



*Preparing Our Students Today
for Tomorrow's Opportunities*

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Northwestern Local Schools
Athletic Participation Handbook
Board of Education Approved

Welcome to the athletic program of the Northwestern Local Schools. Northwestern has enjoyed a long and proud tradition of athletic excellence, sporting a great number of OHSAA Tournament & Wayne County Athletic League Championships. In order to ensure that the Northwestern community has a quality athletic program on and off the playing fields of which it can be proud, the District and Athletic Department have developed guidelines to help maintain the high standards of excellence expected from Northwestern student-athletes. It is our hope that this handbook will help provide student-athletes, parent/guardian(s) and coaches with the information necessary to excel within the athletic program.

We wish each and every one of our student-athletes, parents and coaches the best of success as they compete this year. GO HUSKIES!

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NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome & Introduction	2	Recognition Night	18
Mission & Philosophy	4	Social Media Policy	18
Principles and Objectives	4	Suspension Policies	19
Levels of comp & WCAL	5	Travel Guidelines	19
Northwestern Sports	6	Vacation Policy	19
Sportsmanship	7	Conduct Code	20
Communication Plan	8	Due Process	21
Conduct and Responsibility	10	Drug Testing	22
Requirements for Athletic Participation	12	Alcohol/Drugs	22
Risk of Participation	12	Tobacco Policy	23
Absence from School	13	Eligibility Guidelines	24
College Recruitment	13	Age Limitation	24
Conflicts in Activities	13	Conduct/Character	24
Cutting Procedures	14	Enrollment & Attendance	25
Dress Code	14	Residence	25
Electronic Devices	15	Scholarship	27
Equipment and/or uniforms	15	Foreign Exchange	27
Hazing	15	Transfers	27
Inclement Weather Policy	16	Athletic Award Information	28
Missing Practice	16	Athletic Council	28
Multi-Sport Participation	16	All Sports Association	29
Open Gym Regulations	17	School Addresses	31
Pregnancy Policy	17	Frequently Asked Questions	31
Practice Times	17		
Quitting and/or changing sports	17		

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Northwestern Athletic Department

MISSION

The Athletic Department of Northwestern Local Schools will provide a wide variety of athletic opportunities that will aid in the academic and overall development of our students. We are dedicated to conducting all activities with honesty and integrity in accordance with the principles of good sportsmanship and ethical conduct.

PHILOSOPHY

As a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Wayne County Athletic Conference, the Northwestern Local School District is dedicated to excellence in both academics and athletics and believes that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the overall development of each student. Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of this district's total educational program. In addition to intellectual development it is important to provide opportunities outside of the typical classroom setting. An athletic program teaches the participants the value of cooperation and the need for teamwork, as well as the spirit of competition, which is so important in our society. Learning to properly handle victory and defeat, as well as, complying with the rules of the game, are all characteristics of a mature, responsible citizen. A quality athletic experience will go a long way to help our students learn the values needed to become a successful member of society. The staff will promote dedication, hard work, sportsmanship, integrity, and discipline to help instill a sense of pride and tradition in Husky athletics, the Northwestern community, school and to enable each student to work toward his/her ultimate potential.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. We may not always win, but we will be successful as we continually strive to do so. We will have a desire to excel in all endeavors and we will accept defeat with grace knowing that we have striven to win with the utmost dedication.
2. We must treat others as we would have others treat us including the admirable traits of self-control, honesty, teamwork, integrity and dependability.
3. Continual improvement is essential to becoming a good citizen. We will establish goals and strive to reach them and in doing so, we will better ourselves in the skills and characteristics set forth.
4. It is necessary for us to acknowledge the personal rewards we obtain from athletics and we will give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the outstanding program we are all part of.
5. We will remember that above all, sports are a game. As such, while we play these games we will always strive to have fun!
6. We will maintain open lines of communication for all parts of the athletic program, school and community.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

7. We have high standards of sportsmanship and integrity for our coaches, athletes, spectators, school and community.
8. We will provide proper health and medical supervision, proper uniforms and equipment, and athletic facilities which meet all safety standards for all parts of the athletic program.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM POINTS OF EMPHASIS/LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Middle School

Emphasis at the MS level is individual participation as well as team success. Every attempt will be made to encourage student participation in athletics, including the creation of 'A' & 'B' squads in certain sports. Equally important to individual improvement are the social aspects of team participation. Attempts will be made to play as many students as possible in each game while also ensuring success for the entire team.

Freshman

Emphasis at the freshman level is on participation, skill development and team success. If a sports program supports a freshman squad, efforts will be made not to cut players at this level as the future ability of these athletes is uncertain. Attempts will be made to play as many students as possible during each contest while striving for victory for the entire team.

Junior Varsity

Emphasis at this level of competition begins to focus on skill refinement and winning as a team. Cutting may occur at this level in certain sports. Also, it is possible that not every player will play in every game.

Varsity

The perfection of skill, playing the best athletes possible and winning is the emphasis at this level. While winning at all costs will never be a part of our philosophy, no apology should be necessary if the varsity team does all it can within the bounds of ethics, integrity and sportsmanship to win each contest. In certain sports, cutting may be used and it is extremely likely that not every player will play in every contest.

WAYNE COUNTY ATHLETIC LEAGUE (WCAL)

Northwestern is a member of the Wayne County Athletic Conference. Members of the WCAL are Chippewa, Dalton, Green (Smithville), Hillsdale Northwestern, Norwayne, Rittman and Southeast (Waynedale). League policies will govern Northwestern athletics where they are applicable, athletics will be governed by the Northwestern Board of Education.

Ticket Prices

Ticket prices for all athletic events are established by the Wayne County Athletic Conference. Current ticket prices are as follows:

1. Varsity Events - \$6.00 – adults, \$4.00 students
 - a. Multi event passes are available through the athletic department.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: AHLETIC HANDBOOK

NORTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

Northwestern Middle School participates in the following interscholastic athletics within the governing rules, procedures and guidelines of the OHSAA & WCAL:

- Football (7th & 8th)
- Cross Country (7th & 8th)
- Wrestling (7th & 8th)
- Volleyball (7th & 8th)
- Track (boys & girls, 7th & 8th)
- Basketball (boys & girls, 7th & 8th)
- Cheerleading (football & basketball, 7th & 8th)

NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

Northwestern High School participates in interscholastic athletics within the governing rules, procedures and guidelines of the OHSAA &/or WCAL

- Baseball
- Football
- Wrestling
- Volleyball
- Fast Pitch Softball
- Gymnastics
- Golf (boys & girls)
- Soccer (boys & girls)
- Basketball (boys & girls)
- Track & Field (boys & girls)
- Cross Country (boys & girls)
- Cheerleading (football & basketball)
- Indoor Track & Field (NLS Board recognized club sport)

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is behavior characterized by generosity, a genuine concern for others, following accepted rules & regulations and acting with respect and integrity at all times. The ideals of sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity permeate our culture as these values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all disciplines. Northwestern views good sportsmanship as a concrete measure of this understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.

Spectators are to demonstrate positive enthusiasm without causing harm, danger or embarrassment to the team, school, or others in attendance by showing respect towards all players, coaches, officials, and fans as well as showing pride & respect for their school. Students are reminded that the majority of school rules are still in effect at after-school events & that disciplinary action may be taken for actions at athletic events. All spectators are reminded that failure to follow guidelines, or failure to comply with the directions of game or school officials, will be cause for ejection from the contest without refund.

