

New Waverly ISD

Athletics Handbook for Students and Parents

2023 - 2024

NWISD Nondiscrimination Statement

As a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, diverse community, NWISD has a mission of developing an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of a multi-cultural society. We are committed to providing a positive, harmonious environment where democratic values promote a respect for the diverse makeup of our school community. The New Waverly Independent School District does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, or disability in any programs, benefits, activities, or services offered by the District.

Administration

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Superintendent

Kris Drane
High School Principal

Tom Duoto
Junior High School Principal

Dean Schaub
Director for Athletics

Donna Gilliam
Girls Coordinator

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Athletics

Athletics provides the students with an opportunity to express themselves in a pursuit of excellence fulfilled through interscholastic athletics. It is important to remember that the athletic program is to be a vital part of the whole educational process of the student and a vital part of the academic program. Much of the success of the athletic program will be measured by the success of the student in later life.

All athletes are encouraged to participate in as many sports as possible. We have so many athletes that will make all programs better. The more athletes on a team brings a competitive environment which leads to success.

Winning and losing are important, and winning will always be emphasized, but not at the expense of the individual or through short cuts that would injure the integrity of the individual, school, or community. Attitudes toward anything we do make the difference between success and failure. People who win consistently are the people who consistently have good attitudes. The common denominator between all good teams is attitude.

Athletics emphasizes the development of "school spirit" as one of the most important contributions an athletics program can make toward a successful and smooth operation of a school. Team spirit does remarkable things for participants and observers alike.

Participation in athletics means more than competition between two teams or two individuals. It teaches fair play, sportsmanship, understanding, and appreciation of hard work. It also teaches that quitting means failure, while hard work leads to success.

Discipline is a vital part of having a successful athletics department. Athletics is a privilege, neither a requirement for graduation nor a right. Athletics is a privilege which may be revoked when the rules are not followed. Athletes will know what they can and cannot do. Special standards will provide the security of authority that youth need. The standards will also enable the athletes to know that the school wishes for them to reach the best of their achievement level, both in their own lives and in interscholastic athletics.

Coach Dean Schaub, Director for Athletics

**New Waverly Independent School District
Athletics Handbook
for
Parents and Students**

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Administration of Interscholastic Athletics

Philosophy

Our philosophy for each student-athlete is to develop their leadership potential on the field of play, the classroom, and in the community. Our student-athletes will be given opportunities that fit their personalities and maturity. Some will lead with energy and enthusiasm, some will lead by words, but all should lead by example. It is our vision that this leadership will guide them throughout their lives.

A. Goals

- To produce highly competitive athletics teams and individuals in all sports while adhering to all UIL rules and regulations.
- To demonstrate the highest ideals of sportsmanship and ethics required by New Waverly ISD and the UIL in all athletics.
- To produce the best scholars/athletes possible through increased emphasis of academic excellence through tutorial assistance and SAT/ACT test preparation by all participants in New Waverly ISD.
- To provide the proper instruction and facilities for athletics participants to successfully compete and excel.
- To provide the proper environment for all participants to develop themselves physically, mentally, and emotionally to become productive citizens of any community.

B. Objectives

- To provide as many students as possible with a good environment.
- To instill good habits, sound morals, exemplary citizenship, and a high standard of sportsmanship in student athletes.
- To further in students an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness, with continuous emphasis on proper rest, good eating habits, and cleanliness.
- To develop all programs in such a manner that the end result is one of unity, harmony, and success.
- To instill in all athletes the desire to represent their school and community in a manner that will make school administrators, teachers, parents, fellow students, and other citizens proud.
- To emphasize to the athletes, at all levels of competition, the fact that athletic competition is a privilege that carries with it certain responsibilities. Some of these responsibilities include training, loyalty, eligibility, improvement, courage, and perseverance.
- To create in all students a greater interest in the value of education.
- To maintain and conduct the most successful interscholastic athletics program in the State of Texas.

General Policies and Procedures

A. General Problem-Solving Procedure

1. The first step in problem solving is for the head coach and the parent to work together to solve the problem. If this first step does not work, the Director for Athletics should then be involved.
2. The Director for Athletics, the principal, and the coaches have the responsibility of discussing, organizing, forming basic policies, and solving problems in the following areas:
 - Schedules
 - Eligibility
 - Participation Discipline
 - Advertisement
 - Duration of workouts
 - Game responsibilities (officials, tickets/admissions, game expenses, supervision, ticket takers, etc.)
3. Any problems or questions involving athletics should be directed to the immediate supervisor of the coach involved.

