Northeastern Clinton Central School
Athletic Code of Conduct

Philosophy of Competitive Athletics

The Board of Education of the Northeastern Clinton Central School District understands that inter-scholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. The combination of academics and athletics enhances the quality of student-athletes' lives and expands their options for learning and personal growth. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which student-athletes can learn essential life lessons beyond those that can be learned in an academic classroom.
Athletics provide opportunities for students in regards to responsibility, fair play, cooperation, concern for others, leadership, respect for authority, good citizenship, loyalty, and tolerance. Also, the essential requirements for teamwork and the mental and physical challenges of training and competition, are important life lessons in every student-athletes' developmental experience. These lessons will serve student-athletes well into their future.
It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of a high school student body and an important phase of good community school relations. The Board believes that students should develop a positive attitude toward both winning and losing. A gracious winner and a good loser are both important goals in the educational aspect of athletics. To this end, the Board recognizes that the various athletic levels have differing goals. The following deals with each tier of the district's total athletic programs:

Philosophy by Sport Level

Modified
The modified program is available to students in seventh, eight, and ninth grades. While the intention is to involve as many students as possible, the number and size of each team is determined by available facilities, qualified and certified coaches and financial sources. Therefore, it may be necessary at this level to cut students based on skill. This program of competitive sports focuses on the fundamentals of the game, rules, training, development of individual skills, team play, and sportsmanship. Every effort will be made to maximize each individual's playing time as long as practice obligations and school regulations have been met.

Junior Varsity (JV)
This program is intended for those who display the potential for continued development into productive varsity level performers. Sophomores and freshmen will occupy the majority of roster positions along with some Middle School students who have met the requirements of the athletic placement process. At this level, increased emphasis is placed upon elements and strategies of team play, physical conditioning, refining of fundamental skills, sportsmanship, and leadership roles. This program prepares athletes for the varsity level of competition. Winning and success become more focused. While adequate playing time for all team members is encourage, the amount of playing time is influenced by their skill level. Each individual will be given the opportunity to play during the season at the discretion of the coach.

Varsity
The varsity level of interscholastic athletic competition is the culmination of the high school athletic program. Although teams are usually comprised of seniors and juniors, sophomores and freshmen with the ability can compete at this level. Exceptional seventh or eighth grade students, who have met the requirements of the athletic placement process, may participate. Advanced level of skill, team play, sportsmanship, individual physical ability, motivation, and mental attitude are very important aspects of competition at this level. Preparing to win and striving for victory are goals of a varsity level team. It is vital for each team member to understand his/her role and importance to the team. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires. Trust must be placed in the coach's ability to make decisions that will foster team success. Each individual will be given the opportunity to play during the season at the discretion of the coach.

Code of Ethics
NYSPHSAA, INC.
(New York State Public High School Athletic Association)
It is the duty of all concerned with High School Athletics:

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and host.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, fan or community.

Eligibility
Participation in Interscholastic Athletics compliments academic achievement. Often participation in Interscholastic Athletics provides the catalyst that keeps certain students interested in school and encourages better organization of their time. This policy is designed to strengthen the bond between academics and athletics and to ensure that participation in Interscholastic Athletics continues to have a positive effect on all academic progress.

1. At the beginning of each sport season, the Athletic Director will distribute a list of all students who are participating on a team to each teacher.
2. Academic checks will be done every five weeks. Students failing either two or three subjects may continue to attend and participate in practice, but will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic contests on a week-to-week basis for a period of five weeks. A student may not ride the bus to away games/matches while academically ineligible.
    a. *Any student failing four or more subjects will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
    b. At the end of the first seven day calendar period, a student who is passing all but one class will be eligible for full participation with the following stipulation: the student must be making progress in the one remaining class that they are still failing. (Possible criteria to be considered: homework is in on time; student obtains extra help from teacher or peer tutor; student is cooperative and does as directed in class; student is prepared in class with appropriate materials, etc; other plans agreed upon by teacher and student)
    c. It is the students' responsibility to get the Academic Probation Form completed and returned to the Athletic Director on a weekly basis in order to be considered eligible for full participation. Any student who does not turn the form in on time will not be allowed to practice/play. Any student whose grades slip back to either two or three failures and/or are not making progress in the one failing class will again be ineligible for contests for a period of one week.
3. If a student's work meets the eligibility requirement at the end of the five-week check, that student will remain eligible without probationary restrictions until the next eligibility determination.
4. In any single season should a student be ineligible for any two eligibility determination periods, he/she will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
5. Any student failing four or more subjects will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
6. Notable academic achievement of athletes will be acknowledged at the end of each sports season through recognition of "Scholar Athletes."