Acceptable Behavior

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Cheerleaders leading fans in positive school cheers
- Handshakes between players & coaches at contest end.
- Treating competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches/players searching out opposing participants to recognize outstanding performances.
- Showing concern for injured players.
- Encouraging others to display sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Use of artificial noisemakers at indoor events.
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
- Cheering at and/or against the opposing team and/or players (support our team/players instead).
- Doing own yells/cheers, instead of following lead of cheerleaders.
- Criticizing officials in an abusive and/or degrading way or showing displays of anger with a call.
- Blaming losses on officials, coaches or individual players.
- Unfavorable language or gestures directed to officials, opponent players, coaches and/or fans.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Refusing to shake hands or recognize good performance

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The Northwestern Athletic Department is committed to making all students' participation in athletics a meaningful experience. Part of this commitment is to continually improve communication with students, parent/guardians and fans. To be truly successful, communication must be clear, concise and timely. The Athletic Department will utilize a number of sources of communication to accomplish this goal, including, but not limited to, this handbook, the District & athletic websites, local media outlets, social media, and the school announcement systems.

Chain of Command

Northwestern Schools follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe it if you elect to pursue any concerns you may have regarding the athletic program.

- 1) Appropriate Level Coach
- 2) Head Coach
- 3) Athletic Director
- 4) Building Principal
- 5) Superintendent
- 6) Board of Education

Communication students and parent/guardians can expect from their coach:

- 1) Philosophy of the coach.
- 2) Expectations the coach has for the squad and the individual student.
- 3) When and where practice and contests are to be held.
- 4) Requirements necessary to be a part of the team.
- 5) Team rules in addition to the code of conduct.
- 6) Notification of injury sustained by the student.
- 7) Any disciplinary action toward the student that results in denial of participation.

Communication coaches should expect from students and parent/guardians:

- 1) Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach first.
- 2) Written notification of potential schedule conflicts well in advance.
- 3) Specific concerns that are directly related to the program.
- 4) Support toward the program's goals & directions.

To discuss a concern/issue, the following procedure is to be followed:

- 1) Contact the Coach to make an appointment to discuss the situation. If the concern/issue has validity, the AD expects that the item first be discussed directly with the coach.
- 2) If for some reason the Coach cannot be reached, feel free to contact the AD who will set up an appointment for you.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

- 3) Do not attempt to confront a Coach before, during, or after a contest. This is an emotional time for all parties and generally does not allow for objective analysis or correction of an issue.
- 4) Under no circumstances, except in those instances of rule/policy infringement, will a conference with a Coach have an adverse consequence on the standing of the athlete.

Appropriate concerns to for parent/guardians to discuss with coaches:

- 1) The mental and/or physical treatment of your student, including bullying.
- 2) Areas of needed skill improvement and development opportunities for your student.
- 3) Concerns about your child's behavior, attitude, and/or classroom performance.

Issues not appropriate for parent/guardians to discuss with coaches:

- 1) Playing time: athletes are encouraged to discuss playing time with the Coach.
- 2) Team strategy, game-plans and/or play calling.
- 3) Comparisons of one student to another.
- 4) Other students and/or athletes, academics, discipline, injury, etc;

What if you hold a meeting with your Head Coach & you are not satisfied?

- 1) Contact the AD at 419-846-3833 or email nrws_hafner@tccsa.net to set up a meeting to discuss the issue.
- 2) The appropriate and necessary steps will then be determined.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITIES

Conduct of a Student-Athlete

A student-athlete's conduct is closely observed in many different arenas. Student-athletes must understand that he/she is a role model to fellow classmates and also younger students.

In the area of athletic competition, the use of profanity and unsportsmanlike or illegal tactics should never be used. Athletes understand that losing is part of the game and are expected to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game regardless of result.

Student-athletes will show respect to opponents, coaches, fans and game officials at all times.

A student-athlete is expected to reach his/her ultimate potential in the academic arena as well. Athletes must plan their schedules so that sufficient time and energy is given to classroom performances. In addition to maintaining good academic standing, athletes will give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and the school's faculty and staff. Be the person others want to follow.

Responsibilities of a Sport Parent

In order to enjoy your child's participation to the fullest, and make it fun and valuable for him/her, please understand the responsibilities you take on as a parent of an athlete.

- Encourage your child to play sports, but don't pressure. Let your child choose what and when to play.
- Understand what your child wants from sports and provide support to achieve those goals.
- Set limits on your child's participation. Don't let sports become your child's life - sports should be a part of life.
- Help your child keep winning and losing in perspective.
- Help your child set challenging, yet realistic performance goals.
- Help your child understand the lessons sports can teach.
- Help your child meet team & school responsibilities.
- Make certain your child follows the rules, regulations and guidelines of the Student Code of Conduct, the OHSAA, individual team rules & regulations and this Athletic Participation Handbook.
- Allow the coaches do the coaching and recognize that your opinions will have a large influence on your child's opinions. Respect the decisions made by coaches and officials, even when you disagree with them. Be a role model to your student by positively supporting the team at all times,
- Provide the coach with information on special health conditions your child may have. Make sure your child brings any necessary medications to all practices and/or contests.
- Help your student be responsible by ensuring that he/she is at all practices and contests on time, with the proper equipment and supplies.
- Be sure your child receives proper rest & nourishment.
- Realize that purchasing a ticket grants you a privilege to observe a contest and support a district team. This ticket does not provide you a right to verbally assault players, coaches, officials, or other fans. This, and other generally obnoxious behavior subjects you to ejection from the event. Additionally, administration reserves the right to remove and/or ban any parent/guardian or fan from school activities and/or grounds due to disorderly conduct.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: AHLETIC HANDBOOK

Expectations of Coaches

- It is the expectation of the Northwestern Board of Education that athletic practices be placed in perspective with other commitments of the individual athlete and their families. In accordance with Board Policy KG-R, the use of school facilities and/or practices on Sunday are not permitted without prior Administrative approval.
- Always set a good example for participants and fans, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship and demand they make sportsmanship a priority.
- Be constantly aware that instruction takes place through modeling, as well as, structured teaching.
- Desire to be a positive influence on players, fans, colleagues and others. Desire to win, but remember that this desire never overrides the health, safety, welfare, or the worth and dignity of the individual athlete.
- Complete all required educational and training programs mandated by the OHSAA, Ohio Department of Education and the Northwestern Local Schools Board of Education.
- Be aware of various audiences: players, assistant coaches, teachers, administrators, board of education, parents, fans and others. Strive for consensus in program objectives and work to maintain the trust and confidence of those directly involved in the program.
- Promote all district athletic programs. Use local media and the district websites as a positive vehicle for program promotion.
- Discover the strengths, interests and aspirations of those involved in your program. Make assignments based on this knowledge in order to provide on-going growth and development opportunities for assistants and participants.
- Be sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of players, assistants and support personnel. Communicate a willingness to listen and be helpful, open and friendly.
- Work with adults involved to find a suitable solution for inevitable student schedule conflicts without placing the student at the center of the conflict.
- Be prepared to respond to even the most highly pitched emotional situations in the appropriate manner. Over-reaction and impulsivity must be the exception - not the norm.
- Communicate an open and friendly willingness to listen.
- Be highly organized and prepared for all situations. Coaches shall also be flexible and aware for the need of revision to any and all plans.
- Be committed to their craft and to further their professional knowledge through attendance of clinics and training programs to further develop their leadership abilities.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

As outlined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and this handbook, students are prohibited from participation in any mandatory practice, scrimmage, and/or game until all of the following items have been completed and turned in:

1. OHSAA Physical Examination Form: must be cleared annually by a physician.
2. Emergency Medical Authorization Form: provides permission to treat your student in the case of an emergency situation.
3. Insurance Release Form: insurance must be carried on all students participating in athletics.
4. Concussion Information Form: provides important information on concussions and the importance of following proper protocol regarding them.
5. Athlete Code of Conduct Contract Agreement: means the student and parent/guardians has read and understands all materials included in the athletic handbook.
6. Satisfaction of OHSAA & Northwestern Eligibility Requirements

NOTICE OF RISK PARTICIPATION

Students and parent/guardians must realize and understand the very real possibility of serious injury, *or even death*, as a normal hazard of athletic participation. Northwestern will use the following safeguards in an effort to eliminate injury to students, but cannot in any way imply a guarantee of a student's total safety once they choose to participate in athletics:

All coaches will adhere to all OHSAA rules, regulations, and guidelines, as well as obtain proper coaching certifications, including training in sports-related first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Coaches and/or the athletic trainer (if applicable) will provide information on proper conditioning, nutrition, and injury prevention and rehabilitation to students.