The chain of appeal for junior high school is:

- coach directly involved
- campus athletics coordinator
- campus principal/Director for Athletics

The chain of appeal for high school is:

- coach directly involved
- head coach of the sport
- campus athletics coordinator
- campus principal/Director for Athletics

B. Sportsmanship/Public Relations

The first objective stated for extracurricular events is the teaching of sportsmanship. It has been one of the primary objectives of the UIL as long as it has been in existence. In order for athletics and other extracurricular activities to remain a vital part of the educational program, students, coaches, players, and spectators must all demonstrate an understanding of and an adherence to the rules of sportsmanship. In NWISD, the following efforts will be made, and expectations adhered to in order to demonstrate our attitude towards sportsmanship:

1. Participants/coaches will treat opponents with dignity and respect.
2. Participants/coaches will shake hands with opponents at the conclusion of all contests.
3. NWISD participants **will not**:
 - talk "trash" to any opponent;
 - taunt any opponent;
 - "celebrate" (in accordance with the UIL definition/rule);

- talk to officials during the contest (with the exception of team captains only);
 - demonstrate any unsportsmanlike or unacceptable behavior towards opponents, officials, or spectators;
 - throw equipment or other objects in an unsportsmanlike or unacceptable manner;
 - take part in or be actively involved in a fight connected with any athletics contest in which a NWISD team is participating.
4. Coaches are responsible for having addressed and reviewed sportsmanlike and acceptable standards set for NWISD athletics participants and will always demonstrate them in their role as coaches.

C. Try Outs

Some sports may have team limitations on the number of athletes that are allowed on the team. In this case, an established try out period will be held to determine who will make the varsity team and who will either be placed on the junior varsity or freshman team(s) or in some cases not make any of the teams. After the established period of time, the athletes will be advised of their status and may conference with the coach as to their placement or status. Once an athlete has made a team any dismissal/removal will follow the guidelines outlined in the “Removal from a Team” section contained in this handbook.

