

# **NORTHWEST**

**High School  
& Kidder Middle School**

**Athletic Code  
Of  
Conduct**

**2020-2021  
SCHOOL YEAR**

**Important Information:  
PLEASE READ**

# **NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL & NORTHWEST KIDDER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **PHILOSOPHY**

The Board of Education, Administration, and athletic staff of Northwest Community Schools consider athletics to be an integral part of the school's curriculum of education. Athletics provide experiences that will aid in physical, mental, emotional and social development of young men and women.

Student-athletes represent Northwest Schools at all times and should serve as a model for other students by conducting themselves in a manner that brings a positive image to the community and pride to themselves, their team, and their school.

The primary goal of athletic competition is to teach student-athletes the necessary commitment of mental and physical discipline to be successful. Student-athletes will learn how to set realistic goals for themselves and use them to develop their potential to the fullest capacity. Northwest High School and Northwest Kidder Middle School supports this endeavor.

When students elect to participate in athletics, it is a privilege that involves voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline. One of the finest lessons to be learned in athletics is to take care of oneself physically in order to develop a healthy body, alert mind, and strong character.

High standards of conduct will be expected of students on and off the playing courts and fields. As a Northwest athlete, students are expected to follow the rules of the Athletic Code for the entire calendar year from the time they join their first athletic team until they graduate or until the end of the last season of participation.

The following guidelines have been developed by the Athletic Code of Conduct Review Committee in conjunction with the Northwest Athletic Department and approved by the Northwest Board of Education. These guidelines are intended to help student-athletes make good decisions concerning themselves and the Northwest Community Schools they represent.

It is the responsibility of the student-athletes to stay within these guidelines along with the guidance set by parents or guardians. Coaches may set expectations that are higher than those in this Code of Conduct and may adopt team rules that supplement those in this Code of Conduct; provided such expectations and rules do not conflict with this Code of Conduct. The Athletic Department, in conjunction with the Northwest Board of Education, will hold each student-athlete accountable for his/her actions according to this policy.

**NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*The Mission of the Northwest Athletic Program is to acknowledge sport activity as a vital feature of the educational process. The Athletic Program will strive for excellence and will instill in student participants principles of character, responsibility, work ethic, sportsmanship, physical fitness, and an appreciation for sport that will follow them into adult life.*

**NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

***BELIEF STATEMENTS***

- We believe that a successful athletic program involves positive participation by our athletes, their families, and the community.
- We believe that athletics are a vital part of our educational program.
- We believe that athletics builds self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork, and positive attitudes.
- We believe that every student should have an opportunity to try out for an athletic team.
- We believe that excellence is the goal as the student athlete passes through the athletic program.
- We believe that abstinence from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco shall be enforced.
- We believe that Northwest Community Schools will establish specific academic standards for athletes.
- We believe in student-athletes and coaches modeling high standards that will bring pride to Northwest Community Schools and set positive examples for other students, athletes and community members.

## I. ELIGIBILITY

### A. Age

#### 1. MHSAA – High School

- a. A high school student-athlete who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age.
- b. Exception: A student-athlete whose nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year (MHSAA rule).

#### 2. MHSAA – Middle School

- a. A seventh or eighth grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under fourteen (14) for participation in seventh grade or fifteen (15) years of age for participation in eighth grade.
- b. Exception: A student who reaches that birthday on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for interscholastic athletic contests for the balance of that school year (MHSAA rule).

### B. Academics

#### 1. Stricter Standards

- a. Northwest High School and Northwest Kidder Middle School make an intentional decision to maintain stricter eligibility standards than the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).
- b. The Rules and regulations of the MHSAA are on file in the office of the Athletic Director at Northwest High School.
- c. Northwest Community Schools recognizes the rights of parents to impose more stringent academic standards for their own family members.