GENERAL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The following policies apply to all interscholastic student/athletes enrolled in Northwestern Local Schools. These and all training rules, policies and procedures are in effect 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week as defined by the Northwestern Board of Education. Questions regarding interpretation of these rules, policies and procedures should be brought to the Athletic Director for clarification.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: AHLETIC HANDBOOK

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

To be eligible for participation in practices/contests, student-athletes must be in school the last half of the day. Failure to do so will result in denial of participation from practices, scrimmages and/or games. Regular excused absences (field trips, doctor's appointments, funerals, etc.) do not prohibit a student from participating in athletics on a given day.

Note: Individual situations are subject to change by the Head Coach in that sport: upon approval by the Administration.

COLLEGE RECRUITMENT

In the event a student-athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the Athletic Director. Failure to inform your coach of such a contact could damage future collegiate eligibility. College recruitment information is available in the high school Athletic Office and on-line at www.ncaa.org.

CONFLICTS IN ACTIVITIES/OPEN GYM POLICY

The Athletic Department encourages each student to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities. However, an individual who attempts to participate in too many extra-curricular will find themselves in a schedule conflict. Athletes must realize that they have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid such conflicts. This includes being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to occur. Student-Athletes participating in a club sport have a responsibility to their school team and fellow teammates first in regard to practices and/or contests.

In addition, an "in-season" athlete may not participate in "off-season" team workouts, open gyms, shoot-outs, etc. of another school-sponsored team. The exception to this policy is if an athlete is not listed on a team's tournament roster and is then released from the team by the Head Coach.

This policy does permit in-season athletes to attend open gym settings and work on individual skill development such as shooting, pitching and other like activities. In the spirit of this policy, Head Coaches will abide by the following guidelines:

- 1) the coaches of the athlete in question will meet to discuss what, if any, individual skill development activities the athlete will engage in with the in-season coach having preference in the process;
- 2) coaches will make every attempt to schedule off-season activities at times that will not interfere with in-season sports/athletes.

The following guidelines according to Board of Education policy IGD and IGD-R (adopted June 12, 1995) provide direction to teachers, coaches, directors, student-athletes, parents and administration so that conflicts may be resolved in a positive, productive manner that does not result in the student-athlete being placed in a difficult position.

Guidelines:

- All performance activities, competitions, trips, conventions, etc., must be placed on the building calendar at the time they are scheduled.
- Curricular activities (educational field trips) will take precedence over athletic contests or practices. Every effort should be made to avoid these conflicts.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

- “ Coaches, advisors and directors must check the building calendar to minimize the probability of conflicts developing.
- “ Any formal performance activity takes precedent over a practice.
If a conflict exists, coaches, advisors and directors will resolve the conflict by utilizing an equal sharing of the student’s time. This can be accomplished by the sharing of time on a given day or alternating days of attendance at the given activities.
- “ Preference will be given to activities which are counted as part of the grade for the extracurricular activity (e.g., band concert).
- “ Preference will be given to the activity where the student is actively involved as a participant versus one where they are a spectator.
- “ At no time will there be any negative consequences for a student who finds him/herself in an activity conflict as long as the student follows the directions provided by the advising authority.
- “ A spirit of cooperation and communication will be maintained among all parties to ensure the positive experience for the student.
- “ These guidelines are only in effect when an activity conflict exists. At all other times the policies of the specific groups will be in effect.
- “ If resolution is not immediately attainable by these guidelines, advisors, coaches and directors will communicate with the parent(s)/ guardian(s) to further attempt to reach an agreeable solution.
- “ Athletic-related conflicts that have not been resolved will be directed to the Athletic Director for a decision.
- “ If after all previous actions a conflict still exists, the predicament will be forwarded to the building principal for a final decision.

CUTTING PROCEDURES/TEAM MEMBERSHIP

While the Athletic Department wishes to involve as many students as possible in athletics, there are times when students may be eliminated from a team for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to:

- a. Talent, attitude and work ethic of those trying out
- b. Number of individuals trying out
- c. Optimum number to conduct productive practices and ensure adequate substitutes
- d. Academic eligibility of those individuals trying out
- e. Specific sport-related skills and abilities

In a situation where it becomes necessary to eliminate students from participation on a team, the following are the minimum guidelines coaches will follow when cutting students-athletes:

- “ Prior to the first day of tryouts, the coach will provide a written criterion that student-athletes will be judged on. The list will be as specific as possible (e.g. “student-athlete must have a vertical jump of at least 16 inches” or “be able to make lay-ups with either hand”).
- “ Tryouts must last at least three (3) full practice sessions. Student-athletes will be informed of the length of that tryout period in advance.
- “ ‘Cut lists’ will not be used. The athlete is to be told in an individual meeting with the coach, the reasons why he/she was eliminated. If large numbers are involved, a group meeting may be necessary, but is to be coordinated and approved in advance by the AD.
- “ Provided the previous guidelines are followed, the coach’s decision is final in regard to all cuts. If a student is fortunate enough to be selected as a member of a Northwestern sports team, this does not indicate that he/she has a right to be on the team. It is a privilege to be an athlete and participate in the athletic programs at Northwestern. Those individuals selected as members on a team shall be considered members of that team through the completion of that regular sport season, unless they are removed for disciplinary reasons, scholastic ineligibility or mutual agreement between player and coach. Coaches have the responsibility for the selection of specific squad members for tournament competition and at that time may release

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

those members of the squad not involved in the tournament series, if they (the coaches) so desire.

DRESS CODE

Students participating in athletic workouts, summer leagues, practices, scrimmages, contests, etc., are expected to follow the basic principles of the District's Student Dress Code at all times, including that students shall not dress or appear in a fashion deemed inappropriate. Students may not dress in a fashion that either interferes with the student's health & welfare or that of other students, or causes disruption or directly interferes with the educational process of which athletics is a part. Any form of dress or grooming that attracts undue attention or violates the previous statement is unacceptable.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Student use of cell phones, mp3 players, etc. during athletic participation will be at the discretion of the individual Head Coach or OHSAA regulation. However, all electronic devices with audio/video recording capabilities are strictly prohibited from any restroom or locker facility. The District assumes no liability for lost, stolen or damaged devices.

EQUIPMENT and/or UNIFORMS

Any athlete issued uniforms/equipment shall be held responsible for their care. Failure to turn in assigned equipment will result in a charge for the items lost. Payment shall be based on the cost of replacing the equipment. An athlete who owes for the lost equipment will not receive his/her awards and will not be permitted to participate in another sport until all obligations are met. Seniors who owe for athletic equipment will not be allowed to go through graduation ceremonies unless their obligations are met.