D. Parental/Spectator Involvement

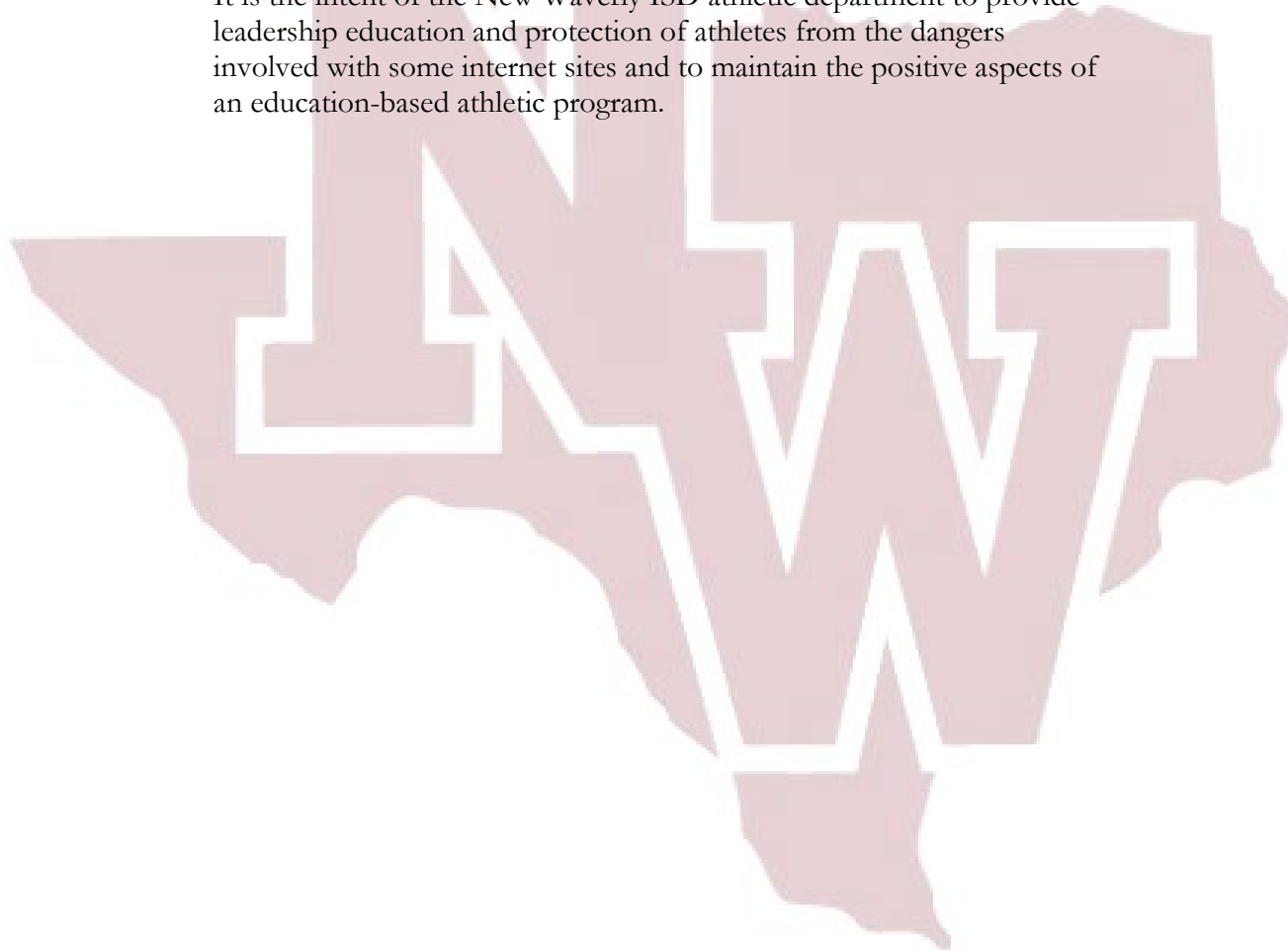
Parental involvement in a student/athlete’s development plays an important role and is encouraged by the athletic department. Parents should follow the proper chain of command when dealing with any issue regarding their child or any other concern. Parental involvement at athletic contests should be limited to words of encouragement or praise for their child and not derogatory or degrading toward anyone attending/participating in the event. Electronic noise amplifying devices are prohibited at athletic events by parents or spectators. Parents or attendees that do not follow the guidelines outlined above may be removed or barred from future athletic events, as per UIL guidelines.

E. Interstate Compact Statement

New students must be given an opportunity to try out for athletic teams regardless of the time they enter school in NWISD. Placement of a student athlete on the appropriate team (i.e. Varsity, Junior Varsity, freshman, non-placement) will be the sole discretion of the Head Coach of that sport with prior approval of the District Athletic Director.

F. Athlete Internet Policy

Social networking sites such as Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, chat rooms and bulletin boards can be an important part of a young person's life and pose a serious danger. Since participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right, an athlete needs to accept responsibility for appearing or posting on certain Web sites. When visiting or appearing on any Internet site, athletes in New Waverly ISD will maintain acceptable standards. These acceptable standards will be based upon the policies and regulation outlined in the student code of conduct and individual team rules. Any postings or communication via social networking Web sites which disrupts either the educational or athletic environments or which advocates the violation of any school or team policy would be unacceptable. Such violations may result in suspension or removal from the team. This would include but not be limited to: consumption of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs, inappropriate sexually oriented materials, or activities involving bullying, hazing or harassment. It is the intent of the New Waverly ISD athletic department to provide leadership education and protection of athletes from the dangers involved with some internet sites and to maintain the positive aspects of an education-based athletic program.



Discipline of Athletes

A student is not required to take part in athletics, nor is athletics required for graduation. Athletics is a privilege, not a right. When the standards of the district are violated, the privilege can be revoked. All New Waverly Independent School District athletes will be expected to conduct themselves with pride and dignity. The following is a discussion of the expectations of student athletes and consequences available if disciplinary action becomes necessary.

Suspension/Removal from a team

A coach may suspend an athlete from participation if the parents have been contacted within 24 hours (if possible) and informed of the suspension. If removal from the team or program is deemed necessary, a meeting with the parent, head coach, and AD must take place.

All major disciplinary actions must be reported in writing to the principal, Director for Athletics, and the campus athletics coordinator within a reasonable time, (24 hours if possible) of the player's suspension.