#### 2. High School Eligibility Standards

- a. Each student-athlete must have passed **four** of five classes from the previous trimester, and be passing **four** of five classes during the current trimester (Those who did not pass four classes the previous trimester, would be ineligible for 1 trimester)

- b. Each student-athlete that meets the above requirements must have achieved a grade point average of at least **2.00** for the trimester previous to the season of competition and have a **2.00** gpa at any and all grade check times.
- c. Student-athletes who have failed a class or who have failed to establish a grade point average of 2.00 during the previous trimester will be placed on probationary status. To maintain eligibility these student-athletes must demonstrate academic progress on a weekly basis indicating that they are achieving grade point averages of at least 2.00 **and** passing all their classes. After the trimester, their probationary status will be reviewed.

### 3. Middle School Eligibility Standards

- a. Each student-athlete must have passed **five** of six classes from the previous trimester, and be passing **five** of six classes during the current trimester (Those who did not pass five classes the previous trimester, would be ineligible for 1 trimester).
- b. Each student-athlete that meets the above requirements must have achieved a grade point average of at least **2.00** for the trimester previous to the season of competition.
- c. Student-athletes who have failed a class or who have failed to establish a grade point average of 2.00 during the previous trimester will be placed on probationary status. To maintain eligibility these student-athletes must demonstrate academic progress on a weekly basis indicating that they are achieving grade point averages of at least 2.00 **and** passing all their classes. After the trimester, their probationary status will be reviewed.

### 4. Consequences

- a. Academic Probations –
  - i. Recommended: Meeting with Academic Support Team: Coach and/or AD, Assistant Principal, and/or Counselor, Teachers(s), Parent(s)/Guardian(s), and Student-Athlete to form an appropriate plan.
  - ii. Grade checks are made every week.
  - iii. Students may practice and compete.

- b. Academic Ineligibility –
  - i. Mandatory meeting with: Athletic Director and Student-Athlete to form appropriate plan.
  - ii. Will not be considered part of any team.

5. Academic Eligibility Checks

- a. Academic eligibility checks and grade checks are different names for the same process.
- b. The Athletic Director will be responsible for grade checks at the High School & Middle School.
- c. A grade check will consist of a review of the student's grades for all currently scheduled courses.
- d. Grade checks may be every week when sports are in season and will occur on Fridays when done.
- e. Any grade not recorded during a grade check will be considered a failure. Appeals for missing grades will be made to the Athletic Director and considered on a case-by-case basis.
- f. The period of probation or ineligibility will begin on 12:00 a.m. on the Sunday following the grade check and extend for the indicated period of weeks. The period will end after 11:59 p.m. on Saturday.

6. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Transfer Student-Athletes

- a. 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders and Transfers begin the school year without regard to their academic record from the previous semester/trimester. They are immediately eligible for competition.
- b. 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders and Transfers will be considered on Academic Probation throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester of the school year.  
**Academic Probation for 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders during the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester is as follows: All 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders must be passing five of six (MS) / four of five (HS) classes during the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester and must be achieving a grade point average of at least a 2.00. IF the student-athlete does not meet this requirement at the time of grade checks, he/she will be ineligible for the following week of competition.**
- c. Grade checks for 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders may take place every week

### **C. Physical Examination**

1. Student-athletes must pass a physical examination and have the form signed by a M.D. or D.O. The examination must be given on or after April 15 of the previous school year. The physical form must be on file in the Athletic Director's office before the student-athlete is issued any equipment, tries-out, and practices or participates in any sport.
2. Physical Forms may be picked up at the Athletic office at the high school, or the Main Office at the Middle School. Forms are also available online at the Northwest website at [www.nwschools.org](http://www.nwschools.org). Select the Athletics tab, then select Forms under "Mounties HQ" drop down list