HAZING

It is the position of the Northwestern Board of Education (Board Policy\ JFCJ, adopted May 9, 1994) that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times.

No administrator, faculty member or other employee of the school district shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage or engage in any hazing. Hazing will result in suspension and/or expulsion from school and denial of athletic participation.

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other like organization that uses or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any persons. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained herein.

Administrators, faculty members and all other employees of the district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, involved students shall be informed by the discovering school employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and shall be required to end all hazing activities immediately. All incidents of hazing shall be immediately reported to the Superintendent of Schools. Administrators, faculty members, students and all other employees who fail to abide by

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in compliance with Ohio law (ORC 2307.44,2903.31).

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The Northwestern Local School's policy in regard to contests and practices conducted on days when school has been canceled is delineated below. First and foremost, Northwestern is concerned about the safety of its students, employees and community members. Factors that contribute to the cancellation of classes are varied and require evaluation of circumstances that may change significantly between 6:00am and 2:00pm.

When school is closed due to factors other than inclement weather, such as maintenance breakdowns or other extraordinary events, all contests and practices may be conducted as usual, provided that consideration is made for participant safety. When school is closed due to weather-related conditions like snow or ice, the following policy will be employed:

- No practices at the Middle School level (7th and 8th grade) will be held.
- High School activities may be conducted provided no punitive measures are taken against students whose parent/guardian(s) prohibit him/her from attending.
- No athletic activity of any kind will take place prior to 2:00pm.
- A travel advisory of "Level 2" or worse will result in the automatic postponement and/or cancellation of practice or contests.
- Head Coaches must obtain permission to conduct practice activities from the Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Superintendent based on projected travel conditions during the activity time.
- Decisions in regard to contests will be made as late in the day as possible in consultation with the opponent school's administration.

MISSING PRACTICE

Athletes must attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach of the team. They also must always consult his/her Head Coach directly before missing practice for any reason. *NEVER* rely on a teammate to deliver this message for you! Specific penalties for violations will be determined by the coach as a part of the team's individual policies.

MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION

Student-athletes may be permitted to participate in multiple sports during the same season, in certain situations, as determined by the AD and Head Coaches involved.

OUT OF SEASON CONDITIONING/LIFTING/OPEN GYM REGULATIONS

All students are encouraged to participate in non-mandatory out of season conditioning/lifting/open gyms to improve their skills and abilities. When an athlete is participating on a sports team that is currently in-season they have made a commitment to that team for the entire season. Students that are on a team that is in-season are

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

prohibited from participating in "off-season" *team* workouts, open gyms, shootouts, etc. of another school-sponsored team. This policy does not prohibit students from taking part in *individual skill development* (i.e. hitting, pitching, shooting, etc.) at open gym opportunities. In the spirit of this policy, Head Coaches involved will meet to determine what, if any, activities the student in question can participate in, with the in-season coach having preference. Coaches will make every attempt to schedule "off season" activities at times that will not interfere with in-season sports and/or athletes. All student-athletes are encouraged to lift year round when capable but are highly encouraged to refrain from lifting on a game day when participating in an in-season sport.

PREGNANCY POLICY

A pregnant student may participate in an athletic program only if a physician certifies in writing that the student is physically able to participate in specific events or activities. This statement shall serve as medical clearance and assumption of responsibility and liability for the pregnant student's participation. A pregnant student may not participate in any manner until such a physician's statement is provided to the AD.

PRACTICE TIMES

Head Coaches will provide a copy of the team's practice schedule to each player and the AD. Please note that schedules may change on a daily occurrence and without prior notice. Coaches will remind team members of the next day's schedule at each practice session or following each contest. No mandatory team practice may begin prior to 6:00am or conclude after 10:00pm without prior authorization from the AD.

QUITTING/CHANGING SPORTS

In rare occasions, an athlete may find it necessary to quit a sport. In these instances, the following procedure must be followed:

- a. Talk with your immediate position/level coach & Head Coach
- b. Meet with the AD to discuss your situation
- c. Return all issued equipment directly to the Head Coach (Equipment will not be collected in the Athletic or Main Office)

From the time a student's name appears on the official eligibility list for a sport, he or she may not join another team or compete in another sport until after the conclusion of the first sport season. However, mid-season change of teams may be permitted under the following specific conditions:

Agreement by the AD, with input of both coaches involved, that a mid-season change of sports would be beneficial to the player without being unfair to the players of either team.

Without AD approval, the athlete will not be eligible to participate in any practices or conditioning until the last contest in the sport in which he/she has quit.

RECOGNITION NIGHT

All teams are required to have a post-season awards recognition night. Each Head Coach is responsible for coordinating with the AD to schedule the awards ceremony for their individual sport. Individual athlete attendance is required in order to obtain any athletic award(s) earned during the season of participation (i.e. varsity letter, numerals, sport pin,

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

certificates, trophies, etc.). Any student failing to attend their sports Recognition Night without prior written excuse by a parent/guardian that has been approved by the AD will forfeit the right to receive their award(s).

SOCIAL MEDIA, ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION and INTERNET POLICY

While social networking can be an important aspect of one's life, chat rooms, bulletin boards, blogs, texting, and items such as Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat and others can pose a serious danger to personal health, safety, and welfare. Certain actions within these sites can also lead to serious issues at school and within athletic programs. As participation in athletics is a privilege, students and parent/guardian(s) must accept personal responsibility for any images, postings, or information appearing on the Internet.

When using electronic communication, visiting or appearing on any Internet sites, those involved in the Northwestern Athletic program are expected to maintain high standards of conduct and acceptable behavior. These acceptable standards are based upon the policies and regulations described in the Northwestern Local Schools Student Handbook, this Athletic Participation Handbook and individual team rules, regulations and expectations.

Any electronic posting or communication that disrupts either the educational or athletic environment, which advocates the violation of any school or team policy, or attacks students, teams, coaches, or officials is unacceptable. These would include, but not limited to: the consumption of alcohol and/or the use of illicit drugs; inappropriate sexually-oriented material; activities involving bullying, hazing or intimidation; speaking ill of teammates or opponents, officials, or coaches. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the athletic program.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

SUSPENSION POLICIES

A student who is serving an out of school suspension is ineligible for any athletic participation (practice or contest) on the days of the suspension. A student who has completed his/her suspension responsibilities, is eligible to participate in contests after he/she has completed one full regularly scheduled practice. He/she may participate in the next regularly scheduled practice the day after he/she has completed the last day of his/her suspension.

In the case of an in school suspension, it will be up to the Head Coach and his/her individual team rules to determine the consequences for the student serving the suspension.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

When traveling to and from contests, student-athletes are to follow the guidelines set forth by their coach, along with all regular school bus rules. Head Coaches will set their individual team's policy in regard to athlete travel home from contests.

If circumstances warrant transportation by a parent/guardian, written notice should be provided to the Coach at least one day in advance of the event and only the parent/guardian will be permitted to sign the child out following the contest, on the approved form. The coach may give a student/athlete permission to ride with a parent from an athletic event. Athletes will only be released to the student's parents and will not be released to any other party.

Busses will arrive 15 minutes early for loading, with teams ready to load at the scheduled time. At no time may athletic busses pick up or drop off students at their homes or other such locations. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of a coach at all times when attending away contests.

When traveling, conduct and dress must be appropriate and within the guidelines of the school's dress code, Board policy and this Handbook. Coaches may also choose to mandate team dress on game days and/or when traveling to and from contests.

