

# Newton Schools Athletic Department

## Rules and Procedures

### 2019-2020

#### I. FOREWORD

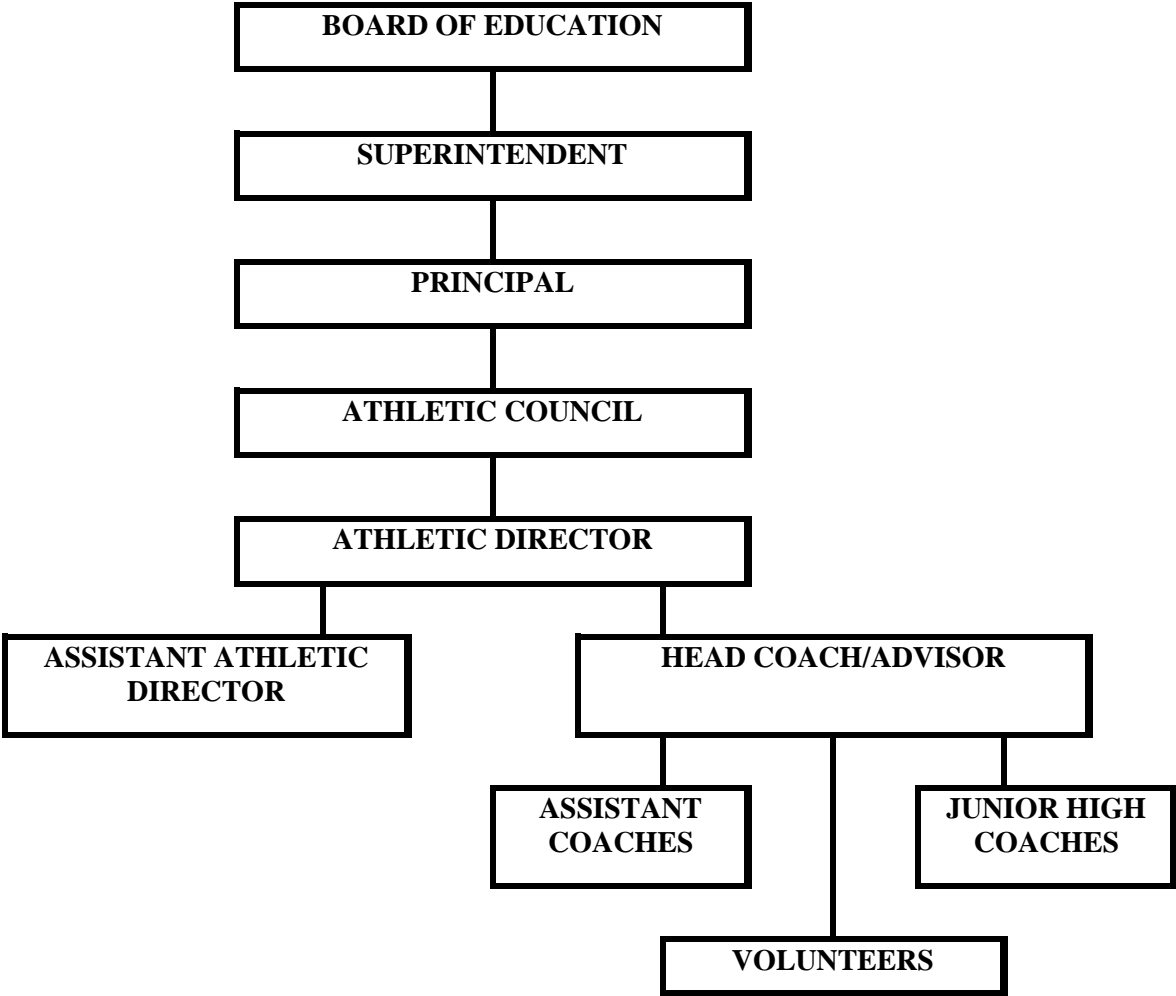
##### NEWTON SCHOOLS

##### INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The purpose of athletics is to give a student, whether he/she is gifted in athletic ability or interested in being involved in interscholastic athletics, the opportunity to participate in the best possible athletic program. To be a part of a quality program the following concerns must be addressed:

- A. The employment of the best available educators to direct and/or assist in the development of an interscholastic athletic program. This will involve:
  1. Recruitment of outstanding candidates.
  2. Development of an evaluation instrument of the coaching staff that fosters growth and will prevent stagnation.
  3. Encourage staff development by requiring regular attendance at clinics.
- B. The maintenance and improvement of facilities to make them second to none. This will involve continual study of our present facilities and a study of future needs for the school system and continual dialogue with the community concerning common problems. The Newton Schools Athletic Department must take a positive proactive posture in the community to improve athletic facilities. Finding a means to fund these projects requires cooperation from all parties.
- C. Provide a fiscally sound athletic program so that equipment, uniforms, and the needs of the program are met without periods of high income and high expenditure followed by periods of low income and no expenditure. This will require refinement of the budget process for athletics.
- D. Foster an academic posture for athletics that encourages excellence in the classroom as well as in athletics. This involves monitoring the grades of student-athletes and the establishment of assistance and counseling for those individuals who are not achieving.
- E. Promotion of all interscholastic contests and athletes in a favorable light to the community. This will include timely press releases to the media promoting the achievement of Newton student athletes.
- F. Close communication with the Newton Booster Organization to foster a more productive working relationship with the individual parents' groups for the continual improvement of Newton Athletics.

**II. NEWTON SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



### **III. CHAIN OF COMMAND**

It is recognized that from time to time there will be problems/issues that will arise. Due to the inherent nature of most problems it is important that the people closest to an issue try to solve the problem first. It is imperative for this to be accomplished that players, parents and coaches use the following chain of command to work through problems that arise.

- Step 1 – Coach of the team
- Step 2 – Varsity Coach of the sport
- Step 3 – The Athletic Director
- Step 4 – The High School Principal
- Step 5 – The Superintendent
- Step 6 – The Newton Board of Education

In addition to the above chain of command it is expected that issues brought in the Junior High will most likely first involve the parent and player talking to the coach. It is expected that athletes in the High School will first approach the coach for a one on one conference. If this meeting does not resolve the issue then a meeting with the parents, player and coach is recommended before proceeding with step 2.

### **IV. ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION**

The High School Principal shall be held responsible for all matters, which concern the interscholastic athletic program. The Athletic Director represents the Principal in matters concerning the day-to-day operations of the athletic program.

### **V. ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

#### **NAME**

The Newton Local Schools Interscholastic Athletic Program will be administered by the Athletic Council.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Athletic Council shall consist of the Superintendent of Schools, the Principal of the High School/Middle School, the Athletic Director, and three members of the Newton High School Coaching Staff, appointed yearly by the Athletic Director.

#### **OFFICERS**

High School Principal - Chairman  
Athletic Director - Secretary

## VOTING

On matters which require voting, each of the following will be entitled to one vote: the Superintendent, the High School Principal / Middle School Principal , the Athletic Director, and each appointed coach.

## MEETINGS

The Athletic Council shall meet as needed and the meeting will be called by either the HS Principal or the Athletic Director.

The agenda will be developed and distributed to all voting members of the Council.

Three members shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least one of the members present is the Superintendent.

## DUTIES

- A. The Athletic Council shall administer the lands and property used for athletic events, schedules, receipts and expenditures of funds received from the athletic activities of the high school and middle school.
- B. Aid in giving direction to the Newton Boosters Organization in order that they can best serve the athletic program.
- C. Appeal Hearings – If there is an appeal of disciplinary and/or other action the Appeal Board will be made up the High School Athletic Director, the High School Principal / Middle School Principal, and one coach from the Athletic Council.

## **VI. PHILOSOPHY**

The Newton Local School District believes that participation in athletics provides a wealth of opportunity and experience that assist students in personal growth, self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. Not everyone can be in athletics. Athletics is extracurricular. Participation in athletics can therefore require great personal sacrifice of time and energy. It also requires a desire on the part of the individual athlete to improve as an individual as well as a team. It should be understood that participation is a privilege and not a right. Participation does not constitute playing time. As a team member the athlete will learn his/her role on the team and how that role fits in the framework for the common cause of the team. Newton athletes represent the best our school and community have to offer. This responsibility cannot be taken lightly. Athletic opportunities are an excellent complement to the academic course of study and help to provide the student athlete with a well-rounded education.