## **II. PRACTICE AND CONTEST PARTICIPATION**

### **A. Practice & Contests**

1. The Athletic Department will not be collecting an activity fee for the 2020-21 school year
2. All Athletes are expected to commit to their team for the entire season. It is expected that all athletes will be at the first practice of the season, at the last contest of the season and every practice/competition in between. It is expected that family vacations, trips, etc., will be scheduled around practice/game times. Each individual coach will handle violations to the above.
3. Practice and contests are mandatory for all student-athletes. To be excused from practice or a game, the student-athlete must notify the coach at least 24 hours prior to the practice or contest, unless an emergency situation arises. The decision of whether or not to excuse the absence is up to the coach.
4. Excused school attendance, as defined in the Student Handbook, will be considered as an excused absence from practice. (For absence on a game day, see section III)
5. Anyone missing a practice or a contest without proper permission from his/her coach or without presenting an excused school absence will be given an unexcused absence. Two unexcused absences can be grounds for dismissal from the team, but guidelines must be applied equally.
6. Absence should be avoided except in case of emergency since missed practice time hurts the individual athlete and the entire team. Excused/



unexcused absences must be defined in writing by the coach of the team in question.

7. If a player is injured during the course of the season, they are expected to attend all practices and games (subject to coaches' written policy).

#### **B. Special Practices & Contests**

1. Practice sessions on weekends or before and after normal school hours are to be scheduled with the building Athletic Director. Under normal circumstances, Sunday practices or contests are not to be scheduled. Exceptions will be allowed at the high school varsity level only, and are to be approved in advance by the Athletic Director.
2. Students-athletes should be aware that certain sports may have to leave school early on some days or miss school altogether on some days due to game schedules. Student-athletes will be responsible for all work missed while out of school.

### **III. STUDENT/ATHLETE ATTENDANCE**

#### **A. Day of Contest**

1. In order to participate in a contest, the student-athletes must be in attendance the full day of school unless the Athletic Director or the principals in the absence of the AD grants an "excused" absence.

#### **B. Daily School Attendance**

1. All student-athletes are required to be in attendance the **entire school day** in order to participate in that day's practice.  
. Parents are not to excuse student-athletes from school for non-emergency situations during a student's athletic season. A student-athlete, after signing out of school due to illness, will not be allowed to return after school for a practice session or competition. Exceptions to the attendance requirement must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director and prior to the absence and/or participation.

#### **C. Saturday Contests**

1. A student-athlete must be in attendance a full school day prior to the contest in order to participate except when the Athletic Director, or the principals in the absence of the AD, grants an "excused" absence.

#### **D. Excused Absence**

1. The Athletic Director or principals may officially excuse student-athletes from participation only when the absence is due to a doctor's appointment with a doctor's verification, or because of significant or

unusual circumstances. Notification by a parent is necessary by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the absence.

**E. Absences**

1. Continuous or patterned absences may lead to game suspension or possible squad dismissal.

**IV. TRYOUTS**

- A.** Student-athletes may be provided with a written checklist of the criteria used for selection of the team at the initial pre-season sign-up. Coaches reserve the right to select a player based on skill level, ability, attitude, and on team personnel needs.
- B.** Coaches will designate a minimum of three practice sessions as tryouts where athletes will have the opportunity to demonstrate their skill and ability before cuts are made in any sport.
- C.** Coaches shall advise each athlete trying out for the team if the athlete made the team and if not, the reasons the athlete was cut. Coaches may do so by either a personal conference with the athlete or in writing by a letter in a sealed envelope. If the athlete made the Team the letter shall advise the athlete of the time of the next practice and if the athlete did not make the team the letter will advise the athlete of the time the coach will be available to discuss the reasons the athlete was cut.

**V. TEAM PLACEMENT AT A LEVEL OTHER THAN THE DESIGNATED AGE OR GRADE LEVEL/DUAL SPORTS**

**A. Age/Grade Level Practices**

1. Practice at Grade Level
  - a. In order for a player to play at a level higher than their age or grade during regular season play, the following criteria must be met:
    - i. After consultation with assistant coaches, the head coach will recommend any level change to the Athletic Director for approval.
    - ii. If the Athletic Director agrees with the change in level, the head coach will discuss the move with the player and the parents of the player.
    - iii. If all parties agree that the move is in the best interest of the player, team, and program then move will be allowed.