VACATION POLICY

Students are highly discouraged from partaking in vacations during the sports season. Those wishing to take vacations during their season of participation may wish to reassess their commitment to the team. In the event of an unavoidable vacation conflict, a student must notify their Head Coach well in advance of the vacation and be prepared to assume the consequences of their actions. Missing any portion of the season will have an adverse effect on their team status, *including playing time and award status*. No student choosing to take a vacation during the season should expect to return to the team without having to earn his or her position back.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CONDUCT CODE

REQUIRED FORMS

Student-athletes are prohibited from mandatory practices, scrimmages and/or games until the following items have been completed:

- Medical Insurance Responsibility Form
- Emergency Medical Authorization Form
- Physical Examination Form
- OHSAA Eligibility Bulletin Form
- Parent's & Student-Athlete's pledge Form
- Concussion Form
- Random Drug Testing Form
- Lindsey's Law/Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form

Above forms (found in the Athletic Participation Packet) must be returned to the Head Coach prior to the first day of practice.

- Satisfaction of Eligibility Requirements (see page 23)
- Team Training Rules Form (as provided by Head Coach)

RISK OF PARTICIPATION

Team coaching staffs may supplement Athletic Department rules with their own team rules, regulations and guidelines. Please refer to information received from the Head Coach. Team training rules apply during the season of participation and any event where the student represents the school (summer camp, all-star games, etc.) as a member of the squad. Each head coach will provide, in writing, a copy of these policies to each student-athlete and parent/guardian. A copy of these policies will be on file in the Athletic Office as well. A team's rules, regulations and guidelines may not contradict any rule, regulation, policy and/or penalty proscribed by the Northwestern Local Schools Athletic Participation Handbook.

The following regulations will be in effect from the time the athlete and support personnel, including managers and statisticians, begin active participation in any interscholastic program in the Northwestern Local Schools. These regulations will be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from August 1st through July 31st, which includes the entire school year and summer. These regulations are also in effect at both school and non-school activities. In the event an athlete fails to comply with these standards, it will be interpreted by the Athletic Director as an indication that the student-athlete does not have sufficient desire to participate in the athletic program. Therefore, the athlete will be denied the privilege of participating until such time as he or she can prove his/her desire. The precise denial of participation period will depend on the violation, attitude and disciplinary history of the student-athlete. Repeated and/or flagrant violations may result in total denial of participation from the interscholastic Athletic Department & Board of Education Policies

It is important to remember that if a student is fortunate enough to become a member of a Northwestern sports team, this does not indicate a right to participate on a team. It is a *privilege* to be an athlete and the privilege of participation is dependent upon a student successfully upholding the rules, regulations, expectations and guidelines contained within the Athletic Participation Handbook (APH) as well as those contained within the individual team rules, regulations, expectations and guidelines.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

CONDUCT

Any violation of athletic policy is subject to school policy, individual sport training policy and the Athletic Participation Handbook policy.

In matters pertaining to personal conduct of athletes in which violations of sportsmanship, attacks on officials or other acts of misbehavior occur, the administration and/or the OHSAA shall have jurisdiction to determine the penalties involved and whether or not the student may continue participation in athletics. Board of Education policy IGDJ [Adopted May 9, 1994] states, "Any student may be suspended from an athletic team, practice and/or competition for a period of time, designated by the principal, for infraction of school rules and regulations or for any other unacceptable conduct in or out of school."

Any student-athletes who are convicted of a misdemeanor or felony will have the findings reviewed by the Principal and Athletic Director. The Administration will determine the appropriate response, relative to participation in athletic programs. If an athlete is being investigated for a criminal offense, it is within the discretion of the Principal and Athletic Director to enact disciplinary action prior to a conviction if they deem this to be prudent and necessary.

Any athlete having committed theft of school-owned uniforms/ equipment shall be prosecuted and/or be expected to make restitution. Any disciplinary problems in school or at school-related activities involving the athlete, whereby the athlete is suspended from school classes, including placement in the in-school suspension program, will result in denial of participation from all contests during the suspension period. During this period, he/she is required to be present at all practices. Failure to do so may result in removal from the team. If an out-of-school suspension is levied, he/she is not permitted to attend practices and/or contests.

For any athlete in violation of the athletic policy during the school year, but not during the season of his/her participation, disciplinary procedures will carry-over to the student-athlete's next consecutive season participated

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

School administrators have the right to suspend the athlete from school and deny the privilege of athletic participation in accordance with the policies outlined in this handbook. Additionally, if merited, the administration may deny athletic participation for such period as deemed appropriate (including a period of time that may exceed 80 days) in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 or 3313.661.

Parents/Guardians of Northwestern student-athletes are given the opportunity to appeal all denials of athletic participation directly to the superintendent of schools, whose decision is final. If the decision is made to appeal a denial of participation, the superintendent's office must be contacted, in writing, within twenty-four (24) hours. In matters of suspension from school, the student-athlete and/or parent/guardian have the right to appeal a suspension decision to the Board of Education and the right to have the hearing held in executive session. In the case of less serious disciplinary matters in which an athlete is removed from a curricular or extracurricular activity for a period of less than twenty-four (24) hours and is not subject to denial of participation, parental notice is not necessary.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

As a matter of constitutional, as opposed to statutory law, a student does not have a constitutionally protected liberty or property interest in extracurricular activities. In *Glenn v. Harper*, 620 F.2d 302 (6th Cir. 1980), the district court determined that, “although the right to education is constitutionally protected, due process protection need not reach a component part of education.” Therefore, athletes do not have a right to due process procedures (notice, hearing, etc.), but every effort will be made by the school administration to inform the athlete and parents of the violation and possible consequences. When the alleged infraction of the training policy becomes known, the athlete shall be informed of the possibility of the denial of participation and the reasons for such action by the Coach, Athletic Director, and/or Principal

CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY

Drug Testing Policy

The Northwestern Local School District Board of Education has implemented a policy focused on providing this district with a safe and healthful student program. This policy reflects the Northwestern Local School District Board of Education and the community’s strong commitment to establish a truly drug and alcohol free school environment. As a means to deter illicit drug use, Northwestern Local School District have selected student athletes, students who participate in extra-curricular activities, and students who, along with consent from their parents, volunteer to be tested, for inclusion in the testing pool. Students who refuse to be included in the testing pool will be denied the opportunity to participate in any extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Northwestern Local School District. This policy applies to all athletes, volunteers and extra-curricular activities from grades 7-12.

- Any presumptive positive test will be made known to the building administrator
- The building administrator will contact the student’s parents/guardians
- The presumptive positive sample will be sent to the lab for further analysis

First Offense: student-athlete will be suspended 50% of the total contests in a season, reduced to 30% if athlete attends a diversion/counseling program.

Second Offense: student-athlete will be suspended 100% of school year, reduced to 50% if athlete attends a diversion/counseling program.

Third Offense: student-athlete will be suspended for his/her career, with no reduction available.

