

NCHS Activity / Athletic Code and Eligibility

The Athletic/Activity Code is based upon the premise that participation in interscholastic athletics or activities is a voluntary co-curricular activity. When the student chooses to participate he or she must agree to conduct themselves in accordance with the Athletic/Activity Code, the guidelines set forth by their coach, as well as, the behavioral expectations applicable to all NCHS students.

Coverage

Students involved in extracurricular programs that represent Newark High School are expected to conform to the following code of conduct from the time they first participate in interscholastic athletics / activities until their graduation. The policies and guidelines outlined in the Athletic/Activity Code are "in force" twelve (12) months a year. The Athletic/Activity code applies to all students involved in extracurricular activities.

Expectations

All NCHS Extracurricular participants are expected to:

1. Comply with all Illinois High School Association rules and regulations.
2. Comply with the provisions of the NCHS Athletic/Activity Code as established by the Board of Education and the administration.
3. Abide by the approved rules and regulations established by each coach/sponsor of the sport or activity in which the student participates.

Application

The NCHS Athletic/Activity Code will include, but not be limited to, the following violations:

1. Use or possession of drug paraphernalia, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, steroids, inhalants, or other controlled substances. This includes "look alike substances."
2. Attendance at events where these substances are being used illegally.
3. Theft or the possession of stolen property including athletic equipment.
4. Arrest or indictment for any illegal act will result in an immediate suspension from interscholastic participation until such time as the student-athlete is exonerated by the Administration.
5. Conviction of an illegal act will result in a suspension from further competition until such time as the NCHS Administration determines the appropriate consequence for the act of misconduct.
6. Any disrespect/insubordination (verbal and/or non-verbal) directed toward a coach and/or team member.
7. Other violations of school rules and regulations including but not limited to any out-of-school suspension or acts of grossly disobedient and/or insubordinate behavior considered to be "unbecoming of an athlete", and/or detrimental to the interscholastic athletic program or Newark Community High School.

Violation Procedure for Athletics / Activities

The procedures to be followed in the event of a violation of the NCHS Athletic & Activity Code shall be:

1. All alleged violations shall be reported to the athletic director/administration in a timely fashion.
2. The athletic director shall arrange a conference with the student-athlete, parents, and coach of the sport involved.
3. The athletic director/administration shall determine if there is sufficient evidence and/or reasonable cause to support the alleged violation.

Disciplinary Consequences

Possession or the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs will result in an athletic/activity suspension. The length of the suspension may range from up to a third of a season or seasons and up to one calendar year for a first offense for any sport/activity the student is involved in. In addition, the student must complete a school approved teen awareness/prevention and decision making program, at the student's expense before they may participate in any sport/activities at NCHS.

Level 1 – First Offense

Violations: theft, vandalism, verbal and/or physical assault, any out of school suspension or other acts determined to be seriously detrimental to the integrity of the student, the interscholastic athletic program, or Newark High School.

Consequence: Suspension for up to one-third of the sport/activity season and/or activity/game suspensions.

- A student will be eligible to reduce their penalty by half the number of suspended contests by agreeing to complete a remediation program determined by administration. Options would include a minimum three hour counseling program and/or community service not to exceed 15 hours. The maximum plan could not exceed the combination of both options.

Level II - Extreme Misconduct, second offense of a Level I offense

Violations: Extreme instances of misconduct and/or misbehavior.

Consequences: No athletic/activity participation for up to one calendar year.

- A Student will be eligible to reduce their penalty to 90 calendar days from first contest or point of violation, whichever comes later, by agreeing to complete a remediation program determined by the administration. Options would include a minimum three-hour counseling program and/or community service not to exceed 30 hours. The maximum plan could not exceed the combination of both options.

Level III - Third offense or second Level II offense

Violations: As outlined in Level I and II

Consequence: Exclusion from participation in interscholastic athletics/activities for a period of two years up to no further interscholastic athletic/activity participation as an NCHS student.

