

# **The Northampton Area School District Athletic Department**

## **GUIDELINES FOR BOOSTER CLUBS**

The Northampton Area School District recognizes and approves of Booster Clubs. Booster Clubs are encouraged to work with the athletic department to provide and promote fan support and good sportsmanship for Northampton High School athletics. The club shall not seek to influence or direct the policies or procedures of the athletic program. This responsibility rests with the Northampton Area School District Board of Education and the administration of the Northampton Senior High School. The operation of these clubs must comply with the policies of the School District.

### **Athletic Philosophy**

The interscholastic program in the Northampton Area School District is a co-curricular activity. The athletic philosophy was developed to ensure the implementation of the program in accord with the educational goals of the school district. The functions of Booster Clubs must not conflict with the philosophy of the athletic program. It is recommended that the philosophy be shared with all club members so there can be a better understanding of the district position on interscholastic athletics. A copy of the philosophy (Appendix A) is attached.

### **Fund Raising**

Fund raising is to be done in the name of the Booster Club, not the Northampton Area School District, Northampton Athletic Department or the Northampton High School. Fund raising is limited to the particular sport season of the booster club or during the summer months when school is not in session. Student athletes are not to be required to take part in fund raising activities, nor are they to be singled out if they do not wish to take part in the fund raising activity.

Participation must be voluntary. Booster Clubs are not to ask students to participate in door-to-door fund raising. While the district recognizes the benefits students receive from the booster support, asking students to solicit door-to-door may put them at risk in terms of their personal safety.

Due to the number of sports in the school district athletic program, it is suggested that booster clubs support no more than one major fund raising project per season. Clubs are discouraged from involving themselves in fund raising projects that would be in excess of their projected needs for that sports season.

## **Banquets**

It is recommended that all banquet activities be scheduled following the completion of the season's schedule. Care must be taken by the Booster Clubs not to provide athletes with gifts or awards that may be in violation of the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. A violation of these rules and regulations would affect the amateur standing of the athlete. (See the next section on "Permissible Awards"). Any questions regarding articles to be given to athletes should be directed to the Athletic Director at the Senior High School.

When planning banquets, Booster Clubs should be sensitive to the expense that will be incurred by those wishing to attend. Picnics and potluck dinners held in school cafeterias or public park facilities are inexpensive options that can provide a pleasant atmosphere for honoring athletes and their families.

## **Permissible Awards (PIAA Regulations)**

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association governs our sports program and has listed below the permissible awards for our student athletes:

A school may purchase a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, jersey, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar trophy, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, for an athlete who has earned the official school letter or award, and present the same at the time the official award is made.

The sponsor or sponsors of an athletic event or group of events may purchase a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, jersey, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar trophy, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, for an athlete who has earned the official award for the event or events, and present the same at the time the official award for the event or events is made.

A non-profit organization approved by the school principal, or the news media, may purchase a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, jersey, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar trophy, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, for an athlete, in recognition of his athletic ability or performance, and present the same at a time appropriate to such recognition.

The institutions listed above in this section may also sponsor athletic banquets to which athletes may be invited, without charging admission to such athletes.

A pupil may accept from an institution of higher education which he visits in connection with his prospective or possible attendance there as a student, reasonable expenses necessitated by such a visit, and free admission to home athletic events of such institution which may occur during such a visit.

## **Facilities Use**

Booster Clubs must adhere to the School District policy regarding the use and scheduling of facilities. Use of Facilities request forms should be used for all Booster Club meetings and any other times the Booster Club wishes to use the facilities for their activities. (Appendix B).

Booster Clubs running concession stands at school events are limited to the lobby area when indoors. They should assist in keeping food and drink out of restricted areas (gymnasiums). When running concessions out of doors, they should assist in keeping the area litter free.

The Northampton Area School District currently has a contract with the Coca-Cola company and all Booster Clubs must use Pepsi products, (Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Gatorade) when operating concessions at school sponsored events.

## **Communications**

Booster Clubs are to provide the athletic office with a list of officers, their addresses and phone numbers, on a yearly basis. (Appendix C). There should also be on file in the athletic office a copy of the current club constitution and by-laws.

It is expected that if Booster Clubs have questions regarding their activities and how they impact on school district and the athletic program, they contact the Director of Athletics for answers to those questions.

traditional school age, from an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics.

4. Due to the increased risk of injury to opponents in collision sports such as football, boys' lacrosse, and wrestling; contact sports such as basketball, field hockey, girls' lacrosse, and soccer; and to baseball and softball hitters when facing a pitcher over the age of 19, particular scrutiny should be applied by the District Committee to requests for waiver in these sports.