Alcohol/Drugs

Athletes are prohibited from consuming, dispensing, selling, distributing and/or possessing any form of alcohol, illegal narcotic and/or illegally used drug or drug paraphernalia. Student-athletes present in a situation where any of the above is present must leave the party immediately. Remaining at the gathering or party constitutes a violation of this rule. Any student- athlete or student- support personnel that violates the above policy is subject to disciplinary action as follows:

First Offense:

- a. Athlete will be removed from athletic participation for 50% of the total contests in a season, plus receive any suspension dictated by the school discipline code. The exact number of contests to be missed will be determined by the Athletic Director for the season(s) or sport(s) participated in. Suspended contests will be determined and the athlete will not be

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

able to participate in the identified contest regardless of whether they were rescheduled. Cancelled contests will not be cause for an adjustment to the suspended contest.

b. For any athlete in violation of the above policy not during the season of his/her participation, disciplinary procedures will carry-over to the student-athlete's next consecutive season participated in. Athletes must be in good standing at the end of the season for the suspension to count. If an athlete quits or is removed from a team during the identified season, the suspension will not count and will be moved to the next approved consecutive season. Any student who is serving a suspension during a season must meet with the Head Coach and Parent/Guardian to be sure that there is an understanding of what successfully completing and being in good standing at the end of the season means. A contract signed by the student, parent/guardian and head coach, which outlines this agreement, must be submitted to the AD before the season may count toward the suspended contests.

c. During this period, the suspended athlete may be required to be present at all practices/contests. Failure to do so may result in removal from the team. . In the event that an athlete is not given permission to attend practice by the Head Coach and AD and the athlete wants the suspended contests to count they must complete approved community service for the hours equivalent to the practices and contests. The AD and Principal will be the approving agents for the duration and activity accepted for community service. If a student-athlete is issued an out of school suspension, this requirement will begin when the student returns to school.

d. Above suspension period may be reduced to 30% of total season contests, provided that the student-athlete receives an evaluation by a certified counselor or a physician trained in chemical dependency. The student-athlete must have a drug/alcohol screening to determine the level of involvement and attend an intervention program (screening and intervention program are at parent/guardian expense). The Insight Program through STEPS at Liberty Center is a recommended program. Other programs must be approved by the Athletic Director and High School Principal. Agencies or professionals must be licensed by the state to provide drug/alcohol assessments and treatment. All costs for the program are the responsibility of the student and his or her parents or guardians.

e. If the student-athlete chooses to attend an approved intervention program, the AD must be notified by the agency of both the initiation and completion date. To qualify for the reduction in suspension, the above process must be started before the denial of participation period reaches the 30% mark.

f. Athletes denied the privilege of athletic participation will only be reinstated, or permitted to remain on the team, at the discretion of the Athletic Director, Principal and/or Head Coach involved. If the student-athlete is reinstated, he/she will not be eligible for any athletic awards other than those determined by the Head Coach and AD.

Second Offense

a. Athlete will be removed from participation in athletics for 100% of the total athletic contests in a calendar year. The time of suspension will begin the day the penalty is issued

Third Offense

a. Athlete will be removed from participation in athletics for the remainder of his/her academic career.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

b. As a third offense is seen as an indication that the student-athlete has no further interest in participating in athletics at Northwestern, no reduction in the privilege of athletic participation is available.

Tobacco

Athletes are prohibited from consuming, dispensing, selling, distributing and/or possessing any form of tobacco. Violations and consequences will follow the same policy as the Alcohol/Drug policy with the intervention program being focused on tobacco use.

As a matter of constitutional, as opposed to statutory law, a student does not have a constitutionally protected liberty or property interest in extracurricular activities. In *Glenn v. Harper*, 620 F.2d 302 (6th Cir. 1980), the district court determined that, "although the right to education is constitutionally protected, due process protection need not reach a component part of education." Therefore, athletes do not have a right to due process procedures (notice, hearing, etc.), but every effort will be made by the school administration to inform the athlete and parents of the violation and possible consequences.

When the alleged infraction of the training policy becomes known, the athlete shall be informed of the possibility of the denial of participation and the reasons for such action by the Coach, Athletic Administrator, and/or principal.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

As a member of the OHSAA, Northwestern adheres to all rules, regulations, Bylaws and guidelines of the Association. As such, students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics at Northwestern must meet certain eligibility requirements as established by both the OHSAA and the Northwestern Board of Education. For complete details on student eligibility, visit <http://ohsaa.org/eligibility/default.asp>.

AGE LIMITATION

A student enrolled in high school will become ineligible for interscholastic athletics upon turning age 20. His/her eligibility automatically ends on the day of the 20th birthday. (OHSAA 4-2-1)

A student shall become eligible for high school athletics when the student attains the fifteenth birthday before August 1, or when the student attains ninth grade status. (OHSAA 4-2-3)

CONDUCT, CHARACTER, DISCIPLINE

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and related activities are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to student participation. (OHSAA 4-5-1)

Any student suspended or expelled from a member school shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any member school for the duration of the suspension or expulsion. (OHSAA 4-5-5)

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

Students participating in a school-sponsored sport must be enrolled in and attending full

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

time in accordance with all duly adopted Board of Education policies. (OHSAA 4-3-1)

Students enrolled in a joint vocational school are eligible at the high school where the students' records are maintained. (OHSAA 4-3-1)

A student enrolled in a member school who receives his/her education through a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Revised Code that is sponsored by the city, local or exempted village school district in which the student is entitled to attend school pursuant to Section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, is eligible to participate at the member public school that is operated by the school district sponsoring the community school, provided the student is enrolled and attending pursuant to Board of Education policy. (OHSAA 4-3-1)

A student enrolled full time in a postsecondary institution is eligible to participate at the high school where the student's records are maintained, provided the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses in the postsecondary institution. (OHSAA 4-3-1)

A student enrolled in an alternative school that is sponsored by a Board of Education or similar governing board is eligible to participate at the member school where the student would be entitled to attend provided the alternative school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics and the student is counted on the EMIS report for the member high school. (OHSAA 4-3-1)

A student who is home schooled and is enrolled in a member school in accordance with the partial enrollment policy of a Board of Education or similar governing board may be eligible at the school where the student is enrolled and attending. Such partial enrollment policy requires that at least one of the courses be taken at the school's physical location. Note: A student entering a member school from a home school must do so at the beginning of the school year after having been home schooled for at least one calendar year. Failure to meet this one-year provision requires the student to be enrolled for a minimum of one grading period before the student can be declared eligible. (OHSAA 4-3-1)

A student enrolled in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) school that is established under Chapter 3326 of the Revised Code is eligible to participate at the member school where the student would be entitled to attend, provided the STEM school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics and the student is counted on the EMIS report for the member high school. Note: An incoming ninth-grade student may establish eligibility at any member school that admits him or her and establishes initial eligibility as indicated in transfer bylaw 4-7-2. After establishing initial eligibility, students who attend STEM schools are subject to the transfer bylaw. (OHSAA 4-3-1)

After a student completes the eighth grade, or is otherwise eligible for high school athletics pursuant to OHSAA bylaw 4-2-3, the student shall be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not. (OHSAA 4-3-3)

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

RESIDENCE

In determining one's residence ... the following criteria shall apply: (a) where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time, (b) where the mail is received, (c) where the meals are prepared and eaten, (d) where the parents are registered to vote, and (e) where important family activities take place during significant parts of each day. (OHSAA 4-6-1)

SCHOLARSHIP

In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. Furthermore, during the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five(5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation. (OHSAA 4-4-1)

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from 8th grade must have passed a minimum of five (5) of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled (OHSAA 4-4-4).

A student enrolled in 7th 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 grades 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and passed a minimum of five (5) of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled (OHSAA 4-4-4).