- Athletics: If a student athlete is suspended for any part of a season, the athletic director, principal, coach of the sport, and the athlete's parent will discuss the requirements for attending practices and games for the length of the suspension. At the discretion of the athletic director and coach, the suspended student-athlete may be required to attend all practices and games for the entire suspension. Failure to abide by the agreement determined by the athletic director, coach, and parent will be considered a violation of the suspension. When a suspension violation occurs, the student must repeat the entire suspension. If the suspension violation occurs at the end of the season and there is not sufficient time left to re-serve the suspension, the suspension will be carried into the next sport season in which the student participates. If the student does not finish the season the suspension will need to be repeated. When a student-athlete is suspended for an entire season/year, the student-athlete will not be allowed to attend any practices or games as a member of the team.
- Activity: If a student is suspended from an activity, the principal and sponsor will discuss the requirements for attending the activity and length of the suspension. At the discretion of the principal, sponsor, and parent the suspended student-may be required to attend all practices and contests for the entire suspension. Failure to abide by the agreement determined by the principal, sponsor, and parent will be considered a violation of the suspension. When a suspension violation occurs, the student must repeat the entire suspension. If the suspension violation occurs at the end of the activity's season and there is not sufficient time left to re-serve the suspension, the suspension will be carried into the next activity season in which the student participates. If the student does not finish the season the suspension will need to be repeated. When a student is suspended for an entire season/year, the student will not be allowed to attend any practices or games as a member of the activity.
- A second offense of the above will result in no further participation as an NCHS student.

Application of Penalties

In the event that a student is suspended for one-third of a season, and there are less than one-third of the contests remaining in the sport season, the penalty shall carry over (so as to equal one-third of the contests) to the next sport in which the student-athlete participates and completes. Violations that occur in the summer or off season shall be enforced in the next sport in which the student- athlete participates and completes.

Unexcused Absence from a Practice or Game

An unexcused absence may be any absence deemed unexcused by the coach or sponsor. The consequence for an unexcused absence may be suspension from one contest. A second unexcused absence shall result in a suspension of not less than three contests and may result in the suspension of the student for the remainder of the season. The coach/sponsor may determine the length of the suspension. A third incident of unexcused absence may result in the suspension of the student for the remainder of the season.

Team Travel Expectations

All students are expected to travel with their respective teams/clubs to and from all events. Not traveling with the team/club, without the permission of the coach/sponsor and/or administration, or failing to follow the below guidelines for parental transportation, may be cause for suspension.

1. The coach/sponsor determines the contests in which student are expected to ride the bus to and from the contest.
2. A parent or guardian must present himself/herself to a member of the coaching staff/sponsor after the team has been excused informing the coach/sponsor that his/her child is leaving with him/her. The coach/sponsor will make the decision where the formal conversation will take place. Students are then required to ride home with his/her guardian, unless a pre-arrangement has been made with administration (see #3).
3. A parent or guardian may gain permission from administration, at least two days before each event, to allow their child to ride home with another adult (over 21 years of age required).

Exceptions may be made for injury or emergency.

Athletic/Activity Eligibility

At Newark Community High School, academics and graduation are the top priority. While we believe that extra-curricular activities are important in a student's life and their development, they do not supersede the importance of academics. Therefore, eligibility rules have been established to provide a guideline to support students and focus on improving their academic standing. Eligibility reports become active the third week of each semester.

1. NCHS has a weekly NO PASS – NO PLAY policy. So, students in activities /athletics must pass all credit hours of high school work each week to be eligible to participate in that week's contests or performances. Students are expected to go to practice and tutoring during ineligibility.
2. You must have passed and received credit towards graduation for thirty-five (35) credit hours of high school work for the entire previous semester to be eligible at all during the ensuing semester. Thirty-five hours would mean passing seven (7) half (.5) credit courses of study. IVVC counts as four (4) half (.5) credit courses of study. This rule also works in conjunction with the criteria set forth in rule #5.
3. The official eligibility report will be run on Monday and any student ineligible will be held out of competition from that Monday through the following Saturday.
4. Any NCHS student that has 2 or more D's / F's during a weekly eligibility report will be required to attend after school tutoring (held on Tuesday and Thursday) during the week of ineligibility. At any time during the student's ineligibility they do not attend the required study sessions they may be removed from the team. If a student remains on the eligibility report for 4 consecutive weeks, the student will have an academic conference with the Coach, family, AD and Principal or Superintendent. This conference will determine if the player should remain on the team or not. Coaches reserve the right to have additional consequences for players that miss practices due to tutoring sessions.
5. Any NCHS student that has 2 or more D's / F's on their previous semester grades, will be ruled ineligible for any contests for the first 3 weeks of new semester of their current season or the next available season that they participate in (whichever comes first). After they serve their consequence and the eligibility report determines that the student in question is in good standing, they can begin to compete again. These students would also attend practices and weekly tutoring as outlined in #4.

