

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT NORTON CITY SCHOOLS

Approved by the Norton City Schools Board of Education – Date TBD

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. Athletes participating for the Norton City Schools teams are role models for others in and around our community and therefore are a direct reflection of the school district at large. Along with other life lessons, interscholastic athletics exist to teach good habits of health, teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication to a common goal.

THIS CODE OF CONDUCT MUST BE SIGNED BY THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE (AS DEFINED BY THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION) FOR THE FIRST SPORT/ACTIVITY YOU PARTICIPATE IN EACH YEAR AND WILL BE IN EFFECT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS PER DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR – BOTH ON AND OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Interscholastic Athletics

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to enrich your high school experience; promote citizenship and sportsmanship; instill a sense of pride in community; teach lifelong lessons of teamwork and self-discipline, and help you grow physically and emotionally. In short, interscholastic athletic programs are educational in nature and therefore an extension of the classroom. (Excerpted from www.ohsaa.org)

Student/Athlete Responsibilities

1. You must remain in good standing on your team by following rules as presented by each coach/advisor.
2. Conduct yourself so as not to disrupt meetings and practices.
3. Show respect for others (teammates, staff, officials, opponents, fans, etc.).
4. Represent the Norton City School District in a responsible, dignified manner.
5. Make sure that you have a current athletic physical packet on file in the athletic office and that you return all paperwork as required. Athletic physicals require the approved OHSAA paperwork and are good for one calendar year.
6. Attend required meetings and practices unless you have prior permission to be excused directly from the coach or school administration.
7. You should make yourself aware of this Code of Conduct, its provisions and expectations, and follow the rules therein.
8. You should make yourself aware of the eligibility guidelines and rules mandated by the Norton City Schools Board of Education and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (as outlined in this document).
9. Treat your school issued uniform and equipment with care and realize that you are financially responsible for all such equipment assigned to you. It must be returned in good condition and in its entirety. In some sports, the athlete will be required to purchase a portion of the uniform, which will become their property.
10. Fulfill any such Pay-to-Participate requirements as determined by the Norton City School Board of Education by the date established.

Code of Conduct for Norton City Schools – Rules

A violation of any of the following rules may result in denial of the right to participate in the activity for the duration of the season, a semester, a year or longer, as prescribed by this Code of Conduct. A student's participation will be denied or limited for violations of this Code of Conduct, team rules, as well as the School Student Code of Conduct.

All school rules, as listed in the School Student Code of Conduct, apply in conjunction with rules in this Athletic Code of Conduct and the individual rules established by head coaches.

Reasonable Conduct

The Norton Athletic Department recognizes that the safety and welfare of individual athletes and teams are a priority. Therefore, athletes will not engage in any acts of criminal activity or violations of civil law, such as, but not limited to vandalism, assault and battery, theft, weapon offenses, or other disruptive conduct.

Athletes are also expected to behave appropriately during school and extracurricular activities. Detrimental actions include, but are not limited to insubordination, repeated absenteeism, fighting, sexual misconduct, negative/apathetic attitude, unsportsmanlike conduct, lying, and inappropriate language or gestures.

Recognizing the varying degrees of severity, the type of misconduct, and an athlete's previous record of conduct, each situation will be considered individually. The coach, athletic director and/or administration will determine appropriate consequences, which may include denial of participation or dismissal from the team.

The Board of Education believes that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibits all such activities at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property if the conduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Hazing shall be defined as performing any act of coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the Board shall be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent. Students who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with the law.

School Attendance

A student must be in school for the last half of the school day (by 11:00) on the day of an activity in order to participate. This includes practices, games, and meetings. Exceptions to this rule must be cleared through the administration of the school.

- If an athlete is absent all day Friday or the day before a school vacation, he/she may participate in a weekend or a vacation-day contest with parental permission.
- An athlete who has been suspended out of school may not participate or attend any athletic event during the duration of the suspension. Depending on the cause of the OSS, the student may face additional athletic discipline if it is determined the student is in violation of the reasonable conduct clause in the code of conduct.

Eligibility (Scholarship)

Per the OHSAA, in order to be academically eligible,

- A student in grades 7-8 must have received at least 5 passing grades in the immediately preceding grading period.
- A student in grades 9-12 must have passed at least five 1-credit classes or the equivalent in the preceding grading period.
- **Additionally, the Norton City Schools requires that athletes obtain a minimum 1.50 GPA in the immediately preceding grading period to be academically eligible.**

***It is highly suggested that all athletes schedule at least 6 classes each grading period and discuss eligibility questions with the guidance counselor and/or athletic director when scheduling. Also, PE should never be counted as a class.*

Transportation to and from athletic events

Athletes are to ride to and from all athletic activities in buses provided by the Norton City Schools Board of Education unless released to the custody of his/her parents or another parent with the permission of the coach. This release must be in writing prior to student being transported by a parent. In addition, athletes are to follow all Norton City School District bus rules while being transported.