Quitting

If a player quits one sport to begin another, they cannot compete in their new sport until the completion of the first sport's season.

Drugs/Alcohol

Athletes found in possession of, under the influence of, or discovered to have used alcohol at school-sponsored activity or trip will be suspended from athletics for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year in addition to other campus consequences.

During the school year, any athlete found to be in possession of or distributing marijuana, narcotics, or other dangerous drugs or paraphernalia without a doctor's prescription, will not represent the school in an athletics event for the remainder of the school year. A school year begins immediately after the last day of school of the previous year. There will be a minimum 45-day suspension. Assigned days of suspension not completed by the end of the school year shall be completed beginning the first day of class the following school year, should a violation occur during the last nine weeks of school.

Vaping

Athletes found in possession of a vape in school or at school-sponsored activity or trip will be suspended from athletics for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year in addition to other campus consequences.

1st & 2nd offense- AEP placement

3rd offense- Removal from athletics

Alternative Education Placement

Any athlete placed in Alternative Educational Placement (alternative school) will be ineligible for any activities of the athletics department until the prescribed time has lapsed. A second assignment to an AEP will result in the athlete being suspended from athletics for one school year from the date he/she is assigned. A third assignment will result in the athlete being removed from athletics permanently. Student returning to a school from AEP may be placed on probation. It will remain the discretion of the campus as to whether the student is allowed into the athletic period for the same prescribe period of time.

Ejections from competition – Flagrant Ejections

Flagrant ejections are the result of a purposeful foul involving excessive/violent contact or language to the fouled player. Any athlete removed from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, without regard to whom the conduct was addressed, will be counseled by the head coach, principal, and campus athletics coordinator by the following school day. Ejections will have a cumulative consequence. The 1st & 2nd ejections will result in the suspension in the next competition. The 3rd ejection will result in the removal of athletics for the remainder of the school year. EX: if an athlete is ejected from a football & basketball game, they will miss two games. If that same athlete gets ejected from a baseball game, they will be removed from athletics for the remainder of the school year.

Equipment

A record of all school owned equipment issued to athletes will be maintained by the athletics department. It is the player's responsibility to take care of such equipment; the player will be required to pay for any lost items. Any additional protective equipment may be worn only with the approval of the Head Coach and/or Trainer.

Profanity

Profanity by athletes is not acceptable. It will not be permitted or condoned at any level and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Player Conduct

Players must show respect for all coaches, teachers, and administrators. Athletes should strive for, and be taught, acceptable and proper conduct at all school functions and in the community as representatives of their school and athletics program. If the misconduct is serious, playing time or even suspension can take place. The misconduct will be documented and the athlete counseled; additional disciplinary measures may be taken.

Bullying

Bullying will not be tolerated. If an athlete is being bullied by anyone, they are encouraged to report it immediately. This includes social media.

Stealing

Stealing will not be tolerated. If an athlete is caught stealing, they may be removed from athletics. Athletes will be given a locker and are required to lock up all personal items. The lock must be a combination lock and the combination must be given to the head coach.

Excused or Unexcused Absence from Practice or Contest

A. From Practice during the Season

Any unexcused absence from a scheduled practice may result in having to make up any missed work and/or being placed at a lower team status.

B. From a Scheduled Contest

Missing a non-district game will result in not playing in the first half of the next contest and possibly having additional make up work to complete.

C. From a District Contest

For an unexcused absence from a district contest or play-off contest, the player shall be suspended for the next game and may have additional make up work to complete.

G. An excused absence is one that is deemed allowable by the head coach of that sport. (ex: doctor appointment, funeral, illness, etc.) Prior approval must be attained from the head coach of the sport and additional make up work may be assigned and complete immediately after the athlete returns to practice.

Supervision of Participants during Game

All participants in an athletics contest will remain with the team and under the supervision of the coach or trainer until dismissed by the coach or trainer. If players are ejected from the contest or are substituted for in the contest, they will remain under the supervision of the coach until the coach dismisses them.

Off Season Program Participation

Participation in off-season is mandatory. Students must dress out and participate in all workouts. If a student leaves off-season for disciplinary reasons, it will be up to the Head Coach whether to allow that students to re-enter athletics the next school year.

Tobacco

All athletes shall not use or have possession or any form of tobacco. If they are in possession of or using tobacco, they are breaking athletics training regulations and subject to suspension and/or other disciplinary actions.