- b. All other athletes will begin practice with their own age/grade level.
  - c. Coaches reserve the right to move a player from his/her current level to a lower level if they feel it would be in the best interest of the player and the program.
2. Physical/Emotional/Social Well-Being
  - a. The physical, emotional, and social well-being of the athlete will be the main criteria used in this decision.
  - b. The above criteria is designed for sports that have two or three levels of competition. Some sports, such as wrestling, tennis, golf, cross-country, and track do not fit the above criteria.
3. Some athletes at Northwest High School have special talents and may wish to be members of two athletic teams during the same sport season. While this situation is unusual, all requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis using the following guidelines:
  1. The athlete must, in writing to the Athletic Director, request that he/she be allowed to compete on two sports teams in the same season.
  2. The athlete must pick a primary sport. This primary sport is where the athlete must be whenever any conflicts exist in the schedules of the two sports involved.
  3. The parents of the athlete involved must agree that participation in two sports is in the best interest of their child.
  4. The coaches of the two sports must agree that the athlete is capable of competing in both sports and must agree with the athlete's choice of the primary sport.
  5. The Athletic Director, after consultation with all parties involved, will make the final decision as to whether the athlete will be allowed to be on both teams during the same season.

All parties involved should realize that this is a special situation and if allowed, the cooperation of all involved will be necessary for success.

## **B. Dropping Out of a Sport**

1. Quitting

- a. When student-athletes decide to participate in a sport and make the squad, the Athletic Department and coaches expect the student-athletes to complete the season.
  - b. If there are extenuating circumstances that necessitate dropping a sport, the student-athlete must consult the coach prior to dropping out and explain the circumstances.
2. Participation After Dropping a Sport
    - a. If student-athletes drop a sport, they will not be allowed to participate in another sport or in an off-season sport-conditioning program during the same season, unless receiving permission from both coaches and the Athletic Director.
    - b. Student-athletes must return all issued equipment to the Athletic Department before being released to another sport.

## **VI. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT POLICY**

### **A. Athlete Uniform/Equipment Policy**

1. Student-athletes shall be responsible for any uniforms, equipment, etc., issued to them by the Athletic Department. Student-athletes are expected to keep all issued items clean and in good condition. They will be financially responsible for all items issued and shall reimburse the Athletic Department for all items damaged or not returned after the season.
2. Athletes will not be permitted to try out for another sport unless all items issued are returned or reimbursement has been paid in full.
3. Student-Athletes are to wear only Athletic Department approved equipment.
4. School will hold Cap, Gown, Transcripts, and Awards for unreturned equipment/uniform(s) unless reimbursement has been paid in full.

### **B. Jewelry**

1. Safety
  - a. In the best interest of safety of each student-athlete, no jewelry will be worn for practice or contests.
  - b. Exceptions: A Student may wear: a watch during practice in track or cross country if used strictly for timing, a medical ID, or a wedding band.

## 2. Liability

- a. The school district will not be held liable for any jewelry-related accidents involving student-athletes while practicing or participating in a contest or while in uniform.