The Northwestern Board of Education requires students in grades 7-12 to maintain a minimum GPA as a condition of participation in athletics. (Board Policy IGDK): During the preceding grading period, the student must achieve a grade point average of 1.5 or higher. Students passing 5 or more credits with a grade point average of less than 1.5, will be granted conditional eligibility. Athletes on conditional eligibility will have their grades checked at the interim. If their GPA is 1.5 or higher they will be granted full eligibility for the remainder of the grading period. If their GPA is below 1.5 the student will be declared ineligible for the remainder of that grading period. Student-athletes must meet the Northwestern Board of Education GPA requirements as outlined above and the OHSAA Scholarship requirements.

Reminder: Incomplete grades are calculated as F's.

- a. Incoming 9th graders without an established GPA from the 8th grade will have one established at the end of the first grading period in 9th grade.
- b. Student-athletes that do not meet the OHSAA eligibility and NHS GPA requirements may, with the head coach and AD's approval, work out with the team but may not participate in scrimmages or games.

Summer school and other educational options cannot be used to substitute for failure to meet academic standards. (OHSAA 4-4-7)

The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. For the purposes of this bylaw, "school day" includes

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

faculty in-service days, calamity days and regular school attendance days but not holidays or school breaks. (OHSAA 4-4-3)

Students who are active in athletics but are ineligible due to substandard academic performance shall be under the following guidelines/expectations:

- i. An ineligible student continues to be bound by all rules, regulations and/or expectations of the Northwestern Athletic Participation Handbook and his/her individual team rules/policies.
- ii. An ineligible student may participate in all practices, open gyms, workouts and/or scrimmages and may travel with the team to away contests.
- iii. An ineligible student may not participate in contests of any type.
- iv. An ineligible student may not take part in team pictures, and team recognitions (including awards night, pep rallies and/or other special events) and will not appear on team rosters.

STUDENTS FROM FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Students from outside the United States are ineligible unless...

- a. Parent(s) make a bona fide legal move to the USA and reside in Ohio
- b. Student is here for one year under a J-1 visa in a legitimate visitor exchange program
- c. Student is legally adopted by an Ohio resident
- d. All situations must be approved by the OHSAA commissioner prior to eligibility

TRANSFERS

The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12. These bylaws apply to all schools, both public and private. (OHSAA 4-7-1) Students transferring schools are ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner of the OHSAA.

ATHLETIC AWARD INFORMATION

To Earn an NHS Sports Award...

Athlete must complete the season in good standing and return any school issued uniforms/equipment before receiving any athletic awards. The Head Coach has the right to use his/her discretion in dealing with all borderline or questionable cases of athletic awards. Seniors who play the entire season, but have not met the requirements listed below, may be awarded a varsity letter, at the discretion of the Head Coach.

In order to letter, the student-athlete must also meet the following criteria:

Baseball & Softball: must participate in over 50% of varsity regular-season & tournament games.

Boys & Girls Track: must score 11 or more team points.

Cross Country: must be a varsity runner (top 5 runners) in 2/3rds of meets.

Football: must play in 50% of all varsity quarters or start on special teams all season.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Golf: individual score must be used in 50% of varsity matches.

Soccer: must have participated and contributed in 50% of varsity regular-season and tournament games.

Volleyball: must play & contribute in 50% of varsity regular-season & tournament games.

Basketball: must play & contribute in 50% of varsity regular-season & tournament games.

Wrestling: must score 18 or more varsity team points.

NOTE: Criteria are subject to change by the Head Coach in that sport; upon the approval of the AD

NHS ATHLETIC AWARDS

1st Year Letter winner: Varsity 'N', sport pin and class numerals

2nd Year Letter winner: 4"x 6" Plaque and gold bar

3rd Year Letter winner: 6"x 4" Plaque and gold bar

4th Year Letter winner: 11"x 15" Plaque and gold bar

A certificate is provided to those not meeting the above criteria, yet have participated as a member of the Junior Varsity squad.

A certificate is provided to freshman athletes not meeting the above criteria for a varsity letter or JV certificate.

Athletes who have earned varsity letters from another school may transfer their award to NHS so long as they provide proof of their letterman status to the AD (i.e. program, letter from previous AD, etc.).

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC COUNCIL

The Northwestern Local Schools Athletic Council integrates all interscholastic athletics within the educational program of the District. To accomplish this task, the Athletic Council recommends athletic policy and exists as an open forum for the discussion of any athletic concerns from coaches, students and/or parents/guardians. The purpose of the Athletic Council is to provide a way in which the Northwestern Local School Athletic Department can improve by:

1. Discussing problems or areas of concern within the athletic program.
2. Attempting to resolve issues by cooperation before they escalate.
3. Making recommendations to the Northwestern Board of Education as they pertain to the Athletic Program (changes in the Athletic Handbook).
4. Promoting positive communication between the administration, the AD, coaching staff, parents and community.

The Northwestern Athletic Council shall consist of the following individuals:

1. High School Principal
2. Middle School Principal
3. Athletic Director
4. Head Coach for each varsity sport

The AD shall be the secretary for the Athletic Council. The AD will send out an agenda prior to the meeting. The AD will be responsible for running each meeting. In the event the AD is not present, the high school shall run the meeting.

The Athletic Council will meet on an as needed basis as determined by the AD.

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

NORTHWESTERN ALL SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The Northwestern Athletic Booster Club is dedicated to the development of Northwestern athletic programs from youth through varsity. Much of this is accomplished by supplementing individual sports' needs with uniforms, travel bags, warm-ups, post-game meals, and expenses for teams and coaches, field maintenance and more. This is accomplished through a variety of fundraising activities. The Association needs the help of all parents, fans and community members in order to continue its important role.

The Northwestern Athletic Booster Club also helps students beyond high school through an annual scholarship program. The Booster Club continually welcomes new members and support. If interested in joining the Club, please attend the next scheduled meeting at the High School on the first Monday of each month at 7:30pm.

WCAL STATEMENT on SPORTSMANSHIP

Good Fans are Supportive, Positive and Respectful.
WCAL Schools have a Zero Tolerance for Swearing, Obscene Gestures,
Noisemakers, Inappropriate Signs, and Generally Obnoxious and Disrespectful Fan Behavior.
Treat Coaches, Players, Officials and Fans with Respect and Courtesy.
Violators may be removed!

MEMBER DISTRICTS & SCHOOL INFORMATION

Chippewa Local Schools

Mascot: Chipps Colors: Blue & White
Chippewa High School Chippewa Middle School
100 Valley View Road 257 High Street
Doylestown, OH 44230 Doylestown, OH 44230
330-658-2011 330-658-2214

Dalton Local Schools

Mascot: Bulldogs Colors: Orange & Black
Dalton High School Dalton Intermediate
177 North Mill Street 151 West Main Street
Dalton, OH 44618 Dalton, OH 44618
330-828-2261 330-828-2405

Green Local Schools

Mascot: Smithies Colors: Green & White
Smithville High School Smithville Middle School
480 East Main Street 484 East Main Street
Smithville, OH 44677 Smithville, OH 44677
330-669-3165 330-669-2751

Hillsdale Local Schools

Mascot: Falcons Colors: Blue & Gold
Hillsdale High School Hillsdale Middle School
485 Township Road 1902 144 North High Street
Jeromesville, OH 44840 Jeromesville, OH 44840
419-368-6841 419-368-4911

Norwayne Local Schools

Mascot: Bobcats Colors: Scarlet & Gray

NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS: ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Norwayne High School Norwayne Middle School
350 South Main Street
Creston, OH 44217
330-435-4276 330-435-1195

Rittman Exempted Village
Mascot: Indians Colors: Red & Black
Rittman High School Rittman Middle School
50 Saurer Street 50 Sauer Street Street
Rittman, OH 44270 Rittman, OH 44270
330-927-7140 330-927-7100

