**

- **Detention** – Any student-athlete assigned detention must serve at the assigned time. Having a practice or a contest does not excuse the student-athlete for missing this disciplinary action.
- **Friday School** – Any student-athlete assigned to Friday school must serve at the assigned time. Having practice or a contest does not excuse the student-athlete for missing this disciplinary action.
- **Alternative Learning Center** (A.L.C.) – Student-athletes assigned this disciplinary action will be permitted to participate in practices and contests. Repeated A.L.C. placements could lead to a student-athletes denial to participate.
- **Out Of School Suspension** (O.S.S.) – Student-athletes assigned this disciplinary action will not be permitted to participate in practice or contests for the duration of the suspension, and could lead to student-athletes denial to participate.

14. **Training Rules (“Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Policy”)**

It is the intent of the Northwestern School District to work together with students and parents to develop an atmosphere where the use of tobacco and harmful mood-altering chemicals is not accepted. Development of this atmosphere will include formulation of clear rules regarding these activities and education of coaches, parents, and students as to the harmful effects of tobacco and mood-altering drugs.

The following policy governs student-athletes on a “year-round” basis. After the student-athlete and parents/guardians sign the Northwestern Athletic Participation Agreement form for the first time, this policy governs them for the duration of their OHSAA eligibility.

Tobacco – No student-athlete shall use, have on his/her person or possession, or transmit tobacco in any form (this includes e-cigarettes, vapes, etc.).

Mood Altering Drugs – No student-athlete shall use, have on his/her possession, be under the influence of, sell, transport, give away or conceal any unauthorized mood-altering chemical or substance.

Counterfeit Drugs – No student-athlete shall directly or indirectly represent any counterfeit controlled substance as an illegal or controlled substance. No student-athlete shall possess, consume, make, sell, and offer to sell, or deliver any substance known or not known to be a counterfeit drug.

Drug paraphernalia – No student shall use, have on his/her possession, have within their assigned locker, sell, intend to sell, transport, give away or conceal any article or paraphernalia that is commonly associated with or reasonably construed to be used for the use with any mood-altering chemical.

Exception to this policy includes any substance that is prescribed by a student-athlete's physician for his/her personal use.

Self-Referral or Voluntary Referral-If a student-athlete makes a self-referral, prior to a staff discovered violation of the Northwestern "Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Policy", out of concern about a possible problem, no disciplinary action or sanctions will be taken. This voluntary referral would also apply to a parent / guardian who have concern about the use of mood-altering chemical or tobacco by their son or daughter. In the case of a self-referral, student-athletes must agree to participate in a professional approved assessment program, and follow all recommendations from counseling. The cost of counseling will be the responsibility of the student-athlete and/or parents/guardians.

First Violation - Any student-athlete caught violating the Northwestern Athletic "Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Policy" will be denied participation until the OHSAA adopted start date for that particular sport the following year. The denial period will be reduced to 20 % of scheduled contests, and can carry over from one season to the next, if the student and his/her parents/guardians agree to participate in an approved professional assessment program, and follow all recommendations from counseling. The student-athlete will not be reinstated to the athletic team until the school has received professional assessment and/or treatment report. The cost of such counseling will be the responsibility of the student-athlete.

During the aforementioned denial period, the student-athlete will be able to practice and condition at the discretion of the head coach.

Second Violation - Any student-athlete caught violating the Northwestern Athletic "Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Policy" will be denied participation until the OHSAA adopted start date for that particular sport the following year. No alternative to denial is offered in this situation.

Further Violations - Any student-athlete caught violating the Northwestern Athletic "Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Policy" after the second violation will be denied participation in athletics at Northwestern for the remainder of his/her OHSAA eligibility.

Northwestern High School Athletic Awards - Upon the recommendation from the head coach, and with the approval of the athletic administrator, a member of a team, who has finished the season in good standing, and has fulfilled the necessary requirements, shall be awarded for each sport in which he/she has participated. The following award policy will be followed:

Certificates – Awarded to high school athletes that do not meet the qualification for earning a varsity letter.

Letters – Will be awarded to first year letter winners at the high school level. Criteria for lettering are listed within this handbook.

Numerals – Will be awarded to first year letter winners at the high school level.

Pins – Signifying the sport lettered will be awarded each time an athlete letters.