5. Any waiver granted may be given only for a particular sport and for a particular season. While a student may receive up to three waivers in a particular school year (for a fall, winter, and spring sport), no student may receive a waiver for any season or sport in any subsequent school year.

## ARTICLE II

### AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS

#### Section 1. Amateur Status Required.

To be eligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, and/or Contest, a student must be an amateur in the sport involved. An amateur student is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the educational, physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived thereof.

Where the official rules for a sport provided for under ARTICLE XVIII of these By-Laws establish requirements for amateur status, such requirements shall govern to the extent inconsistent with this ARTICLE II.

#### Section 2. Loss of Amateur Status.

A student loses amateur status in an interscholastic sport whenever:

A. The student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), receives compensation, other Consideration, or an award not permitted under Section 3 hereof, for or related to the student's athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.

B. The student receives Consideration for becoming a member of an athletic organization or school.

C. The student plays on a professional team or as an individual professional athlete in that sport.

D. The student signs a contract whereby the student agrees to compete in any athletic competition for Consideration. It is not a violation for a high school student to attend, and participate in a professional try-out camp, provided that (1) no compensation or expenses are paid to the student; (2) the try-out lasts no longer than forty-eight hours; and (3) if in the sport of baseball, the student's participation is otherwise in conformity with the National Federation Major-Minor League Agreement.

E. The student sells or pawns the student's athletic achievement awards.

#### Section 3. Permissible Awards.

A. **Member Schools:** A student may accept, from the student's school, or a school-affiliated booster club, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, upon completion of a season of participation on a Team and/or for earning the official school letter or award.

B. **Sponsors of Athletic Events:** A student may accept, from the sponsor or sponsors of an athletic event or group of athletic events, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, if the student participated in the athletic event and/or earned an award for an athletic event or events. The fair market value of items provided to any such student may not exceed \$500. Such sponsor or sponsors may also pay the expenses for a student to participate in educational programs, tours, and field trips provided by the sponsor or sponsors in connection with the athletic event or events.

C. **Media and Other Public Recognition:** A student may accept, from a non-profit service organization approved by the Principal of the student's school, or the news media, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification in recognition of the student's athletic ability or performance, and present the same at a time appropriate to such recognition. The fair market value of items provided to any such student may not exceed \$500.

D. **Banquets:** Students may also attend, without charge of admission, athletic banquets sponsored by the institutions listed above in this Section 3.

E. **Participation expenses:** A student may accept, from a school, and/or the sponsor of an athletic event or group of athletic events, the reasonable and necessary expenses for transportation, lodging, and/or meals incurred by the student and/or the student's Team for participation in an athletic event or events. A school affiliated booster club may pay the reasonable and necessary expenses for their school students to attend a camp or clinic.

F. **Participation Fees:** Schools charging fees for students to participate in interscholastic athletics may reduce or waive such fees under the following circumstances: (1) the Principal may approve a reduction or waiver of the fee for an individual student who demonstrates financial need; (2) the Principal may accept a donation of all or part of the fee from a school-affiliated booster club for an individual student who demonstrates financial need; and/or (3) the Principal may accept donations from any party which are to be applied pro rata to all students participating in interscholastic athletics or to all students on a particular Team. Under no circumstance can any reduction or waiver be tied into the athletic ability of such students.

G. **Donations of Athletic Equipment and/or Product and/or Payments to Schools:** Nothing in this Section should be deemed to prohibit a donor of athletic equipment and/or product and/or the sponsor of any athletic event or group of athletic events from providing to a school any Consideration, provided that such Consideration is not made with the assurance or understanding that all or some of such Consideration is to be then conveyed by the school to any individual student-athletes.

H. **College Recruiting:** A student may accept from an institution of higher education which the student visits in connection with the student's prospective or possible attendance there as a college student, reasonable expenses necessitated by such visit, and free admission to home athletic events of such institution which occur during such visit.

I. **Operation Gold:** Consistent with NFHS policy, a student may accept monies under this program, which provides monetary rewards to athletes who place in the Olympic Games and/or World Championships in designated sports.

#### Section 4. How Amateur Status Can Be Regained.

A student who has lost amateur status may be reinstated by the suspending body after a period of one year from the date of suspension, providing that the student refrains from all activity prohibited by Section 2 hereof during that year.

A student who has lost amateur status pursuant to Section 2A and/or B hereof may be reinstated by the suspending body effective upon the student's return to the provider of the Consideration item or items which caused such loss of amateur status.

### INTERPRETATIONS

May 22, 1953, as amended July 28, 2005.

A student-manager of an amateur baseball team, who receives Consideration, is not considered a player unless the student actually participates in a game played by that amateur baseball Team.