## VII. SPORTSMANLIKE AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

### A. Respect

1. Respect is the key to good sportsmanship. Opponents should be respected. They are not enemies, but teenagers who happen to attend other schools. We expect our athletes to win with character and lose with dignity. At the conclusion of each contest, athletes should demonstrate their acknowledgement of the other team's efforts.
2. Any student-athlete participating on any interscholastic team is responsible for his/her conduct. The student-athlete will display and adhere to good sportsmanship while a member of a Northwest Community Schools team.
  - a. Language that is offensive to others or verbally abusing players, coaches, or officials is always unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Vulgarity is always unacceptable and will not be tolerated
  - b. Obscene or inflammatory gestures or materials (i.e., signs, t-shirts) are unacceptable.
  - c. Dangerous and boisterous behaviors such as pushing, shoving, or fighting are not acceptable.
  - d. The throwing of objects (including equipment) is unacceptable, and could result in an injury or the team being penalized by the game officials.
  - e. Acknowledge good plays by both teams.
  - f. Respect the rights and property of others when hosting or visiting other schools.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct is governed by the MHSAA and states "...a student/athlete or coach will be removed from the present contest and shall miss the next scheduled day of competition."
4. Depending in the severity of the unsportsmanlike conduct, the student/athlete from Northwest could be declared ineligible for additional days of competition.

5. Continual unsportsmanlike conduct will result in dismissal from a team.
6. The Athletic Director and coach will evaluate the severity of the unsportsmanlike conduct and determine the additional suspension while taking into account the offense.

## **B. Hazing**

1. Hazing is defined as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act by a person acting alone or acting with others that is directed against an individual and that the person knew or should have known that their actions could endanger the physical health or safety of the individual and that is done for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in or maintaining membership in an organization. Hazing by individuals, teams or coaches is not permitted and will not be tolerated by Northwest Community Schools. Any act of hazing related to sports or other school activities is to be reported to the Principal or Athletic Director.
2. Depending on the severity of the hazing incident, the student/athlete from Northwest could be declared ineligible for additional days of competition if the Athletic Director in conjunction with the Head Coach feels the punishment is appropriate. If the Student-Athlete is involved in more than one incident, this will result in dismissal from a team.
3. The Athletic Director will evaluate the severity of the incident and determine the additional suspension while taking into account the offense.

## **VIII. LENGTH OF SEASON**

### **A. Length**

The length of each season will be from the first official day of practice through the last contest of that season.

### **B. Dates**

The MHSAA sets beginning and ending dates of each season.

## **IX. INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS**

### **A. Practice**

1. All practices throughout the district will be canceled on inclement weather days, if school is called for the day.
2. If weather should permit later in the day, the High School teams may have the possibility of practicing (non-mandatory) after receiving authorization from the Athletic Director. Practices would be at the normal scheduled times.

## **B. Contests**

1. The Athletic Director will be in communication with the school administration and there will be a decision made by 2:00 p.m. the day of the contest.
2. When school is cancelled due to inclement weather, all middle school contests will be cancelled.

## **X. TRANSPORTATION**

### **A. School-Approved Transportation**

1. Since the Athletic Department believes there is a part of learning that takes place when both winning and losing is experienced as a team, student athletes shall travel to and from an away contest together on authorized, school-approved transportation except as permitted by the following travel expectations. Northwest Community Schools will NOT be providing transportation to Saturday sporting events unless it is a MHSAA sponsored tournament. If this is the case, the Head Coach may request Saturday transportation.

### **B. Travel Exceptions**

1. The student-athletes may travel home with his/her parent/guardian provided it is allowed by the coach AND the parent/guardian signs them out with the coach prior to the player leaving with the parent..
2. Exceptions may include: 1) school-related activities, 2) family trips out of district, 3) emergency medical treatment, and 4) family emergencies.
3. Student-athletes should follow all transportation guidelines set by the school district while being transported to and from a contest.
4. In addition to the exceptions listed above, a coach may set his/her guidelines regarding bus travel home from games.

## **XI. SAFETY AND INSURANCE CONSIDERATION FOR PARENT/GUARDIAN**

### **A. Health and Accident Insurance**

1. It is important to ensure that adequate health and accident insurance is in place in order to protect against any unforeseen health or accident claims that may arise.
2. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to purchase and maintain such coverage for the student/athlete.
3. The school district does not provide insurance coverage for this purpose, and does not intend to reimburse or pay for medical bills of student-athletes who sustain injuries while participating in school activities.