## **VII. ATHLETIC MISSION**

“WORKING AS A TEAM TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE”

1. Enhance the academic mission of the school district.
  - Athletes are students first and that shall never be compromised.
  - It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of the school and student body. It is also a very important phase of good community/school relations.
  - The program should provide an opportunity of positive conference, regional and statewide exposure for the district through athletic accomplishments, which contribute to the overall success of the school.
2. Achieve the total development of the student-athlete.
  - To develop sportsmanship
    - by developing/enhancing pride.
    - by learning to accept constructive criticism.
    - by broadening and developing strength of character.
    - by developing team concepts and positive attitudes.
    - by developing leadership skills.
    - by developing basic skills unique to each sport.
    - by learning to work toward a common team goal.
  - Intellectual growth of student/athlete leading to graduation and a productive life thereafter.
  - Service to the community.
3. Ensure a high quality, comprehensive program founded on un-compromised integrity.
  - Meeting and exceeding both the letter and the spirit of the Newton Local School District, the Cross County Conference and the Ohio High School Athletic Association policies and guidelines.
  - Honesty in interactions with all persons.
  - Insistence on high moral standards, which include fairness, good character and respect for others.

## **VIII. DEFINITION OF AN ATHLETE**

A student is considered to be an athlete from the first day he/she starts to practice with any interscholastic team in school until he/she graduates from high school or fails to report for any other athletic squad while attending Newton Schools.

### **FALL**

Cheerleading  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Soccer  
Volleyball

### **WINTER**

Cheerleading  
Basketball  
Bowling

### **SPRING**

Baseball  
Softball  
Track

## **IX. EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES**

Athletes representing Newton Schools must realize their conduct reflects on themselves, their school, and their community. Therefore, all Newton School athletes shall:

- A. Have a high standard of social behavior.
- B. Display proper sportsmanship in defeat, as well as in victory.
- C. Respect authority -- parents, officials, teachers, coaches and others.
- D. Have a proper spirit of cooperation.
- E. Be dedicated to hard work and training.
- F. Display proper behavior in school, at all school and community related activities, and on social media.

### **APPEARANCE**

Athletes are expected to have a well-groomed appearance. The athlete's clothes must be clean ' His/her hair style must be appropriate for each Sport and conform to the rules set by each individual coach. It is not to interfere with the individual's performance nor present a situation which could cause a hazardous condition for the athlete or for other athletes.

## **X. PROGRAM DESIGN**

The following guidelines have been developed to assist coaches in understanding the objectives of participation in athletic activities at each grade level.

### **Middle School:**

- A. A big transition occurs for the player and the parent at this level. There is an emphasis placed on the team concept. It is expected that student athletes and their parents will make a commitment to attending all practices and games for the duration of the season.
- B. Athletes will need to develop individual skills on their own with recommendations from the coach. The individual work by an athlete away from practice fundamentally impacts how well the athlete will be able to adopt the team concepts emphasized at practice.
- C. Student athletes should be able to explore and expand interests and abilities. Coaches should maximize opportunity for student participation in practice and in games. Participation is not specifically defined as game time. Participation is the positive fulfillment of a role on the team.
- D. Winning is great, but not the only measure of success at this level of competition.
- E. Major focus on teaching and building sport specific team skills as outlined by High School Varsity Coach.

### **Reserve Teams:**

- A. A major transition occurs at this level of competition. There should be a balance between participation and winning. Whenever possible the program will allow team members the opportunity to participate in practices and contests.
- B. Emphasis will be placed on preparing student-athletes for varsity level competition.

### **Varsity Teams:**

- A. Varsity competition lends itself to an emphasis on winning. Although winning is a major point of emphasis, the program should never compromise integrity, good sportsmanship, or the welfare of the team members.
- B. Win with pride → lose with dignity.