Fighting

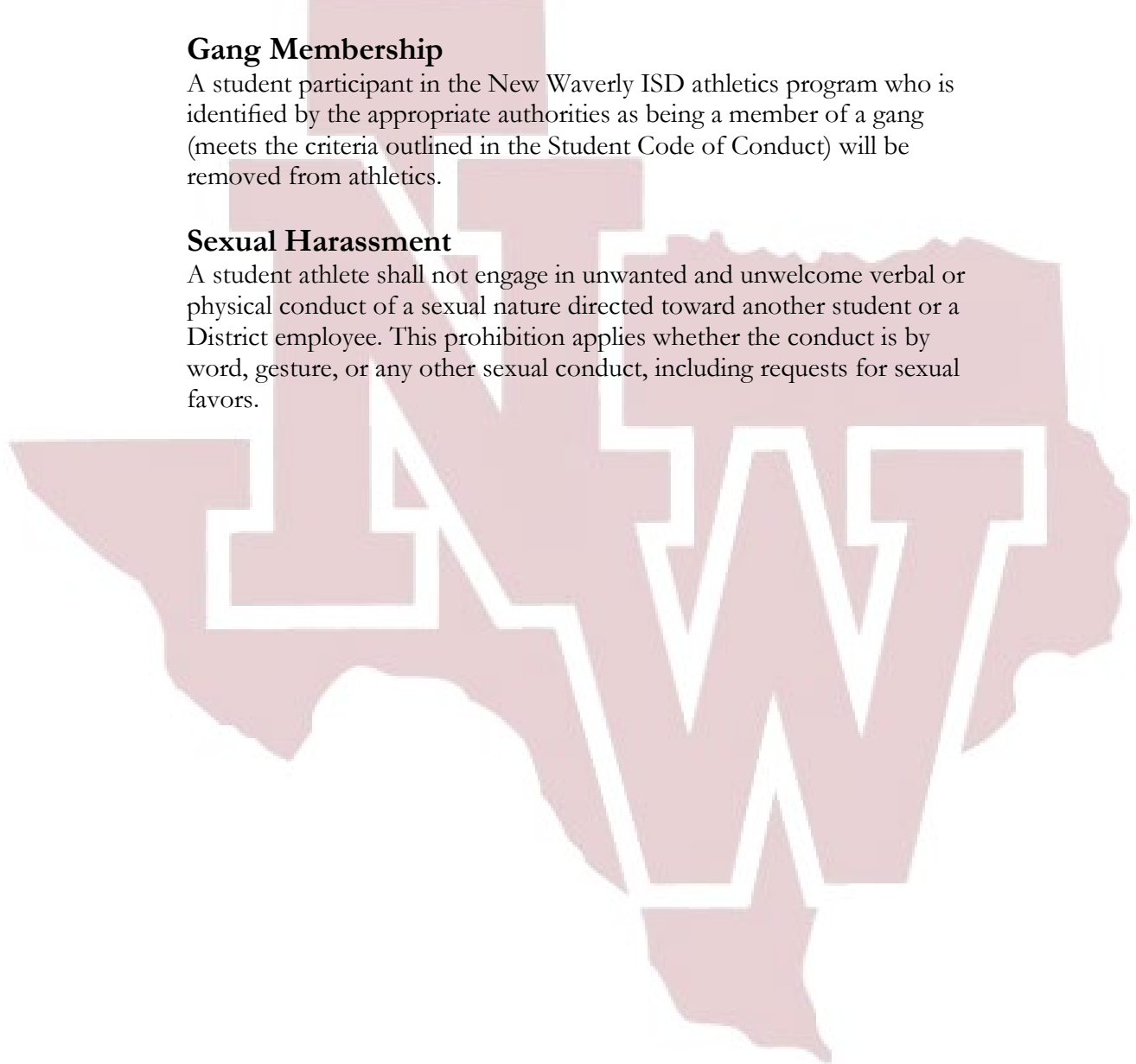
Student athletes or student participants who leave the sideline, dugout, or bench to participate in any way in a fight may be suspended for the next two athletics contests. Coaches and officials will address any disputes, fights, or confrontations at an athletics contest. Players/participants are expected to remove themselves from any involvement in such altercations while members of a NWISD athletics team. All student athletics department participants are expected to behave in this same manner whether a participant or a spectator at an athletics event

Gang Membership

A student participant in the New Waverly ISD athletics program who is identified by the appropriate authorities as being a member of a gang (meets the criteria outlined in the Student Code of Conduct) will be removed from athletics.