#### **B. Personal Insurance Coverage**

1. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review their personal insurance coverage with their agent to ensure adequate supplemental insurance coverage for accidents or injuries.
2. As an alternative, the District Office has applications available for anyone who is interested in purchasing supplemental insurance through an independent insurance agent. This insurance is available at minimal rates. If the student-athlete is to participate in football, enhanced coverage is available to help protect from the increased risk of the sport.

#### **C. Bodily Injury**

1. If an injured or disabled athlete sees a healthcare professional, a written release will be required from the health care professional before the athlete will be allowed to resume practicing/playing.

#### **D. Initial Assessment of Injury**

1. If there are no trained medical personnel on site (either on staff or in the crowd), the coach and/or trainer will be authorized to make a preliminary assessment as to the severity of the injury and then make his/her recommendations regarding treatment.



## XII. AWARDS EARNED BY STUDENT/ATHLETE

### A. Awards

Level	Award	Other
Freshman	Numerals	If 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> sport as a Freshman, earns a certificate
JV – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Certificate	Numerals if not earned as a Freshman
JV – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Certificate	
JV – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Certificate	
Varsity – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Varsity Letter, Pin	If 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> sport in first year, award is a pin (different for each sport). Also, numerals if not earned as a Freshman
Varsity – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Medal	
Varsity – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Trophy	
Varsity – 4 <sup>th</sup> Year	Plaque	

### B. Special I-8 Awards

1. All-Conference and Conference Honorable Mention Selections
  - a. Athletes will earn a certificate.
  - b. Selections are done by conference coaches in that sport.
2. Academic All-Conference Award
  - a. Athlete must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA.
  - b. Athlete must be a varsity letter winner in that sport.
3. I-8 Scholar Athlete Award
  - a. Athlete must be a senior.
  - b. Athlete must have earned at least two varsity letters during his/her senior year.
  - c. Top 10 GPA's determine qualifiers.

### **C. Forfeit of Post Season Awards**

1. Violations involving alcohol, substance abuse, violation of local, state, or federal laws will cause the student/athlete to forfeit all post season awards: team all-league, team awards, all- area, and all-state honors. Freshman, junior varsity and varsity awards will be awarded at the discretion of the coach and athletic director.
2. If a penalty carries over into a second sport season, the athlete may earn postseason awards in the second sport season.

### **XIII. OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

1. Student-Athletes at Northwest Schools must remember that their first commitment is to their school-sponsored team. Practice and contests with the school team comes first before any outside sport participation. Should the student-athlete violate this policy, it could be grounds for team dismissal, subject to team policy.
2. Athletes who are squad members of a particular sport may not participate in that same sport on a non-school team during the school season, unless that sport has an exception through the MHSAA.

### **XIV. TRAINING GUIDELINES**

#### **A. Conduct**

1. Participation in Middle School/High School Athletics is a privilege not a right.
2. Students who elect to participate in athletics are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that develops strong character, an alert mind, and a healthy body.

#### **B. Duration of Expected Conduct**

1. Electing to participate in athletics means student-athletes are subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct in-school and out-of-school throughout the 12-MONTH CALENDAR YEAR.
2. Any conduct, which is serious and reflects negatively on the student-athlete, team or school, will result in disciplinary action determined by the Athletic Director, and/or coach.

#### **C. Penalties**

1. All penalties for violation of this Code of Conduct shall be cumulative beginning with the student's participation in the freshman year.
2. Violations of the Substance Abuse Section of this Code of Conduct and Violation from Appendix B are cumulative. A first violation in one case (alcohol or Appendix B) shall lead to suspension for part of a season. A first offense in the area not violated by the original offense (alcohol or Appendix B) will be treated as a second offense of the Code and will result in suspension from athletics for one calendar year.
3. At the Middle School level, penalties shall be cumulative from seventh through eighth grades.
4. Any penalty for violation of the Middle School policy will cause a hearing to be held once the athlete signs up to play a high school sport.
  - a. All time-served penalties will carry over with the middle school athlete to the high school.
  - b. A hearing will be held by a committee comprised of the high school Athletic Director, a middle school coach involved with the athlete, the high coach of the sport the athlete wishes to tryout for. The athlete, the athlete's parent(s)/guardian(s) and any other person(s) pertinent to the situation will be invited to the hearing.
  - c. The panel will review the case and will make one of two decisions. The panel may keep the punishment in tact or reduce the punishment by one level.