## **XI. GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES**

- A. A student on out-of-school suspension is ineligible to participate in practice or contest during the term of the suspension. A student on in-school suspension may be declared ineligible to participate in practice or contest during the term of the suspension. This will be determined by the Principal depending on the severity of the offense.
- B. An athlete must travel to and from the contest he/she is involved in with the rest of the team, unless he/she is excused by the coach. To be excused, the athlete must submit a written notice from his/her parent and can only leave with his/her parent.
- C. An athlete is responsible for the uniform issued to him/her. If this uniform is not returned to the athletic department by the athlete, his/her athletic awards will be held. Once the uniform is returned or paid for, the athlete will receive his/her award.
- D. If an athlete participating in "Athletic Activity A" is suspended from the squad, he/she is not eligible to join the organized conditioning program or go out for "Athletic Activity B" until the other members of "Athletic Activity A" are eligible to come out.
- E. If an athlete participating in "Athletic Activity A" quits the team after the first regularly scheduled game or match, he/she is not eligible to try out, practice, or participate in any other athletic activity, including intramurals, which may be going on during that season. In addition, the athlete will not be permitted to join an organized conditioning program or go out for "Athletic Activity B" until other members of "Athletic Activity A" are eligible to come out.
- F. Parents are responsible for proper medical insurance programs. Newton Local School will assume no responsibility for athletic injuries. No athlete will be allowed to participate in practice sessions until the required O.H.S.A.A. physical card and waiver sheets are turned in to the coach or Athletic Director signed by the examining physician and parent.
- G. Any time that an athlete is seen by any physician for medical treatment of exam of an injury, a note of release to participate is required to be given to the coach prior to any resumption of activity. If a student-athlete is restricted from participation, only the restricting physician may release the athlete for activity. The administration of Newton Local School and the coaching staff are very concerned about the health and safety of the athletes. While we understand that an athlete is anxious to participate, a return to activity too soon can be detrimental to both the athlete and the team. It is expected that while on a medical restriction, the athlete will follow all physician instructions to facilitate the quickest return to activity. The athlete should make all attempts to attend all practices and contests to show a teamwork attitude.
- H. If an athlete goes out for an athletic activity but is "cut", the athlete is eligible to participate in another athletic activity during that season.
- I. A student is not permitted to participate in more than one sport during a season without the consent of both coaches involved and the Athletic Director.
- J. No athlete will be allowed to participate or be part of an athletic team if they are arrested, indicted, facing or convicted of any felony charges within the judicial system.



## **XII. NEWTON SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT**

As representatives of their school, athletes should strive to develop and maintain a high set of standards both in the classroom, in their respective sport, on social media, and in the community.

The Newton Schools have set standards, i.e., rules, which every athlete is expected to abide by. It is the responsibility of each coach to inform his/her athletes of the rules and regulations that govern their sport, including the Newton Schools Athletic Code.

Infractions of the coaches' rules, the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook, the Newton Schools Athletic Code, the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Policies, or the Ohio Revised Code shall be reported to the Athletic Director and/or the Principal.

Each case needs to be reviewed by the Athletic Director and Principal to determine the context in which the violation occurred, extenuating circumstances surrounding the violation, and whether or not the violation is subject to penalty.

Infractions that occur during scheduled OHSAA contests or scrimmages by an athlete (any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul) will be handled by following established procedures and penalties set down by the OHSAA (General Sports Regulations 13-15).

## **XIII. NEWTON SCHOOLS SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Newton Local Schools and the Athletic Department recognize and support the student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. However, each student-athlete must remember that playing and competing for Newton Local Schools is a privilege. As a student-athlete, you represent Newton Local Schools and the Pleasant Hill community. You are expected to represent yourself, your team, and the School District in a positive manner at all times. Below are the guidelines for social networking:

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information.
- Similar to comments made in person, the Newton Athletic Department will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
  - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm and or offend the school, school staff, community, teammates, coaches, opponents, etc.
  - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism, stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
  - Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation—regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The on-line social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

## **OFFENSES**

### A. Substance abuse

1. An athlete shall not possess, use, transfer, conceal, sell, attempt to sell, deliver, or be under the influence of any narcotic, hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, barbiturate, amphetamine, or any other non-prescriptive drug.
2. An athlete shall not possess, drink or be under the influence of alcohol or possess or use any form of tobacco.

In the case of alleged violation of the substance abuse rules, a hearing will be held and the student and parents will be notified of the time and place. The high school principal, the athletic director and the varsity coach of the sport will hold the hearing to determine the action to be taken. The athlete and the athlete's parents or legal guardian are invited to attend, but their presence is not necessary for the hearing to take place. After a decision has been rendered, the parents/guardians will be notified in writing of the final decision. If sufficient evidence is found to warrant a suspension, the information will be forwarded to the proper authorities. In Ohio it is illegal for persons under the age of 21 to consume alcohol except in the presence of their parents (O.R.C. 4301.69). It is also illegal for persons under the age of 18 to consume tobacco products (O.R.C. 2151.87). School authorities are bound to uphold the law of Ohio.

### B. Theft, damage, or misuse of school and private property

1. No athlete shall steal or intentionally damage any school or private property.

### C. Assault on or physical injury to students and/or adults

1. No athlete shall intentionally assault, cause, or attempt to cause physical injury to other students and/or adults.

### D. Sexual misconduct

1. No athlete shall intimidate or be a party to the intimidation of another student for the purpose or sexual interests, engage in any form of exhibitionism, or act of sexual misconduct.