Southeast Local Schools
Mascot: Golden Bears Colors: Brown & Gold
Waynedale High School John R. Lea MS
9050 Dover Road 9130 Dover Road
Apple Creek, OH 44606 Apple Creek, OH 44606
330-698-3071 330-698-3151

Non-League Opponents

Ashland HS 1440 King Rd. Ashland, 44805 419-289-7968
Barberton HS 555 Barber Rd. Barberton, 44203 330-753-2255
Berea HS 165 E. Bagley Rd Berea, 44017 440-234-5418
Black River HS 233 County Rd. #40 Sullivan, 44880 419-736-3303
Black River MS 257 County Rd. #40 Sullivan, 44880 419-736-3304
Buckeye HS 3084 Columbia Rd. Medina, 44256 330-822-3604
Bucyrus HS 900 W. Perry St. Bucyrus, 44820 419-562-2739
Central Christian 3970 Kidron Rd. Kidron, 44363 330-857-7311
Clear Fork HS 987 St. Rt. 97 Belleville, 44813 419-886-2601
Cloverleaf HS 8525 Friendsville Rd. Lodi, 44254 330-721-3514
Coshocton HS 1205 Cambridge Rd. Coshocton, 43812 740-622-8519
Coventry HS 3089 Manchester Rd. Akron, 44319 330-644-3151
Crestview HS 1575 St. Rt. 96 Ashland, 44805 419-895-1700
Danville HS 10 Rambo St. Danville, 43014 740-599-6770
Fairless HS 11885 Navarre Rd. Navarre, 44662 330-767-3444
Garaway HS 146 Dover Rd. Sugarcreek, 44681 330-852-3151
Garfield HS 435 N Firestone Blvd Akron, 44301 330-773-3468
GlenOak HS 1015 44th St. NW Canton, 44709 330-493-5543
Highland HS 3880 Ridge Rd. Medina, 44256 330-239-1901
Hiland HS PO Box 275 Berlin, 44610 330-893-3135
Hoban HS 400 Elbon Ave. Akron, 44306 330-733-9107
Keystone HS 301 Liberty St. LaGrange, 44050 440-355-5132
Lexington HS 103 Clever Lane Lexington, 44904 419-884-2105
Loudonville HS 421 Campus Ave. Loudonville, 44842 419-994-4101
Lucas HS 5 First Ave. Lucas, 44843 419-892-1116
Manchester HS 437 W. Nimisila Akron, 44319 330-882-5578
Mapleton HS 635 County Rd. 801 Ashland, 44805 419-945-2188
Mansfield Madison HS 600 Esley Rd Mansfield, 44905 419-589-2112
Mansfield Sr. HS 124 N Linden Rd Mansfield, 44906 419-525-6344
Mapleton MS 911 US RT 224 Ashland, 44805 419-652-3540
Marlington HS 10450 Moulin Ave NE Alliance, 44601 330-823-1300
McKinley HS 2323 17th St. NW Canton, 44708 330-438-2720
Midview HS 38199 Caple Rd. Grafton, 44044 440-748-5231
Mohawk HS 295 St. Highway 231 Sycamore, 44882 419-927-6292
New London HS 1 Wildcat Dr. New London, 44851 419-929-4413
North Ridgeville HS 34600 Bainbridge Rd. N. Ridgeville, 44039 440-353-1170
Northwest HS 8590 Erie Ave. N. Canal Fulton, 44614 330-854-6398
St. Mary CC HS 410 W. Jefferson St. Sandusky, 44870 419-626-1892

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St. Peter HS 104 W. First St. Mansfield, 44902 419-524-0985
St. Thomas HS 2121 Reno Dr. Louisville, 44641 330-845-1631
Triway HS 3205 Shreve Rd. Wooster, 44691 330-264-8685
Triway Jr. HS 3145 Shreve Rd. Wooster, 44691 330-264-2114
Tuslaw HS 1723 Manchester Ave. Massillon, 44647 330-837-3511
Wadsworth HS 625 Broad St. Wadsworth, 44281 330-336-3260
Wellington HS 629 N. Main St. Wellington, 44090 440-674-3734
West Holmes HS 10909 St. Rt. 39 Millersburg, 44651 330-674-1084
Willard HS 123 Dr. LH Whisler Dr. Willard, 44890 419-935-5181
Wooster HS 515 Oldman Rd. Wooster, 44691 330-345-3800
Norton HS 4128 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd. Norton, 44203 330-825-4167
Norwalk HS 350 Shady Lane Norwalk, 44857 419-668-6522
Ontario HS 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd. Mansfield, 44906 419-529-7002
Orrville HS 841 N. Ella St. Orrville, 44667 330-682-2506
Orrville Jr. HS 217 E. Church St. Orrville, 44667 330-682-1791
Our Lady of the Elms 1375 W. Exchange St. Akron, 44313 330-814-0628
Regina HS 1857 S. Green Rd. S. Euclid, 44121 216-382-2110
Sandy Valley HS 5362 St. Rt. 183 NE Magnolia, 44643 330-866-3060
Shelby HS 109 W. Smiley Ave. Shelby, 44875 419-342-6586
South Central HS 3305 Greenwich-Angling Rd. Greenwich, 44837 419-752-3354
St. Vincent-St. Mary 15 N. Maple St. Akron, 44303 330-253-9113
Tallmadge HS 484 East Ave. Tallmade, 44278 330-633-6956
Watkins Memorial HS 8868 Watkins Rd. SW Pataskala, 43062 740-927-3417

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How do I earn a PE credit for playing a sport?

A: Athlete & Parent must sign up for this option when registering for classes online OR complete the proper form obtained in the guidance office. See the Guidance Office for more info.

Q: It's raining/snowing — is today's game canceled?

A: Every attempt will be made to play contests when they are scheduled. Often decisions are made at the last second regarding snow or rain outs. Please listen to WQKT (104.5 FM), check the website for the latest updates, and signup for the Ohio Alerts text service — please don't call the school.

Q: School has been canceled due to snow. Are we still playing tonight?

A: See answer directly above. Every situation results in its own decision.

Q: Can I ride home from tonight's game with my boyfriend/girlfriend?

A: NO! Only a parent/guardian may sign an athlete out following a contest. See page

Q: I was placed in In-School suspension today. Can I still play tonight?

A: No. You are ineligible for participation in any contest while you are suspended from classes, whether in or out of school.

Q: I was sick this morning and came to school at 1:00 — can I still play tonight?

A: No. You are ineligible for any practice, scrimmage or contest because you were not present for the last half of the day.

Q: Am I eligible for next season/semester?

A: Eligibility is based on GPA & credits earned. S

Q: Will summer school help me become eligible?

A: No!

Q: Will interim grades make me eligible/ineligible?

A: Yes, but only if you are on Academic Probation.

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Q: How do I get in touch with a Head Coach?

A: E-mail your coach using the links on the website, call them at the number they provide you, or leave a message in their school mailbox.

Q: I have a doctor's appointment at 10:00 am. Can I still play tonight?

A: Yes, this would be considered an "excused absence from school."

Q: Can I turn my uniform/equipment in to the office?

A: No! Uniforms/equipment must be turned in directly to the Head Coach.

Q: Why isn't my son/daughter's name in the paper?

A: Coaches have no say in who does or does not make an article; it is all up to the author.

Q: Why is there no story about last night's game in the paper?

A: The local papers do the best they can, but are limited by time and budgets. Coaches will do their best to turn in information, but the final cut is made by the editors of the papers.

Sportsmanship is *Everyone's* Responsibility!



