INTRODUCTION
Welcome to the Neosho High School activity/athletic program. Hopefully, your decision to take advantage of this portion of our co-curricular program will be educational, rewarding, and challenging. This handbook is given to you so that you might be more aware of the programs that are available and their inter-relationships. The Neosho School District encourages you to take advantage of as many programs as your time and talent will permit. WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE SPECIALIZATION IN ONE SPORT, RATHER WE WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO EXPERIENCE A VARIETY OF SPORTS AS WELL AS OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. Naturally, due to conflicts in seasons, practice times, schedules, etc., some choices will have to be made by you.

PHILOSOPHY
We believe that interscholastic activities shall supplement the secondary curricular program, and as such become a vital part of a student’s total educational experience. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to make maximum use of his/her education. Student participation in any part of our activities is a privilege which carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community and to the student himself/herself. The privilege to participate in sports/activities for Neosho High School is a year-round commitment and will help to develop the student physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

MISSION STATEMENT
“The Neosho Athletic Program in its pursuit of Athletic Excellence will focus on developing true student athletes who value teamwork, citizenship, and character. Our coaches, staff and athletes will represent and serve the Neosho School District and community in a way that will model hard work, perseverance, and a winning desire, creating an environment that is safe, powerful and positive.”

RESPONSIBILITIES
As a student participant, you are in school to secure the best secondary education you can achieve. Deciding to take advantage of the other half of education plays a significant role in your total educational development. However, with this decision also comes certain responsibilities, if the value of activities is to be achieved, namely:

- Striving to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability and respect for others and their abilities.
- Maintaining academic citizenship and eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and Neosho School District.
- Learning the spirit of hard work and sacrifice.
- Learning to attain physical fitness through good habits.
- Desiring to excel to the limits of your potential.
- Showing respect for both authority and property.
- Willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the activities program.
Keep in mind that you are in the public eye and your personal conduct must be above reproach. You have an obligation to create a favorable image and gain the respect of your teammates, the student-body and the community. Our coaches/sponsors have the right to set more stringent rules and regulations.

PARTICIPATION
Students are free to make their own selections as to activities in which they wish to participate. It is the Neosho School District policy that students facing a conflict between two school sponsored activities will be given a choice of which to attend. Certain school activities (to be determined by the administrators) will have priority. The administration will examine this order of precedence: 1. National events, 2. State events, 3. District sub-state events, 4. Conference events, 5. Interscholastic events, 6. School performances, 7. Dress rehearsals, and 8. Regular practices. Students shall not be penalized for the activity not attended. This list is not all-inclusive and does not specify additional standards set by coaches, sponsors, and organizations. These standards are in effect during the school year, in season and off season.

Students may not practice for or participate with a non-school team or in any organized non-school athletic competition and for the school team in the same sport during the same season.

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION
The following are rules included in the MSHSAA official handbook and are listed here to help students and parents understand state requirements and to help avoid a situation that could lead to violations of eligibility standards.

- Per MSHSAA policy, a student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e., jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (i.e., restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon Neosho School District policy. Minor moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, accidents or injuries. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.

- A student who misses class on the date of a contest without being excused by the athletic department shall not be considered eligible to represent his/her school on that date.

- Any student who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for any interscholastic activity for one full year from the date of withdrawal.

- To be eligible for the activity/athletic season, a student in grades 9-12 must be currently enrolled in courses that offer a total of three (3) units of credit, and he/she must have earned three (3) units of credit in courses that met the preceding semester.

- A beginning ninth (9th) grade student that has been promoted from the eight (8th) grade to the ninth (9th) grade shall be granted eligibility for his/her first semester regardless of the three (3) units of credit rule referring to the previous semester.

- A junior or senior high school student may be eligible in a public school only in the district in which his/her parents, legally established guardian, or the person with whom he/she has been living for one calendar year and is designated as the school for him/her to attend by the Board of Education.
• Non-school competition: Before competing in ANY non-school competition, check with your administration.
• The school shall require each student, before the student is allowed to practice or participate, a physician’s certificate stating that he/she is physically able to participate in athletic contests of his/her school.
• A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until the school has verification that he/she has basic athletic insurance coverage.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY
MSHSAA By-Law 2.3.2 requires that high school students must pass 80% of the allowed classes or 3 units of credit, whichever is greater, in order to be eligible each semester. If a student fails 2 or more classes in any semester, the student is not allowed to participate the following semester.