## **XV. ACADEMIC OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION OR IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

### **A. Suspension**

1. Any form of school suspension reflects negatively on the student-athlete, team and school.
2. Penalties for an "in-school" or "out-of-school" suspension are the same.

### **Participation While Suspended**

### **B.**

1. When serving in-school or out-of-school suspension, a student-athlete will not be able to participate in any practice or contest the day or days that the suspension is being served.
2. A student's first suspension will require four (4) hours of service at the discretion of the Athletic Director. Subsequent suspensions will require a one game suspension for each school suspension.

### **C. Repeated Infractions**

1. Serious or repeated infractions may be dealt with more severely as deemed appropriate by the Athletic Director.

## **XVI. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

A student-athlete electing to participate in athletics is subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct in and out of school every day of the year (365 days) from the day they first tryout to the day after their last day of competition of their senior year.

### **A. Behavior**

1. The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Northwest Community Schools' athletic guidelines and subject the student-athlete to penalties as outlined in the "penalties" section of this Athletic Code: Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of:
  - a. Tobacco or tobacco products in any form.
  - b. Alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form.
  - c. E Cigarettes or any form of Vaping
  - d. Illegal drugs, including, but not limited to, those substances defined as "controlled substances" pursuant to federal and/or state statute.
  - e. Steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance enhancing drugs.
  - f. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive or performance enhancing, i.e., "look-alike" drugs and inhalants.
  - g. Malt beverages labeled as "non-alcohol" may contain alcohol. (This includes, but not limited to: Sharp's, O'Doul's, Kingsbury Malt Beverage, and Zing Malt Beverage.)

### **B. Prescription Drugs**

1. It shall not be a violation of the athletic code for a student-athlete to use or possess a prescription or patent drug when taken pursuant to a legal prescription issued by a licensed physician.
2. Athletes using prescription medication should inform their coach of the fact that they are using prescription drugs. Athletes that have the need for prescription medication need to have a Prescription Consent Form on file with the Athletic Department.

### **C. Reporting Behaviors**

1. Any reports of violations of this code of conduct will be investigated by the athletic director and any other school administrators he/she deems necessary.
2. Penalties will be assessed based upon the outcome of the investigation.

### **D. Self-Disclosure**

1. Any student-athlete who by him/herself or together with his/her parent or legal guardian, voluntarily discloses their violation of the Athletic Code to the Athletic Director, School Administrator or Coach prior to any reports, charges or complaints shall agree to the following:
  - a. Seek chemical assessment/treatment program from a licensed agency. Any expense will be the responsibility of the student-athlete and/or the parent/legal guardian.
  - b. Satisfactory completion of the assessment must be verified in writing by the licensed agency.
  - c. The student-athlete will be ineligible for 15% of the scheduled events during the current season or the next season if the offense is committed between seasons. If the student-athlete cannot serve the total 15% suspension during the current season, the remaining percentage will carry over into the next season/sport of participation. All splits will be rounded up to the next whole number.
  - d. If the student-athlete does not follow the self-disclosure requirement, the student-athlete will be required to serve the full penalty under the penalty provision in the Code of Conduct.
  - e. Self-disclosure will be available to the student-athlete once during their career.
  - f. Using self-disclosure will be viewed as a first offense.