Participation

A. In order for a squad member to be eligible to participate in practice sessions and regularly scheduled games, he/she must be in regular attendance at school the **full day** that the said practice or game is scheduled. In certain circumstances, consistent with NY State Attendance Laws, the Principal may grant permission to be absent. Students missing any part of the school day will not be allowed to practice or participate in a game that day, unless given permission by the Athletic Director. **A note from the Doctor, Dentist etc., must be provided as proof of an appointment (date, time included) – in order to be an acceptable/legal excuse**. A student missing part of a practice should bring the note directly to their coach. Personal illness is not an acceptable excuse without a doctor's note for arriving late to school.
    a. If a student is late due to an unforeseen circumstance, they will be allotted one late to school per sports season. Student must arrive before the end of third period to be excused for their tardiness.

B. A squad member must attend every practice session called by the coach, unless legally absent from school or excused by the coach. Members who cut practice may be suspended for a period of time—after the coach of that sport consults with the Athletic Director and the Principal.

C. An athlete who is absent the day before a game scheduled for a non-school day, shall not be eligible to participate in that game unless the absence was due to sickness or other extenuating circumstances. In such cases, approval to play must come from the Athletic Director and the Principal. It is the responsibility of the student and the coach to secure the approval (note or call from parent)

D. Any student who has been placed on In School Suspension or After School Detention will not be allowed to practice or participate in a contest that day.

Leaving Squad

A squad member who quits a team has 48 hours to personally ask the coach for reinstatement. A squad member must attend every practice session called by the coach. The coach may reinstate or drop the squad member from the team, after consultation with the Athletic Director, regarding the reasons for leaving the team.

Authorized Transportation

A. Squad members [including managers, statisticians, and helpers] must ride the bus provided for them – both ways: to and from athletic contests.

B. Employees of the District will not transport students in their private vehicle during the course of performing their assigned duties.

C. Permission for parent[s]/guardian[s] to transport their own children from an athletic event may be granted if the parent/guardian notifies the coach personally, in writing, and the coach approves.

D. A student may be allowed to ride from an event with another team member's parent/guardian once the first student's parent has signed a Transportation Waiver Form granting such permission. [Once parental permission is obtained, the Transportation Form must be approved by the Principal or the Athletic Director prior to the event].

E. Any squad member who does not return on the bus with the team, without a reasonable excuse, will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs

A. Philosophy
    a. It is known that certain substances (tobacco, alcohol, drugs performance-enhancing drugs/ supplements) have a significant impact on many aspects of one's total health and subsequently, on one's athletic abilities. Therefore, it is the philosophy of the Northeastern Clinton Central School District to absolutely forbid the use or possession of these, on or off campus, by athletic program participants. The intent of these regulations is to set a reasonable standard of commitment that all student athletes are expected to follow.
B. Rules
    a. There will be no use, possession, attempting to possess, selling or distribution of any tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, performance enhancing drugs/supplements or any other drugs (except by physician's prescription).
    b. There will be no attendance at any bar or private party where alcohol, drugs, etc., are being used unless the athlete is under the direct supervision of their parent or legal guardian. However, even in this circumstance, an athlete may not use, possess, sell or distribute any alcohol, drugs, etc.
C. Penalties and Recommendations