MSHSAA By-Law 2.3.6 allows for summer school classes that are core requirements to be taken in summer session and count for 1 credit in making a student eligible for participation. Correspondence courses are not allowed.

Fall eligibility is determined by the student’s performance on semester grades in the spring semester of the previous school year. Spring eligibility is determined by the preceding fall semester grades.

For students in 7-8th grade Academic Responsibility
MSHSAA By-Law 2.3.7 requires that JH/MS students must pass 80% of the allowed classes or 3 units, whichever is great, in order to be eligible each QUARTER. If a student fails 2 or more classes in any QUARTER, the student is not allowed to participate in ANY CONTESTS the ENTIRE following QUARTER.

MSHSAA By-Law 2.3.9 allows for summer school classes that are core requirements to be taken in summer session and count for 1 credit towards making a student eligible for participation in high school, but not in 7th or 8th grade. Correspondence courses are not allowed either.

• Fall eligibility (first quarter) is determined by the student’s performance on QUARTER grades in the fourth (4th) quarter of the previous school year.
• Second (2nd) quarter eligibility is determined by the grades in first (1st) quarter.
• Third (3rd) quarter eligibility is determined by the grades in the second (2nd) quarter.
• Fourth (4th) quarter eligibility is determined by the graded in the third (3rd) quarter.

Any student who fails one or more classes on a QUARTER grade report must inform their coach/sponsor immediately and will be placed on academic probation. While on academic probation, the student will be required to attend study hall after school in the library 2 days per week until all grades are passing. If the student fails to attend these study sessions, they will be ineligible to participate in any athletics/activity related functions, including practices/rehearsals, until the missed study halls have been made up. Grades will be checked by the Athletic Office each Friday to determine if the student is passing grades in all courses and can be released from probation.

ATTENDANCE
MSHSAA By-Law 2.2.3d requires that a student that misses class on a day where they will be participating in an activity without prior approval from the office be ineligible to participate in the
activity that day. Furthermore, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any date following the absence until the student attends a full day of classes. Students must notify the activities office staff that they will be missing classes prior to the morning of the absence. If a student does not notify the office by this time, the student will be ineligible for the activity that day. Call 417-451-8606 at any time to leave a message. Each individual coach/sponsor has the authority to set more restrictive attendance requirements.

*If a student is absent from school, they cannot participate in an activity that day. If the absence occurs on a Friday, the student may not participate in any activity on the following Saturday.*

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS**

Students who have missed more than eight (8) absences in any one class will not be allowed to leave school early or be allowed to miss all day and travel with any school sponsored activity, competition, or sporting event.

**CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

MSHSSA By-Law 2.2.1 - Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper authority. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered “creditable citizens.” Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.

MSHSSA By-Law 2.2.2 (Law Enforcement) – A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e., jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (i.e., restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies. Minor moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility unless they involve drugs, alcohol, accidents, or injuries. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties and has satisfied all special conditions or probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.

MSHSSA By-Law 2.2.3 (Local School) – A student who violates a local school policy is ineligible until completion of the prescribed school penalties.

MSHSSA By-Law 2.2.5 (Student Responsibility) – Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school’s discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the Board of Directors. *These rules and regulations apply 365 days a year, in school and out of school. Any violation of the Wildcat Standards and/or MSHSSA standards during the entire year (365 days) will result in consequences handed down by MSHSSA and/or Neosho School District. If the violation occurs during the “off-season” for the student, then the consequences will carry over to the next season in which the student will participate.*

**COMMITMENT**

A student who has gone out for a sport but quits on his own accord, will not be eligible to start practicing for another sport before the end of competition in the sport that was dropped, unless the head coach (of
the sport that was dropped) signs a release form and the head coach of the new sport involved accepts the athlete. EVERY ATHLETE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS POLICY. Any activity performance group member who quits cheer, dance or flags before the season is completed will be ineligible for tryouts for another activity group for a period of 365 days.

DISCIPLINE REFERRALS
According to MSHSAA By-Law 2.2.3, a student shall not be considered eligible on any type of suspension. Students may not represent the school (practices or games) while they are on either in school or out of school suspension. Excessive disciplinary referrals (5) to the office will be reviewed and will result in restriction from the coach/sponsor/office. Any offense, which merits a second out of school suspension in the same school year, will result in restriction for a minimum of 20 school days.

FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS
Any student participant who is arrested or charged with a misdemeanor (except minor traffic violations) or felony must inform the coach or sponsor in person or by phone within 2 days of the incident. If the incident occurs during the summer, the student must inform school personnel within 5 days of the incident. If the incident takes place in the “off-season” for the athlete, then the penalties will carry over into the next season in which the student will participate. The coach/sponsor/administration will initiate the suspense process. The student is ineligible for competition. The coach/sponsor has the right to enforce more restrictive penalties.

- First (1st) Offense (arrested and/or charged with a misdemeanor and/or referred to the juvenile office by law enforcement) – 21 days beginning with the first game or match following the incident.
- Second (2nd) Offense – 180 days and loss of varsity letter for that season.
- Third (3rd) Offense – student is ineligible for a full year (365 days).
- Failure to inform – additional 21 days.
- Arrested and/or charged with a felony – 180 school days and loss of varsity letter for that season.
- Arrested and/or charged with a misdemeanor or felony during the summer - ineligible according to MSHSAA By-Law 2.1.2 until all proceedings are concluded and penalties are completed.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
Consequences shall be assessed for use, possession, or distribution of alcohol and/or illegal drugs including all controlled substances, counterfeit drugs, kiddie dope and other substances purported to be drugs. Criminal charges filed or tickets issued for any drug or alcohol related incidents will also be subject to the consequences outlined below. If a student inadvertently finds him/herself in the presence of minors who are in possession of controlled substances, they must take some reasonable action to remove him/herself from the circumstance to avoid violation of this policy. During the suspension from the activities program, the student will be expected to practice, but will NOT be permitted to participate in games or performances. Violations involving controlled substances are cumulative in grades 7-8 and 9-12.

- Tobacco products usage – coach’s/sponsor’s discretion
- Possession of alcohol in or outside of school – suspended for 21 days beginning with the first game or match following the incident. The athlete may also lose their varsity letter they earned that season. Second offense – 90 days and loss of varsity letter for that season.
- Possession of illegal controlled substance in or outside of school – suspended for 60 days and loss of varsity letter for that season.
• Distribution of an illegal controlled substance in or outside of school – 180 days.

Policy administration and appeals: The Neosho Board of Education also believes that consistent administration of this policy is important from school to school and from activity to activity, and that appropriate procedures must be followed before any student is suspended from participation. Any request for an appeal to a decision shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within three (3) days. The Superintendent shall have the authority to stay any suspension until a final decision may be reached by the Neosho Board of Education.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Neosho School District wants to make sure you are aware of the social media guidelines. Playing, competing, and being involved in athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege. Students representing their high school and the Neosho School District are held to the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. Neosho School District and the Athletic Department recognize and support the student athletes’ rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. As a student-athlete, you represent the school district and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, your school, and the school district in a positive manner at all times.

Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, BeReal and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by many students here in the Neosho School District.

Students should be aware that third parties, including the media, faculty, and future employers, could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student, your coach/sponsor, your school, and the district. This can also be detrimental to a student’s future employment options, whether in professional or other industries.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include but are not limited to depictions or presentation of the following:

• Photos, videos, comments, or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. For example: holding keg cups, beer cans, shot glasses, smoking and/or vaping.

• Photos, videos, and comments of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.

• Pictures, videos, comments, or posts that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

• Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another institution, taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities such as hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, stalking, and selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behavior (including the use of profanity).

To guide social media practices, Neosho School District suggests the following:

• Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. Social media websites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.
- Think twice before posting. If you would not want your parents, grandparents, family, coaches, or boss to see your post, then **DO NOT** post it!
- Remember the internet is permanent. Even if you delete something on the internet, it still exists out there somewhere.

**Below are social networking guidelines, which provide the following direction for social networking site usage:**

- Everything you post is public information. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online, even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future! Many employers, college admissions officers and athletic recruiters review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posts).
- Like comments made in person, the Neosho School District’s athletic department will not tolerate disrespectful comment and behavior online, such as:
  - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates, coaches, teachers, students, or other student-athletes.
  - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances or any other inappropriate behavior (including the use of profanity).
  - Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

In short, do not have a false sense of security about your right to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. Online social networking sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Think about whom you represent: yourself, your family, your teammates, your coaches, and your school. Like it or not, people are going to associate everything you post with you and what you represent. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image which you can be proud of for years to come.