### E. Violation of the Social Media Policy

1. No athlete shall violate any portion of the social media policy.

F. General misconduct

1. An athlete shall not display character or conduct deemed to reflect discredit upon the team and/or the school.
2. An athlete must follow any rules or requests set down by the coach.
3. An athlete is prohibited from exhibiting obscene and lewd gestures during a school function or event.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

These are minimum standards. Each coach may have additional training rules, provided the rules are submitted, in writing, to the Athletic Director for approval prior to the beginning of the respective sport and are distributed to the team members.

- A. The first offense during a school year (beginning August 1 for fall participants and beginning on the first official day of school for all other student athletes and ending on the last official day of school or the last scheduled athletic contest that the student participates in, whichever is the later of the two dates) will result in the athlete being denied the opportunity to participate in their present athletic activity interscholastic contests for a minimum of 20% of scheduled Ohio High School Athletic Association contests.  
(Note: Any fractional part of a contest is rounded up to the next whole number.)
- B. The second violation during the same school year will result in denial to participate with the team in their present athletic activity interscholastic contests for a minimum of 50% of scheduled Ohio High School Athletic contests.
- C. If the second offense occurs during the same competitive season as the first offense, the athlete will be removed from the team and will not be allowed to participate with the team for the remainder of that season and the forfeiture of the right to receive any awards for that season.
- D. If an athlete has a violation at the end of his/her season, the remaining consequence will be served in the athlete's next competitive season -- that is the remaining contests in the athletic activity the athlete was participating in when the infraction occurred PLUS any remaining contests of the original percentage to be served in the athlete's next competitive athletic activity season. (This could transcend over into the next school year.)
- E. The third offense during a school year would result in referral to the Newton Athletic Disciplinary Panel (A.D.P.).

This panel, composed of the High School Principal/Middle School Principal, the High School Athletic Director, and the Superintendent will review the circumstances and details of the situation. They will meet with the athlete and/or the athlete's parents and render a decision based on the best interest of all individuals involved, the team and its members, the total athletic program, and the school and community.

1. Substance abuse violators will be referred to a professional assessment agency. In addition, the school psychologist and/or guidance counselor will become part of the A.D.P.

2. Theft, damage, or misuse of school or private property at all levels will include full monetary restitution.

F. If an offense occurs at any time during a school year (See Consequence "A'.) when the student is not involved in an athletic activity (between seasons or prior to the official start of an athletic activity season), the violation will be treated the same as if the offense occurred during the season. The athlete will be denied the opportunity to participate for a minimum of 20% of scheduled Ohio High School Athletic Association contests of the first athletic activity that they participated in after the first offense occurs. Each offense thereafter will be treated just as if they occurred during the season.

**SEVERITY CLAUSE:** If an athlete's conduct is determined by the coach to be severe and/or flagrant, the coach will recommend a meeting of the Athletic Disciplinary Panel to resolve the situation and establish the consequence. The consequence does not necessarily need to follow the established stages or guidelines (Example: A student/athlete arrested for DUI, any violation in which police arrests were made).

**TWENTY-FOUR HOUR DISMISSAL:** A coach may suspend an athlete from practice for a period of time no greater than twenty-four hours for a violation of training rules or for actions or behaviors which are detrimental to the program. This action may not be appealed through the Athletic Due Process.

#### **XIV. COACHES PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING VIOLATIONS**

A coach suspecting an athlete of violating the Athletic Code will confer with the Athletic Director and the building administrator to determine what action will be taken. During the conference the coach and Athletic Director will both be present and will give the athlete an explanation of the suspicions/allegations and ask the athlete to explain his/her involvement.

The Athletic Director and coach will evaluate the evidence and render a decision. A tape recording of the proceedings will be used.