a. **First Violation:** After confirmation of the first violation, the athlete may have a choice of either all of Option A or all of Option B provided that:
    i. He/She meets with the administrator responsible for the discipline related to the violation and the Athletic Director.
        1. During this meeting, the athlete demonstrates:
            a. His/her understanding of the consequences of the violation.
            b. His/her willingness to seek assistance in dealing with the issues related to the violation.
                i. **OPTION A:**
                    1. The Director of Athletics will discuss with the athlete the consequences of the violation.
                    2. The athlete will lose eligibility for 25% of his/her regularly scheduled Interscholastic Athletic events. (If the percentage of the game is .5 or higher, it will be rounded up). Any athlete who does not fulfill the suspension requirements (due to the end of the season) will complete the remainder of the suspension during the next sport season in which the athlete is a participant.
                    3. The athlete must practice with the team during his/her ineligibility.
                    4. The athlete will be required to meet with a designated counselor or staff member for a minimum of three sessions.
                    5. If the athlete is a captain of the team, he/she will lose this privilege for the remainder of the season.
                    6. The athlete will not be eligible for any award(s) at the end of the sport season.
                    7. The athlete must satisfy the school administrators that he/she has accepted responsibility for his/her actions and that the violation will not be repeated.
                    8. Failure to comply with all parts of Option A will automatically change the athlete's status to Option B.
                ii. **OPTION B:**
                    1. The athlete will receive an eight week suspension from all activities.
                    2. The athlete will be required to meet with a designated counselor or staff member for a minimum of three sessions.
                    3. The athlete will not be eligible for any award(s) at the end of the season.
                    4. The athlete must satisfy the school administrators that he/she has accepted

responsibility for his/her actions and that the violation will not be repeated.

5. Failure to comply with all parts of Option B will result in the athlete being placed on a ten month suspension.

b. **Second Violation:** Upon the determination of a second violation, the athlete will lose eligibility from athletics for ten calendar months from the date of the violation.
    i. The athlete will be required to meet with a designated counselor or staff member for a minimum of three sessions.
    ii. The athlete must satisfy the school administrators that he/she have accepted responsibility for his/her actions and that the violation will not be repeated.
    iii. Failure to meet these requirements may result in further suspension.
c. **Additional Violations:** A committee consisting of the Building Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director and coach of the sport will meet to determine future status of the athlete's eligibility. If it is decided that the athlete is not permanently suspended from competing in Interscholastic Athletics, a minimum of a ten calendar month suspension will be imposed.

All league, non-league, sectional, regional or state playoff events will count toward the fulfillment of the suspension.
All violations will be cumulative within the time frame of the athlete being enrolled at Northeastern Clinton Middle/High School.

Cyber Image Policy
Any identifiable image, photo, or video which implicates a student-athlete to have been in the possession or in the presence of alcohol or drugs, which portrays actual alcohol or drug use, or portrays a crime being committed, may be used as evidence of a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct. These images, photos, and/or videos can only be used if their authenticity and their relevance to the current contract can be reasonable established.

- Special notice on Social networking web sites:
    - As a representative of the Department of Athletics and Northeastern Clinton Central School, you are always in the public eye. Please keep the following in mind as you participate on social networking web sites:
        - Understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any photo placed online is out of your control the moment it is placed online-even if you limit access to your site.
        - You should not post any information, photos, or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, opponents or Northeastern Clinton Central School, including information, photos and items that may be posted by others on your site.
        - Beware of posting photos! What the public sees becomes reality, date or no date on a photo.
        - Behavioral expectations in the online world are the same as in the real world. **Student-Athletes will face disciplinary actions for conduct committed online that violate the code of conduct.**

Due Process
Due process is available to all participants. Any athlete who violates a provision of the Athletic Code of Conduct Rules is entitled to a hearing before the Athletic Review Committee (Building Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and coach of the sport). A decision will be made within two school days following the hearing. The student has the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. During the process, the suspension/consequences will be in effect.

Physical Education Requirements
Athletics is an outgrowth of the Physical Education Program. Those students demonstrating outstanding skill, attitude and effort are those encouraged to participate in athletics. The wide range of activities in physical education gives the students an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports and team sports. Because of the importance of physical education, all athletes will be required to participate in physical education classes throughout the year. Athletes who are illegally absent for or do not participate in physical education classes will not be permitted to participate in games or practices on the day of the absence. The NYSPHSAA regulations state that a student must be enrolled in physical education to participate in athletics.