Any violation of the social media policy will be handled on an individual basis by the Activities Director.

**SPORTSMANSHIP CODE**

All players, coaches/sponsors, parents and other fans are expected to:

- Emphasize the proper ideal of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fairness.
- Eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the activity. Hazing and initiations are not acceptable or condoned on or off school grounds.
- Stress the values derived from participating fairly.
- Show cordial courtesy to officials, visitors, and each other.
- Establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of coaches/sponsors, judges, and officials.
• Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules and expectations of the activity and the standards of eligibility.
• Encourage leadership, initiative, and good judgment by the participants in the activity.
• Recognize that the purpose of activities is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual participants.
• Promote good school citizenship standards and use them as a barometer for participation. All school discipline policies and rules apply to Neosho students at school activities whether they are held on school property or away from school. Non-creditable citizenship may result in disciplinary action or removal from participation. According to the MSHSAA By-Law 5.5.1, “The Board of Directors is vested with the power to suspend schools from membership for unsportsmanlike conduct of teams, coaches, students, or fans. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, coaches, students, and fans at games both home and away.”

INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST RULES FOR BEHAVIOR
All players, coaches/sponsors, parents, and other fans attending any interscholastic contest are expected to:

• Cheer for your team rather than against the other team.
• Treat the opposing team and officials with respect by refraining from taunts, chants, noises, cheers, jeers, songs, profanity, signs, or motions.
• Treat your team with respect by refraining from criticizing the actions and decisions of the players, coaches, and officials.
• Display positive signs for your team.
• Refrain from coaching or instructing from the stands or sidelines.
• Show respect to opposing teams during their introductions.
• Refrain from using noise makers.
• Refrain from continuous standing, except in the designated student spirit section.
• Abide by decisions of officials.
• Accept victory or defeat graciously.
• Be a creditable citizen at all times. Failure to adhere to these guidelines could result in disciplinary action.

ANTI-HAZING POLICY
Hazing is defined as, including but not limited to, any action or situation created, whether on or off school premises, which might reasonably be expected to result in mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Disciplinary consequences will occur to anyone, or any team found to be guilty of hazing. According to Missouri State statutes “consent” to hazing is not a defense.

SELECTIONS TO COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS
Coaches/sponsors are hired by the school district to be responsible for establishing criteria for selection with input from his/her staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Selection and decisions regarding game/performance situations are the responsibility solely of this staff.

At times, there are limited opportunities for students due to our large-school size and the competitive nature of school athletics/activities. While this is not our desire, it is a reality. It is extremely difficult for coaches/sponsors to tell young people they will not be placed on the team/performance group for which
they want to participate, or that they have not made the team/performance group at all. Every student, regardless of their grade in school, should understand that these are real possibilities.

If selected, a student should be prepared to accept placement at any level and complete the season in good standing. Parents should also prepare themselves for this and accept the coach’s/sponsor’s decisions.

Coaches/sponsors are expected to assemble the most competitive team possible, by selecting individuals, filling positions according to need and appropriately placing students on the proper team/performance group, then defining each individual’s role, based on certain criteria, including but not limited to, citizenship, sport/activity specific ability, sport/activity specific skills, ability to work together, and willingness to learn.

Every student has the same opportunity to make a varsity team/performance group. In order to make a varsity team/performance group as a senior, a student must be willing to fulfill a role that the team/performance group needs. Our program structure dictates that there will always be less senior students than younger students.

There are many non-school teams and performance groups sponsored by different organizations, through which students can gain valuable experiences. However, it is very important that students and parents understand that participation in a non-school team/performance group does not guarantee any player a place on the high school team/performance group.

The main goal of any level of competitive athletics/activities is to put the most talented members in competition to win the contests. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to anyone. Each member of a team/performance group is valuable to the group’s overall progress. Some members may play a great deal of time in a contest while others may not play what a parent would consider “significant playing time.” Regardless of time spent in actual competition, a student can learn many valuable lessons simply by being a part of a team/performance group: sportsmanship, working together to meet group goals, commitment, placing team/performance group above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, and being responsible for one’s actions.