## **XV. ATHLETIC DUE PROCESS**

- A. In the case of an athlete being suspended or dismissed from an athletic squad, the head coach and Athletic Director will talk with the athlete and explain the reasons for the suspension or dismissal. The head coach and/or Athletic Director will give the athlete, the parent, guardian or custodians, the Athletic Director, and Principal, a written report of the situation to include the ...
1. Infraction of the Athletic Code.
  2. Action taken by the coach according to Athletic Code.
  3. Right to appeal to the appeal board.
- B. If the athlete or parent, guardian, or custodian is not satisfied with the explanation of the coach and/or Athletic Director, he/she has the right to appeal within seventy-two (72) hours after the coach has given the written report to the athlete. The appeal must be requested in writing and filed with the Athletic Director. The Appeal Board shall meet with the appealing student and parents/guardians no later than five (5) school days after the appeal request. The Appeal Board will be made up the High School Athletic Director, the High School Principal / Middle School Principal, and one coach from the Athletic Council. The athlete and his/her parents/guardians will be allowed to meet with the Appeal Board and present their position. If the coach and Athletic Director is the same person, another school official will be appointed to the Appeal Board by the respective building Principal. The High School Principal may appoint a replacement for any member of the Appeal Board if a conflict of interest presents itself.

The Appeal Board will give the athlete, parent, guardian or custodian, head coach and the superintendent a written report of the decision. The decision will then be presented to the athlete, parent, guardian or custodian within forty-eight (48) hours after the Appeal Board has made its decision. The decision must be made within seventy-two (72) hours after the hearing. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final. The appealing student's parent(s) should also be at the review.

- C. \*\*An athlete is under suspension during the appeal process.
- Note 1: If circumstances not listed in this handbook develop, the head coach may bring the information (written) to the Athletic Director. The coach will meet with the Athletic Disciplinary Panel and this group will determine the procedure for solving the situation.
- Note 2: Changes or additions in this handbook will be presented to the Athletic Director and then taken to the Athletic Board for approval. If approved by the Athletic Board, it will be presented to the Newton Board of Education. If approved by the Board of Education, the changes or additions will go into effect immediately.

## **XVI. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

It is expected that all student/athletes will strive to attain the highest possible level of the academic achievement. Minimum academic standards must be met in order to remain eligible for athletic participation. A student/athlete should not drop a class without first consulting with their coach or counselor to determine whether it will affect eligibility. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester average, the final examination, and yearly average have no effect on eligibility. Students may participate with a failing grade in a specific course as long as they earn a minimum G.P.A. of 1.5 each quarter.

### **A. Incomplete Grades**

Students will not be given incompletes for final quarter grades. The grade is to be recorded as it is at the end of the quarter and if/when the work is completed the teacher will do a grade change with the guidance office. If this/these grade(s) cause the student-athlete to be ineligible then he/she will remain ineligible until the work is completed and they have the grade changed through the guidance office. If the work is not made up the student-athlete will remain ineligible.

### **B. Grades 9 through 12**

1. During the preceding grading period, students must pass subjects that will earn a minimum of 5 credits or equivalent credits per year toward graduation.
2. During the preceding grading period, students may not fail more than one subject.
3. During the preceding grading period, students must have a minimum grade point average of 1.5 (C-).
4. Students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time will be eligible for the 1<sup>st</sup> grading period of 9<sup>th</sup> grade provided that they passed 75% of courses taken during the last quarter of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

### **C. Grades 7 and 8**

1. During the preceding grading period, students must pass 4 of the following 5 subject areas: Mathematics, social studies, English, science and reading.
2. During the preceding grading period, students may not fail more than one subject.
3. During the preceding grading period, students must have a minimum grade point average of 1.5 (C-).
4. During the preceding grading period students are required to pass 75% of those courses taken in which the student received a grade.
5. Students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time are automatically eligible for the first grading period.

C. Summer School- Grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received the final grading period of the regular school year.

D. A student/athlete ineligible at the beginning of a season may practice with the team upon permission from the coach. A student/athlete that becomes ineligible for a nine-week period during the season (semester), that encompasses the remainder of the schedule, is not permitted to practice with the team unless given permission by the Principal.

### **E. Awards**

An athlete that is declared ineligible for a nine-week period during the season that encompasses the remainder of the schedule and is more than 25% of the regular scheduled games, forfeits all awards that may have been earned that season.

## **XVII. ATTENDANCE**

All athletes are strongly encouraged to be prompt in their daily attendance. However, when unavoidable circumstances are present, the following guidelines shall be used. Students who miss classes without authorization on date of a contest may not represent their school on that day or any day until a full day of school has been attended, unless special permission is granted by the Principal. Participants must be in school for at least 1/2 day (4 periods) of the school day on the day of the activity unless the student has special permission from the Principal to practice or play that day. If the student is out of school all day or in the afternoon (for more than 1 period) due to "illness", he/she will not be permitted to participate in the contest or practice.

Coaches are responsible for checking the absence list for the purpose of determining who may or may not be eligible to participate that evening.