

Newaygo Athletics



Middle School Athletics Abridged Athletic Code

Message to the Parents

Welcome to the athletic program at Newaygo School District. We hope that all of your athletic experiences will be positive, and that you, as well as the school will benefit from your involvement in the athletic program. Please take the time to read the entire handbook so that you will have an understanding of our athletic policies, requirements, rules, and expectations.

Participation in athletics is a privilege offered to the students of Newaygo School District. To be a Newaygo athlete you must do more than make a team or participate in a contest. A high school athlete has to be dedicated, enjoy being challenged, and give 100% every day on and off the field. An athlete must strive to do well in the classroom and must maintain the academic requirements prescribed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and Newaygo School District. The teachers, coaches, and administrators of Newaygo School District are committed to helping each athlete to be the best they can be. Each athlete must make the same commitment. As educators we, who are concerned with the educational development of young people through athletics, feel that a properly controlled, well-organized athletic program meets the student-athlete's needs for rigorous fitness, relevant to their future in any professional area, and gives them the ability to develop relationships in several settings. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student-athlete's educational maturity.

A student-athlete who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and dedication. These are the reasons we place such emphasis on good training habits. Failure to comply with training and self-disciplinary rules may result in the consequences and penalties outlined in this handbook. There is no place in athletics for student-athletes who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition or demonstrate appropriate behavior and/or sportsmanship. We are striving for excellence and do not want our student-athletes to settle for mediocrity.

Message to the Student Athlete

As a student-athlete, you are subject to the following Athletic Code, the rules and regulations of the Central States Activity Association and the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). MHSAA guidelines can be found in the Athletic Administrators office or online at www.mhsaa.com. Read the following rules carefully, so you fully know and understand them. Your dedication as a student-athlete is essential for a successful athletic program.

Academic Eligibility

Previous Academic Credit Record: A student who does not meet the minimum standard of receiving credit in 50% (MS/JH) of classes at the end of the semester is not eligible until the next semester, on the 61st scheduled school day – provided the student is passing the standard when checked on the 60th day. Once the deficiency is made up and the transcript shows the minimum standard achieved, the student would be eligible.

Weekly Eligibility: Academic eligibility shall be checked weekly through the end of each season. To remain eligible to participate in athletic activities, student athletes must pass all of their classes. Any student having 1 or more F's will be ineligible for the following week and grades meet eligibility standards. The burden shall be on the student to prove their eligibility. This means that any ineligible student athlete will be unable to participate in contests/activities/interscholar athletics beginning the following Monday through Saturday. If a student is ineligible, they may not leave school early for any contests or team events.

Students' grades are pulled via Skyward every Wednesday morning. Students are then called to the athletic office and notified via writing their grades. They then have until Friday afternoon to check with the teachers and correct any grades.

Code of Conduct

Purpose: The purpose of the athletic code is to establish standards for the athlete in the area of academic performance and athletic behavior for those individuals who voluntarily become involved in the interscholastic athletic program.

The code is not a complete list of undesirable conduct of athletes. Newaygo athletes are considered to be examples and role models and expected to act accordingly during their high school career. Any student athlete whose conduct is found to be a discredit or to cause unfavorable notoriety to the athlete, the team, or NHS during their high school career, shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, Athletic Director or principal, whether or not the conduct is specifically described in the athletic code of conduct.

Student Athletes are required to abide by the Newaygo' Academic and Citizenship Agreement at all times and at all places. When a student voluntarily participates in interscholastic athletics, he/she agrees to abide by the agreement throughout his/her school career. A student will not compete until all of the aforementioned requirements are completed along with a signed acknowledgement form which includes a parent/guardian signature agreeing to abide by the Student Athlete Academic and Citizenship Agreement. This agreement applies equally for male and female athletes, candidates, members, and managers of all athletic teams. The agreement will be enforced for all athletes from the first day of signing until the termination of the student's athletic experience at Newaygo with the stipulation that records of Intermediate School infractions will not impact any future application of the agreement but that all due penalties will be served. Though the agreement will be continuously in force throughout the athlete's career, each athlete will recommit to its guidelines annually. An athlete who violates the agreement will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the consequences provisions of the Academic and Citizenship Agreement.

Section I – Prohibited Conduct or Activities

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Student Athlete Academic and Citizenship Agreement and subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the "Consequences" section of the agreement (this agreement covers behaviors demonstrated year round including the summer months):

A. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, being under the influence of or being present at a party where minors are consuming any of the items listed in 1-6 below. For purposes of this section of the agreement, the term "distribution" includes the "hosting" of a party at which any of the substances listed in items 1-6 are used:

1. Tobacco or tobacco products in any form including e-cigarettes and vapors;

2. Alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form;
3. Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal and/or state statute;
4. Steroids, human growth hormones or other controlled performance-enhancing drugs;
5. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance enhancing, i.e., “look alike” drugs;
6. Misuse of prescription drugs.