**PARENT/COACH/SPONSOR RELATIONSHIP**

*Communication*

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, everyone is better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to the students. As parents, when your student becomes involved in a program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student’s program. Coaches and parents are expected to encourage and praise students in their attempt to improve themselves as students, athletes, and citizens. Parents can facilitate this by gaining an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the sport/activity and the expectations placed on your student.

*Expected Communication from Parents:*

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach/sponsor.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to a coach’s/sponsor’s philosophy and/or expectations.
Parents and coaches should help their students learn that success is oriented in the development of a skill and should make student-athletes feel good about themselves, regardless of the outcome of any contest. As your student becomes involved in the programs of Neosho schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student wishes. **If you as a parent have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner including proper time and place, being sure to follow the designated chain of command.** At these times discussion with the coach/sponsor is encouraged.

*Expected Communication from Coach/Sponsor:*
- Philosophy of the coach/sponsor.
- Expectations the coach has for your student as well as all the players on the team/group.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- Procedure should your student be injured during participation.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your student's participation.

*Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coach/Sponsor*
- The treatment of your student mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your student improve.
- Concerns about your student’s behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your student not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches/sponsors are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things should be discussed with your student’s coach/sponsor. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach/sponsor.

*Issue NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches/Sponsors*
- Playing time.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling.
- Other student-athletes/participants.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/sponsor and the parents. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other’s position. Everyone involved is expected to be respectful, recognize and show appreciation for the other’s role, and to reinforce the school’s Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct and policies and procedures as outlined in this handbook. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

- Call to set up an appointment with the coach/sponsor. Do **NOT** approach a coach before or after a contest.
- If the meeting with the coach/sponsor did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set an appointment with the Activities Director, Millie Gilion, 417-451-8606, to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step can be determined at this meeting.
TRANSPORTATION TO ACTIVITIES
A coach/sponsor must ride the bus with participants traveling to and from an event. Students are expected to ride the bus to and from events. With signed permission, a parent may take only his/her child home from an event with the coach’s/sponsor’s permission. Under extenuating circumstances and upon speaking with the coach/sponsor face to face with the parent and obtaining written parental approval, the student may travel home with a person designated by the parent. It is recommended that the Athletic/Activities Director be notified of these situations as soon as possible. A copy of all completed permission forms must be filed with the Athletic/Activities office.

Teams will return to Neosho immediately following the contest/game unless prior arrangements have been made. Only eligible students will be permitted to travel with the team/group. The coach/sponsor will be the last to leave school grounds upon returning from a trip.

PHYSICIAN EXAMS AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
MSHSAA By-Law 3.8.1 Physicals states: The school shall require each student participating in athletics a certificate of an issued physical signed and authorized by a physician, advanced nurse practitioner in written collaborative practice with a physician, or a certified physician’s assistant in collaboration with a sponsoring physician stating the individual is physically able to participate in athletic practices and contests of his/her school. A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until a complete, signed certificate is on file at the school.

MSHSAA By-Law 3.8.2 Insurance states: A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he or she has basic athletic insurance coverage.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND INTENT OF CONSENT TO DRUG TEST POLICY
The Neosho School District Athletic Department in conjunction with the Neosho Board of Education in an effort to promote the health and safety of all student’s (grades 7-12) participation in extracurricular activities from illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug use and abuse, thereby setting an example for all other students of the Neosho School District, adopts the following policy for drug testing of student’s participation in extracurricular activities. This policy is intended to supplement and complement all other policies, rules, and regulations of the Neosho School District regarding possession or use of illegal drugs.

It is the desire of the Board of Education, administration, and staff that every student in the Neosho School District refrains from using or possessing illegal drugs. Notwithstanding, this desire, the administration and coaches/sponsors realize that their power to restrict the possession or use of illegal drugs is limited. Therefore, the provisions of this policy relate solely to limiting the opportunity of any student determined to be in violation of this policy to participate in extracurricular activities.

Participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities and parking on campus at the Neosho Schools is a privilege. Accordingly, students involved in extracurricular activities and/or parking on campus carry a responsibility to themselves, their fellow students, their parents and/or guardians, and their school to set the highest possible examples of conduct and help maintain a safe and secure environment which includes avoiding the use of illegal drugs. Additionally, this school district is obligated to follow standards listed in the MSHSAA policy on substance abuse.
The purpose of this policy is to prevent illegal drug use, to educate students as to the serious physical, mental, and emotional harm caused by illegal drug use, to alert students with possible substance abuse problems to the potential harm of illegal drug use, to prevent injury, illness, and harm as a result of illegal drug use, and to strive with the Neosho School District for an environment free of illegal drug use and abuse. The sanctions of this policy relate solely to limiting the opportunity of any student found to be violation of the policy to participate in extracurricular activities. For safety, health, and well-being of the student participants in the Neosho School District, this policy will be in effect for all students grades 7-12.