Team Athletic Awards

Receiving an athletic award is an honor and the requirements for receipt should be rigorous. The requirements for receiving an athletic award (lettering) are determined by the head coach in consultation with the athletic director. The requirements will be in writing and on file with the athletic director. In order to be eligible to receive an athletic award, the athlete must

1. Be in good standing with the team
2. Meet award requirements
3. Be in attendance at the season-end athletic awards assembly

The season-ending athletic awards assembly is considered a part of the season. Any exceptions to item 3 must be approved by the administration prior to the awards assembly.

Social Media/Electronic Transmissions

Athletes are responsible for any information contained in their written or electronic transmissions (i.e. texts, tweets, etc.) and any information they have posted to social media. Athletes are representatives of their team and school and inappropriate information or pictures should not be posted online. Harassment of teammates, fans, or opponents through such postings will not be tolerated and could result in athletic discipline. Any athlete who is identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal behavior or a Code of Conduct violation will be subject to athletic discipline as determined by the athletic director, the principal, and the coach.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND OTHER DRUGS

Because of the adverse effects of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs coupled with Norton City School's commitment toward prevention/intervention, specific guidelines have been established to deal with these.

Student athletes are not to use, possess, sell, make an offer to sell, deliver, conceal, consume, or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.

- **Tobacco and related products defined:** All tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, vapor/electronic cigarettes, etc.
- **Alcohol and related products defined:** Any product such as beer, wine, liquor or product with alcohol (unless prescribed by a physician).
- **Drugs and Intoxicants defined:** Any product including illegal drugs, illegally obtained prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia, intoxicants, steroids, or other performance enhancing drugs, or any mood altering substance, etc.

Disciplinary Procedure for Tobacco, Alcohol, and/or Drug Infractions

1. **First Offense** - An athlete found in violation will be denied participation for 50% of the contests (season or tournament), based on the number of regular season scheduled events. If the athlete agrees to go through a professional assessment from an approved, professional assessment agency, the penalty will be reduced to 25% of the contests. Refusal or failure to complete the assessment will result in the full 50% denial of participation. The professional assessment reduction is only available to first time offenders.
2. **Second Offense** - An athlete found in violation will be denied participation for one calendar year from the date of the violation.
3. **Third Offense** - An athlete found in violation for the third time will be denied participation permanently.

Due Process and Right to Appeal

It if becomes necessary to deny a student participation in an extracurricular activity:

- Administration will send written documentation to the parents notifying them of the intent to deny participation. Parents have the right to appeal this denial of participation.
- The final decision on penalty assessment rests on the principal who will take into consideration the recommendations of the athletic director and coach/advisor.

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Norton City Schools Athletic Department along with the Norton City Schools Board of Education believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. We believe that participation is more important than winning. We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors, and coaches) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches, and players.

Guidelines for Good Sportsmanship: As parents and fans, you can help us establish an outstanding reputation for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a commendable manner. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct can result in sanctions against the offending athlete, parent or school personnel.

1. The good name of our school is more important than any contest won by unfair play.
 2. Be supportive of all athletes, coaches, and officials before, during, and after all contests.
 3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are seldom responsible for your success, so do not blame them for your circumstances.
 4. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
 5. Be proud of your school's reputation and work hard to protect it.
 6. Cheer for your team, not against the opponent.
 7. Don't allow others' negative sportsmanship to become an excuse to do the same.
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- Don't be part of the problem, be a part of the solution.
 - Let the athletes compete, the coaches instruct, the referees officiate, and spectators encourage.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

The Norton Board of Education, Norton High School, Norton Middle School, and Norton Athletic Department will not assume any responsibility for injuries received while participating in interscholastic athletics.

Please check the appropriate box(es) and sign below:

- Our medical insurance provides adequate coverage, and accordingly, we will be responsible for any medical expenses incurred as a result of an athletic injury.
- We do not wish to have insurance, and we will assume all costs of an athletic injury.
- We will purchase insurance through the School Insurance Program, which will provide coverage as a result of an athletic injury for every sport except junior varsity and varsity football. (Note: a special policy is available to cover football).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Athletic Office or Central Administration.

Parent's Signature

Sport

Student-Athlete's Name

Grade

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT

Release: As a student-athlete choosing to participate in a Norton High School/Middle School athletic program, I have read and understand the Athletic Code of Conduct. Furthermore, I grant permission to any police department to release information to officials of the Norton City School District concerning possible violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct. I also realize that each coach will distribute written expectations specific to the sport. These expectations are also guidelines for participation. By this signature, I agree that I will subject to the regulations set forth in the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Athletic Code of Conduct Contract: I have read and understand the Norton City Schools Athletic Code of Conduct. I also realize that each coach will distribute written expectations specific to the sport that are also guidelines for participation. By this signature, I also agree that I will be subject to its regulations.

The Athletic Code of Conduct and expectations of the coach are in effect twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for one calendar year.

Student-Athlete's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Sport

Address

City & Zip

Please list your legal residence. You must also notify the school if you have a change of address.
Failure to do so could result in ineligibility for the athlete and/or his/her team.

**THIS PAGE MUST BE SIGNED & RETURNED TO THE COACH/ATHLETIC OFFICE
BEFORE AN ATHLETE MAY PARTICIPATE IN ANY TEAM ACTIVITY**