Note: It shall not be a violation of the agreement for an athlete to use or possess a prescription or patent drug when taken pursuant to a legal prescription issued by a licensed practitioner for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board Policy. An athlete shall notify his or her coach if he or she is taking prescription medicine.

7. An established violation of federal, state or local law/ordinance, including felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses, may result in the application of the consequences listed.
8. Cumulative or gross misconduct, as described in the Student Handbook, will result in a penalty as provided.
9. Conduct determined to be detrimental to the athletic program, school district, and or team as determined by the administration.

Prior to the commission of an infraction, athletes who are genuinely concerned about personal substance abuse problems are strongly encouraged to seek the confidential support of coaches and staff. A school-approved substance abuse assessment program might at that time be recommended. If, however, a violation of the code occurs, then all stipulated consequences apply and will be enforced.

Reasonable Suspicion

Reasonable suspicion is intended to target situations when there are objective facts or specific occurrences that support the conclusion that a student-athlete may be using alcohol or other prohibited drug substances.

Reasonable suspicion may also be triggered by a previous positive test or an arrest and/or suspension for possession/use of illegal substances within the preceding twelve months. Reasonable suspicion is based on a common sense conclusion upon which practical people ordinarily rely. These conclusions can be drawn from observed or reliably described human behavior that is determined to be warning signs for possible drug/alcohol use (e.g., changes in emotional and physical condition and academic/athletic achievement, witnessed drug use, possession, etc.).

Consequences

1. First Offense: Participation in 20% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the number of contests/dates based on how the MHSAA allows in the current season will be forfeited. The current season is defined as that season in progress at the date of the offense. The denial of participation will extend into the athlete’s next season, if necessary, to fulfill the suspension assigned. The number of contests will be prorated on a percentage basis. During the suspension, the athlete will participate in all practices and be dressed in street clothes at all contests.
2. Second Offense: Participation in 50% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the number of contests/dates based on how the MHSAA allows in the current season will be forfeited. The current season is defined as that season in progress at the date of the offense. The denial of participation will extend into the athlete’s next season, if necessary, to fulfill the suspension assigned. The number of contests will be prorated on a percentage basis. During the suspension, the athlete will participate in all practices and be dressed in street clothes at all contests.
3. Third Offense: The team member is to be suspended from participation in all interscholastic events for the remainder of their middle school and or high school eligibility as defined by the MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION and up to the discretion of NPS Administration.

Appeal to the Superintendent/Board of Education for reinstatement of athletic participation.

4. Self-Reporting: If a student athlete finds his/herself in a situation of being present at a party where minors are consuming any of the items listed in section 1.A. 1-6 and unable to leave he/she may report it to the assigned number/site within 24 hours of the violation and an investigation will be conducted by the administration to determine if disciplinary action is warranted.

Section V - Penalty Enforcement

All current student-athletes and potential student-athletes shall be considered under the jurisdiction of the athletic code, upon enrollment in the Newaygo School District. It is understood that the Principal, designee or other administrator may suspend from athletics a student-athlete at any time when the student-athlete's conduct may have a detrimental effect upon the image of Newaygo School District.

These regulations are in effect throughout the calendar year (365 days).

When serving a team suspension, a student-athlete must attend all practice sessions and (unless excused) must be present (not in uniform) at all contests. The only exception to this rule would be if a student-athlete were suspended for the full season in one sport. The student-athlete would not be allowed to participate with the team. If a second penalty is imposed while a previous penalty is being served, the penalty for the second offense will not begin until the penalty for the first offense has been served.

If a penalty is not completed during a given sports season, the portion not served will be carried over to the next sport that the student-athlete participates in.

Student/athletes serving out of school suspensions are ineligible to practice or compete during the time they are suspended. For suspensions ending on Friday, a coach may allow the athlete to compete on a Saturday. In-school suspensions will not hinder a student/athlete's ability to participate. After-school suspensions may or may not affect the athlete depending upon whether the required time conflicts with the practice or game schedule. After-school suspensions will be assigned on the next scheduled date, regardless of conflicts.

Penalties will not be considered to have been served unless the athlete fully completes the season. Quitting the team is not considered "serving the penalty".

If a subsequent offense is committed while a previous penalty is being served, the penalty for the subsequent offense will not begin until the penalty for the first offense has been served.

The offenses will be cumulative during a student's intermediate or high school career, rather than on a yearly basis.

Athletic Administration

Athletic Administrative Assistant- Allison Brummel
Middle School Principal-Jim Smith
Middle School Assistant Principal- Kyle McAlister
Athletic Director-Mike Fosburg

The full athletic code can be found @ <https://newaygolions.org/main/filesLinks/>