Definitions:

- **Student Participant or Student** – means a member of junior high or high school Neosho School District sponsored extracurricular activity
- **Drug Use Test** – means a scientifically substantiated method to test for the presence of illegal or performance enhancing drugs or the metabolites thereof in a person’s urine.
- **Extracurricular Activities** – are those activities which are recognized by the district, for which grades are not assigned.
- **Random Selection Basis** – means a mechanism for selecting student participants for drug test that:
  - Results in an equal probability that any student from a group of in or out of season participants subject to the selection mechanism will be selected.
  - Does not give the school district discretion to waive the selection of any student participant under the mechanism.
- **Illegal Drugs** – means any substance which an individual may not sell, possess, use, distribute, or purchase under either Federal or Missouri law. Includes, but not limited to, all scheduled drugs as defined by Missouri law, all prescription drugs obtained without authorization, and all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used for an abusive purpose as well as alcohol.
- **Performance Enhancing Drugs** – includes anabolic steroids. This does not include dietary supplements such as vitamins, minerals, and proteins which can be lawfully purchased in over-the-counter transactions.
- **Positive** – when referring to a drug use test administered under this policy means a toxicological test result which is considered to demonstrate the presence of an illegal or a performance-enhancing drug or the metabolites thereof using the standards customarily established by the drug use test.
- **Adulterant/Adulteration** – means any attempt to alter the outcome of a urine drug test by adding a substance to the sample, attempting to switch, or otherwise interfere with the detection of illicit or banned substance in the urine, or purposefully over hydrating oneself to dilute the urine to decrease the possible detection of illicit or banned substances.

Procedures

Each participant in extracurricular activities will receive a copy of the Neosho School District Student Extracurricular Activity, Wildcat Standards Agreement, Consent to Drug Testing Authorization, Social Media Policy Agreement Form, which shall be read, signed, and dated by the student and parent(s)/guardian(s). Participants that are in grades 7-12 must submit the form to their coach/sponsor before the end of the second week of school and before the student will be allowed to continue or to begin practice or participation in any extracurricular activity during the
remainder of the school year. Transfer students in grades 7-12 who wish to participate in extracurricular activities must submit the signed form to the coach/sponsor prior to participation.

Once a student has submitted a Neosho School District Student Extracurricular Activity, Wildcat Standards Agreement, Consent to Drug Testing Authorization, Social Media Policy Agreement Form, the student’s status in the program will continue until a new form is submitted requesting removal from the program. Each school year students will be required to sign and submit the Neosho School District Student Extracurricular Activity, Wildcat Standards Agreement, Consent to Drug Testing Authorization, Social Media Policy Agreement Form

Any student removing his/her name from the drug testing pool will be ineligible for activities for 365 calendar days.

Any drug test required by the district under the terms of this policy will be administered by or at the discretion of a drug testing company chosen by the district using scientifically validated toxicological methods. The drug testing company will be required to provide the district detailed written specifications to assure the chain of custody of the specimens, proper laboratory control, and scientific testing.

Participants will be assigned a number for identification. The drug testing company will conduct random testing throughout the academic year. For the random testing, each student will be assigned a code that will be maintained in the athletic office. A random selection of pool members will be chosen by the testing agency. Such random testing may occur up to once per month or as often as deemed necessary and encompass 15-25 of the students in the testing pool. Any participant who is selected to provide a urine specimen and is unable to produce a sample within two (2) hours will be interpreted as producing a positive test. Any student who is selected for testing will be put back in the random testing pool once they have completed their first test.

All aspects of the drug testing program, including the collection of specimens, will be conducted to safeguard the personal and privacy rights of participants. The test specimen must be collected in a private facility behind a closed stall. The drug testing company technician will supervise the participant at the collection facility. The technician will not observe the participant while the specimen is being collected, but the technician will be present outside the stall to listen for the normal sounds of urination to guard against tampered specimens and to ensure an accurate chain of custody of the specimens. The technician will verify the normal warmth and appearance of the specimen. If at any time during the testing procedure the technician has reason to believe or suspect that a student is tampering with the specimen, the technician may stop the procedure and determine if a new sample should be obtained.