### **E. Penalties – First Offense**

1. Student-athlete will be suspended for 33% of the scheduled events during the current season or next season if the offense is committed between seasons. If the student-athlete cannot serve the 33% suspension during the current season, the remaining percentage will carry-over into the next season/sport of participation. All splits will be rounded up to the next whole number. (Athletes will not be able to play in scrimmages and scrimmages will not count toward the penalty)

2. Students who are suspended under #1 must meet with their head coach to determine if and when they will be allowed to practice. The head coach will let the athlete know their status within 72 hours of the penalty being assessed. They will be required to be at every practice and they will be required to finish the season in good standing with the head coach in order to have their suspension count.

#### **F. Penalties – Second Offense**

1. Student-athlete will be suspended for one full calendar year (365 days) from participation in all chosen sports or seasons. The suspension will begin from the date of notification of the suspension.
2. Student-athlete will not be allowed to practice with any team during this suspension.

#### **G. Penalties – Third Offense**

1. Permanent expulsion from participation in Northwest Athletics for the remainder of high school career.

#### **H. Awards**

1. Violation of the Athletic Code will cause the student-athlete to forfeit all post-season awards including but not limited to: varsity awards, all-district, all-area, all-region, all-state, and all athlete-academic awards. If the penalty carries over into a second season, the athlete may receive any awards earned in the second season as long as they finish the season in good standing.

### **XVII. APPEAL**

**A.** A Student-athlete may appeal a coach's decision regarding a violation of a team rule or an Athletic Director's decision regarding a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct; provided, however, that when a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct carries a mandatory consequence of penalty, the appeal shall be limited to procedural and fact-finding errors and not the mandatory consequence or penalty. The Athletic Director shall decide an appeal of a team rule violation and the Appeal Panel shall decide an appeal of an Athletic Code violation.

1. The appeal request must be presented in writing to the Athletic Director within 72 hours of written notification of the suspension. The written appeal must contain the reason for the appeal and the error in the assessment of the suspension.

2. If school is not in session (vacation periods), the appeal must be submitted within 72 hours after the resumption of school or 72 hours from the next official MHSAA recognized practice date.
3. The Athletic Director will present the appeal to the Appeal Panel within five days of the receipt of the appeal. The Appeal Panel will be selected by the Superintendent or designee and will be a five member panel consisting of the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent, a high school administrator, an administrator from another school within the district, a head coach (from any sport other than a sport in which the student-athlete participates), and a School Board member.
4. The Athletic Director and the School Administrator who suspended the student-athlete will not serve on the appeal panel.
5. The Appeal Panel shall attempt to provide a written response within five calendar days of receipt of the appeal request to grant or deny hearing the appeal.
6. If the request to appeal is granted, the Appeal Panel shall attempt a hearing within five calendar days of notification to the student-athlete that his/her request to appeal has been granted. The hearing will consist of a presentation from the student-athlete and the Athletic Director. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be presented within five days of the hearing and signed by all parties involved.
7. Athletes are not eligible for competition during the appeal process.
8. The decision of the Athletic Director is final in appeals of violations of team rules.
9. The decision of the Appeal Panel is final in appeals of violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

## **XX. OTHER CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**

In addition to violations for alcohol and substance abuse, student-athletes may be suspended or otherwise disciplined for other misconduct, including but not limited to a conduct which is also a violation of the academic codes of conduct contained in the applicable middle school or high school student handbooks; provided, however, that for purposes of this Athletic Code of Conduct such violations are not limited to violations that occur at school or at school events. As stated in the philosophy, student-athletes are expected to follow the rules of the Athletic Code from the time they join their first athletic team until they graduate or until the end of the last season of participation and during the entire calendar year of 365 days.

## **XXI. 24 Hour Rule for Spectators and Parents**

Never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field. Document your concerns, and then speak with coaches or Athletic Director regarding your concerns

after 24 hours have elapsed. If you have questions that need immediate attention, please contact the Athletic Director.

***Revised & Approved: June 2020***

**Appendix B**

Includes all violations in the Student Handbook

Includes all violations involving law enforcement

All Athletic Code of Conduct Rules

All Alcohol and Substance Abuse issues