Athletic Specific Information

1. A mandatory meeting prior to the onset of each sport must be attended by both the student and parent(s). The time of the meeting will precede the start of the first practice and notice will be given in advance of the date and time. The proof of a current physical*, a signed athletic code of conduct, concussion information sign off form, performance enhancing substance policy form and the sports fee must be submitted at this meeting. All athletes need to be registered online with fees paid prior to being able to participate in their sport. New students to the district must see the athletic director for information and rules.

*The required freshmen physical examination fulfills this requirement for freshmen student-athletes.

2. An athlete must participate in a minimum of 5 practices to be considered eligible for interscholastic competition.

Student-Athlete / Activity Absences

If a student is absent from school due to illness or without the permission of the administration the student will not be allowed to attend or participate in any school activity (practice or contest) held either after school or in the evening on the day which the absence occurred. A student must be in attendance by 10:55 a.m., and attend the remainder of the school day in order to participate in an extracurricular activity that day. Should unusual circumstances arise the superintendent will make the final determination.

- To participate in a Saturday contest, a student must be in attendance on Friday by 10:55 a.m. and attend the remainder of the school day.
- If a student shows a recurring pattern of absences on days following games/activities, the coach/sponsor will determine student's level of participation in the next practice/contest.

Injuries

All injuries should be reported immediately to the coach/sponsor and then the athletic trainer. Any time the student seeks a physician for treatment of an injury he or she may not resume the activity until the physician has issued a written release. The athletic trainer, coach and school office should have a copy of this release.

Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

House Bill 200, which recognizes the dangers associated with head injuries and concussion, became effective on July 1, 2011. The legislation also requires IHSA member school to adopt a policy regarding student-athlete concussions and head injuries that is in compliance with the protocols, policies and by-laws of the IHSA.

Information of the school's concussion and head injury policy must be a part of any agreement contract, code, or other written instrument that a school requires a student athlete and his or her parents or guardian to sign before participating in practice or interscholastic competition.

A student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from participation or competition at that time.

A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury cannot return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer.

If not cleared to return to that contest, a student athlete cannot return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided their school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

With regard to student athlete concussions and head injuries, the District complies with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the IHSA. Specifically, the District will follow the "IHSA Protocol for Implementation of NFHS Sports Playing Rule for Concussions", and / or any update thereof, and the District will implement the IHSA "Return to Play / Learn Policy", and /or any update thereof.

Return to Learn will be supervised by the School Nurse in conjunction with the Guidance Counselor, and Principal. The Nurse will monitor symptoms and responses in conjunction with the return to the learn process.

Return to Play for athletics as well as physical education will be supervised by a Certified Athletic Trainer. If the student/athlete is seeing a physical therapist, there must be constant contact and updates to describe status and levels of improvement. If student/athlete is cleared by a physician for Return to Play a note must be obtained and on record in a timely manner.

Information of the District's concussion and head injury policy will be included in any agreement, contract, code, or other written instrument that the District requires a student athlete or their parents/ guardians to sign before participating in practice or interscholastic competition. In connection therewith, the District may use the IHSA's concussion management resources. These can be found at:

<http://www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/ConcussionResources.aspx>

Or

<http://www.newarkhs.k12.il.us/pdf/nurse/NCHS-Concussion-Protocol-RTL.pdf>