If a student tests positive, confirmation will be made through a second and different test of the same specimen. The second test will use a gas chromatography/mass spectrometry technique. Each sample will be tested for adulterants. If any adulteration substance is found, the test will be considered positive.

If the gas chromatography/mass spectrometry test for any student has a positive result, the medical review officer will confirm the positive result and contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) and activities director with the results. If the participant asserts that the positive test results are caused in some way other than use or consumption of an illegal drug by the participant, the participant
and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be given up to forty-eight (48) hours to present evidence to the medical review officer, including a list of medications the participant has taken, to show cause for the positive result other than the use or consumption of illegal drugs. A specimen will not be reported positive for the presence of an illegal drug and the review of additional evidence provided by the participant and parent(s)/guardian(s) is complete.

The district will rely on the opinion of the medical review officer in determining whether the positive test result was produced by means other than use or consumption of an illegal drug by the participant. Once a positive test is determined, the medical review officer will inform the athletic office. The athletic office will inform both the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the positive result. The activities director will inform the principal, the head coach, and/or sponsor. Before the student can rejoin the extracurricular team/activity, they must pass a subsequent test at their own cost through the original drug testing company.

Violations
Any student who tests positive during a drug use test under this policy shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- First offense – the student shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities including all meetings, practices, performances, and competitions for forty-five (45) calendar days. During this time, it is recommended that the parent(s)/guardian(s) obtain a substance abuse evaluation and education/counseling for the student. Before the student can participate in the extracurricular activity they will be required to pass a drug test.
- Second offense – the student shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities including all meetings, practices, performances, and competitions for three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days from the date of the initial report of the second offense.
- Third offense – the student shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities including meetings, practices, performances, and competitions for the length of the student’s enrollment at Neosho School District.
- If a student tests positive for illegal drug use and is suspended at the end of the school year, the violation will carry over into the following school year. If a senior tests positive for illegal drug use and is suspended at the end of the school year, they will be able to obtain their diploma but will NOT be able to walk at graduation.

Refusal to submit to a drug test
If a student in an extracurricular activity refuses to submit to a drug use test authorized under this policy, that student shall be considered the same as if the student tested positive. Any student who has a positive initial test and refuses to complete the required paperwork for a confirmation test will be treated as a refusal to submit to testing.
Wildcat Standard Agreement
I acknowledge that the information contained in the Neosho Wildcat Standards Handout has been made available to me. I understand that my participation in all activities sponsored by the Neosho School District is subject to the guidelines of this handout.

Consent to Drug Testing Authorization
We have read and fully understand the Neosho School District’s “Student Drug Testing Policy”.

We understand fully that the student’s safety and the safety of all other students depend upon each individual. We hereby agree to accept and abide by the standards, rules, and regulations set forth by the Neosho School District’s “Student Drug Testing Policy”.

We authorize the Neosho School District through a professional laboratory chosen by the district to conduct a drug test as set forth in the extracurricular activity drug testing policy. We further authorize the release of drug testing information/results to the Neosho School District.

We also authorize the district to release to the drug testing laboratory the minimal student information necessary for the purpose of testing the student.

Social Media Policy Agreement
I acknowledge that the information contained in the Wildcats Standards Social Media Policy has been made available to me. I understand that my participation in all activities sponsored by the Neosho School District is subject to the guidelines of this policy.

Receipt of Eligibility Brochure
I acknowledge that the MSHSAA Guide on “How to Maintain and Protect your High School Eligibility” has been made available to me. I understand that my participation in all activities is dependent upon the eligibility standards outlined in this brochure and I agree to adhere to all guidelines presented in order to maintain and protect by high school eligibility.

Receipt of MSHSAA Materials on Concussion
I acknowledge that the MSHSAA Materials on Concussion, which includes information on the definition of a concussion, symptoms of a concussion, what to do if you have a concussion, and how to prevent a concussion.

________________________________________________________________________
Student LEGAL Signature

Student PRINTED LEGAL Name

________________________________________________________________________
Parent or Guardian Signature

Student Graduation Year

________________________________________________________________________
Address

City

________________________________________________________________________
Date

Sport(s)/Activity(ies)