Sexual Harassment

A student athlete shall not engage in unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another student or a District employee. This prohibition applies whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors.



Students Representing the School

Philosophy

Students who represent a campus or the school district are expected to conform to a more rigid code of behavior than the general student population. Participation in activities which represent the school is considered a privilege and an honor, subject to regulation, not an inherent right. Failure to conform to the more rigid code of behavior dishonors the organization to which the student belongs, as well as the campus attended, the school district, and the community.

Definition

"Students who represent the school or school district" are those students who are allowed to perform in public or compete in competitive events, on a team or as an individual, utilizing the school name and purporting to be representatives of the school. Examples of such students include, but are not limited to, members of bands, choirs, athletics teams, UIL and other such performing or competitive groups. Additionally, "students who represent the school or school district" will be identified as those students holding positions of honor or influence that identify them as representatives of that school or the school district.

Misconduct during School or at School-related Events

When a student representing the school misbehaves at school or at a school-related event, the student will be disciplined in accordance with the NWISD Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, for students who represent the school, the school organization sponsor/coach or school admin may use one or more of the following consequences/strategies:

- A. Student conference (documented);
- B. Parental conference, which shall be documented, for the student, parent or guardian, coach or sponsor, and administrator;
- C. Temporary suspension from extracurricular activities for a maximum of three (3) weeks. The parents or guardians must be contacted by the sponsor or campus administrator within one school day of the students' being suspended;
- D. Other consequences as specified in the organization's, clubs, or team's written rules of conduct.

If a student is disciplined in accordance with the NWISD Student Code of Conduct, the following conditions will apply.

In-School Suspension/Suspension from school

The student athlete will not participate in extracurricular competitions during the prescribed time. Once ISS is served, they will become eligible at the end of the school day. The student will be required to be at every practice, while in ISS. **ISS consequences will be cumulative for the duration of the school year.**

If an athlete in a team sport serves ISS, the following consequences will take place:

1st offense- Miss 1 quarter

2nd offense- Miss 2 quarters

3rd offense- Miss 1 game

4th offense- removal from athletics

Individual Sports:

1st – 3rd offense- Miss next competition

4th offense- removal from athletics

Alternative Education Placement/Expulsion

The student will not participate in nor attend any extracurricular activities during the time in which the consequence is assigned. All privileges and/or awards earned during the time of assignment will be forfeited.

SERIOUS MISCONDUCT DURING SCHOOL OR AT SCHOOL-RELATED EVENTS, OR OUTSIDE SCHOOL OR SCHOOL-RELATED EVENTS

A negative reflection is cast upon the school when students who represent NWISD engage in serious misconduct:

- during school,
- at school-related events,
- outside the school day or away from school-related events, or who are charged with felony crimes (or crimes that would be considered felonies if the student were of age), misdemeanor crimes which are determined to bring dishonor or discredit to the school, or misconduct concerning the use of drugs or alcohol.

In the event that a student engages in conduct punishable as a felony, the student may be immediately suspended from the organization and or activities he/she represents for one (1) calendar year.

The determining factor when activating this policy is the negative reflection cast upon the school or school function, rather than whether or not school is in session at the time of the misconduct.

Dress and Grooming Code (NWISD SHB pg. 49)

For further clarification, please refer to The Student Handbook.

Eligibility (UIL)

A. The high school athlete must:

1. be less than nineteen (19) years of age on or before the September 1 preceding the contest;
2. not be a high school graduate;
3. have amateur status (exception: athletes 15 years of age or younger.)
See UIL regulations.

4. meet residency requirements (see UIL regulations);
5. not change school for athletics purposes (see UIL regulations);
6. meet academic eligibility rules at the beginning of the school year;
 - a. Ninth grade - have been promoted from the eighth to the ninth grade;
 - b. Tenth grade - have at least five (5) units of credit earned toward graduation;
 - c. Eleventh grade - have at least ten (10) units of credit earned toward graduation or have earned five (5) units of credit the year before;
 - d. Twelfth grade - have at least fifteen (15) units of credit earned toward graduation or have earned five (5) units of credit the year before;
7. meet academic eligibility requirements the first six weeks and subsequent nine weeks' periods. In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity event for a nine-weeks' period of a school year, a student shall not have a recorded grade average lower than 70 on a scale of 0-100 or an "F" in any course for the preceding nine weeks' period.