Key Chain – Will be given to second year letter winners (starting to phase in plaques for second year letter winners).

Plaques – Will be given to third and fourth year letter winners.

Senior Banners – Will be awarded to all senior athletes.

Conference Championship Patch – Will be given to all team members participating on a Central Buckeye Conference recognized championship team.

School Record Plaque – Will be given to student-athletes that set records recognized by the athletic department.

District, Regional, State Plaque – Student-athletes who qualify for this level of competition, and do not receive an accompanying award will be given a plaque signifying their accomplishment.

Northwestern Middle-School Athletic Awards – Upon the recommendation from the head coach, and with the approval of the athletic administrator, a member of a team, who has finished the season in good standing, and has fulfilled the necessary requirements, shall be awarded for each sport in which he/she has participated. The following award policy will be followed:

Certificates – Awarded to all participants

Letter – Will be awarded to first year letter winners at the Middle-School level. Criteria for lettering are listed within this handbook.

Pins – Signifying the sport lettered will be awarded each time an athlete letters.

Northwestern Athletic “Lettering” Criteria

High School Football – Must play in 50 percent of the quarters of the scheduled contests.

Middle-School Football – Must play in 50 percent of the quarters of the scheduled contests.

High School Cross- Country – Must compete in 50 percent of the scheduled meets.

Middle-School Cross-Country – Must compete in 50 percent of the scheduled meets.

High School Golf – Must compete in 50 percent of the scheduled matches.

High School Volleyball – Must play in 50 percent of the scheduled contests.

Middle-School Volleyball – Must play in 50 percent of the scheduled contests.

High School Wrestling – Must wrestle in 50 percent of the scheduled contests.

Middle School Wrestling – Must wrestle in 50 percent of the scheduled contests.

High School Basketball – Must play in 50 percent of the quarters of the scheduled contests.

Middle-School Basketball – Must play in 50 percent of the quarters of the scheduled contests.

High School Baseball – Must play in 50 percent of the innings. Pitchers must participate in 25 percent of games played.

High School Softball – Must play in 50 percent of the innings of the scheduled contests.

High School Soccer – Must play in 50 percent of the quarters of the scheduled contests.

High School Track – Must run in 50 percent of the scheduled meets and average 1 point per meet, or score 1 point in league, district, regional, or state competition.

Middle-School Track – Must run in 50 percent of the scheduled meets and average 1 point per meet.

Tennis – Must compete in 50 percent of the scheduled contests.

Bowling – Must compete in 50 percent of the scheduled contests.

Note: Senior athletes with two consecutive years of service in a particular sport that do not meet the lettering criteria will be awarded a varsity letter.

Eighth grade student-athletes with two consecutive years of service in a particular sport that do not meet the lettering criteria will be awarded a middle-school letter.

Note: Injured players, on the recommendation of the head coach, and approval of the athletic administrator, may also receive awards.

Cheerleading Squad Selection

Separate high school cheerleading squads will be selected for football and basketball. Varsity cheerleading squads will be selected from individuals in the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes. Junior Varsity squads will be selected from individuals in the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes. Seniors will not be permitted to participate on reserve squads.

Separate middle-school cheerleading squads will be selected for football and basketball. Football and basketball squads will consist of eighth graders for the eighth grade team and seventh graders for the seventh grade team.

Cheerleading tryouts will be held in the spring at a time to reduce interference with other interscholastic activities. The practice and tryout process will last no longer than one-calendar week.

Northwestern Local Schools
Athletic Participation Agreement

Student-Athlete's Name _____

I acknowledge having received a copy of the Northwestern Athletic Department Handbook and agree to comply with the policies stated within the handbook.

Student-Athlete's Signature

Date

I acknowledge having received a copy of the Northwestern Athletic Department Handbook and agree to support my son/daughter to comply with the policies stated within the handbook. I am aware the Handbook has been approved by the Northwestern Local Board Of Education.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

The Northwestern Athletic Department along with the Ohio High School Athletic Association has purchased catastrophic medical insurance. However, your son/daughter must have insurance protection that will cover them in the event an injury should occur while participating in inter-scholastic athletics. If you do not have insurance protection you can purchase school - time insurance coverage.

_____ My son/daughter has adequate health insurance coverage.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

_____ I have purchased the school – time insurance coverage this year.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date