Academic eligibility suspension will be for a three weeks' period starting seven (7) days after the last day of the first six weeks period and subsequent nine weeks' period during which the grade lower than 70 or the "F" was earned.

- B. The junior high school athlete must:
 1. For seventh grade, not be fourteen (14) years of age on or before the September 1 before the contest.
 2. For eighth grade, not be fifteen (15) years of age on or before the September 1 before the contest.

Additionally, the middle school student must meet academic eligibility requirements for the first nine weeks' period.

1. Seventh grade - have been promoted from the sixth grade.
2. Eighth grade - have been promoted from the seventh grade.

During subsequent nine weeks' periods, in order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity event for a nine weeks' period of a school year, a student shall not have a recorded grade average lower than 70 on a scale of 0-100 or an "F" in any course for the preceding nine weeks' period.

Ten (10) Day Rule

In accordance with the provisions of the Texas Education Code, 33.0811, the number of times that a school district may allow a student to miss a class for extracurricular participation during a school year shall be determined **by the school district board of trustees**. Each school district must maintain an accurate record of extracurricular absences for

each student in the school district each year.

The UIL Legislative Council has adopted the following resolution regarding extracurricular absences for UIL activities only:

The Legislative Council of the University Interscholastic League has taken the position that the previous state law mandating a maximum of **10** absences through district competition, a maximum of **5** absences for post-district competition, and a petition to the UIL requesting a maximum of **2** additional absences for UIL state competition only, is educationally sound. **The Legislative Council strongly encourages school districts to adhere to the 10/5/2 day absence policy for participation in UIL activities.**

Attendance Eligibility and Transfers

A. High School

Students are eligible to participate in athletics if they are residents of the school district and residents of the school attendance zone in which the participant school they are attending is situated; or

1. have been continuously enrolled in and regularly attending the school for at least the previous calendar year if their parents do not reside within the school district's attendance zone; or
2. are transfer students to a school district or attendance zone not containing their residence because:
 - a. they are attending a school due to district or attendance zone lines being changed by the school board or other appropriate authority; or
 - b. they transferred during the first year they had the opportunity to do so from a high school within a school district's vocational high, a magnet school, or optional attendance zone.

B. Junior High School

Students whose parents or guardians move from one attendance zone to another may stay the remainder of that school year or transfer immediately. However, if the student transfers, he/she will have to abide by the UIL and NWISD rules governing such a move.

Transfers

A nonresident student wishing to transfer into the District shall file an application for transfer with the Superintendent.

UIL Eligibility

Students allowed to transfer shall be subject to UIL eligibility rules for participation in UIL activities. Parents should visit with school officials to be made aware of the effects of a transfer on the UIL eligibility status of the student concerned.

Recruitment

A principal, teacher, coach, or other employee of the District shall not directly or indirectly seek to influence any parent, students, or any other person involved in the exercise of the student's application for transfer, or favor or penalize any person because an application for transfer is or is not made.

Awards

Participants must meet the scholastic requirements as set forth by the UIL. The athlete must have finished the year as a member of the team and be in "good standing" with the athletics department. A player who finishes the season on suspension may not be a member of the team and is not in good standing with the athletics department.

Awards remain the property of the New Waverly Independent School District until the student graduates.

Awards will conform to UIL regulations. Participants who do not finish the season or who at the time of the awards banquet are not in good standing with the athletics department are not eligible to attend the banquet.

Travel

All students traveling on an athletics trip must return with the team. If the parents wish to have the student leave the site of an out-of-town contest with them, written permission must be requested and granted before the trip begins, except in cases of emergency. Any player not returning with the team must make arrangements for the care of his/her equipment.

Physicals/Medical History/Insurance

All athletes must have a physical examination on file with the coaches or athletics trainer before participation in any athletics practice or contest, including any athletics activity period or off-season program.

Physical examinations are required every year of an athlete's season. Parents must sign a medical history form each year to document the status of the participant. If there is a change from the previous year, another physical examination is required.

Failure to abide by the practice of having a physical examination on file prior to a student's participation may cause severe consequences for both the coach and participant.