Athletic Placement Process (APP)
The APP is a process for screening student-athletes in grades 7 and 8 to determine their readiness to compete at a higher level of competition (JV or Varsity). This program is intended for the exceptional few who would be better served by playing on a higher level than age and grade might indicate. The process involves parental permission, a medical examination for maturity level, a five item athletic performance test, and the individual's prior experience and skill level are judged on the demands of the sport at the level of play at which the student-athlete is seeking to qualify.

Risk Factors in Sports
Participation by a student in athletic activities involves a certain degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of sports activity, be it a "contact" or "non-contact" sport. Many injuries are truly accidental in nature, but could be serious. The school does make available Student Accident Insurance through the Pupil Benefit's Plan. The parent/guardian must accept or decline the insurance prior to the activities first practice. All expenses incurred, as the result of a claim, must first be submitted to the parent's insurance company for payment. Any balance may then be submitted to the Pupil Benefit's Plan, Student Accident Insurance Program.

Injuries
When an athlete is injured during a practice or a game they must inform the coach at the time of the injury so that an accident report form may be completed. If the injury requires a doctor's attention, the athlete cannot return to play until they receive a release from the doctor and then given permission by the school nurse.
*In the case of an accident, coaches and other school personnel are authorized to provide first aid and arrange for such other emergency treatment they consider necessary.

Seasons Defined
One contract will be signed by the athlete and a parent/guardian at the beginning of every sport season that will cover that sport season only. A sport season at Northeastern Clinton is defined as commencing from the first day of practice until the end of the season award ceremony.

Responsibility for Equipment
Equipment issued to each athlete must be properly cared for and not abused. All gear issued must be turned in after the last scheduled game or within the first school week following the last scheduled contest.

A. All lost equipment and equipment returned in unsatisfactory condition, must be paid for by the student.
B. After one week, the student will be fined $0.50 per day until the equipment is returned or payment is made.
C. The squad member is banned from all sports activities until the above obligations are fulfilled.
D. The squad member forfeits all awards and commendations in that sport for that season until the above obligations are fulfilled.

Initiation and Hazing
Hazing or initiation by Interscholastic Athletic participants is prohibited by the Northeastern Clinton Central School District. Violations of this section of the Athletic Code will result in suspension or removal from the team.

Appearance and Behavior
Squad members who represent the Northeastern Clinton Central School should be neat and dress in good taste.
Responsible, mature behavior is expected. The coach is responsible for the appearance and behavior of squad members.

Sportsmanship
A coach, Building Principal, Assistant Principal or Athletic Director may suspend* or dismiss an athlete from a team for unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the court or playing field. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes but is not limited to: fighting; theft; vandalism; using abusive language; being disrespectful toward coaches, spectators, and/or opponents.
Issues pertaining to questions of conduct will be resolved by a committee consisting of the Building Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director and coach of the sport. Appeals may be lodged through the Superintendent of Schools.
*SUSPENSION CONTINUES UNTIL THE COMMITTEE MEETS AND A FINAL DECISION IS REACHED.

Individual Coaches
Disciplinary actions will be administered if there is an infraction of the following rules:

- Profanity will not be tolerated at any time. The coach will take the appropriate action at his/her own discretion.
- Curfew on nights before games and on school nights may be set by the individual coach.
- Individual team rules may be enforced by coaches after approval from the Athletic Director.

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION:
Updated: 9/19/2017

NORTHEASTERN CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL
INTERSCHOLASTIC CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT AND PARENT CONSENT

_____
Student-Athlete Name (Please Print)

_____
Grade

I have read the Athletic Code of Conduct and understand the expectations and responsibilities that go along with being a member of a Northeastern Clinton Central School Athletic team. I understand the consequences that will occur if I do not follow the contract. I agree to follow the rules and regulations stated in the athletic contract.

_____
Signature of Student-Athlete

_____
Date

I have read the Athletic Code of Conduct and I understand the rules and regulations that my child must follow. I have discussed the contract with my child, and the consequences that will occur if the contract is not upheld and I agree that my child will abide by the contract. I further understand that there is a risk of injury involved with participation in
Interscholastic Sports and herewith, give my permission for him/her to participate in the Interscholastic Athletic Program at Northeastern Clinton Central School District.

_____
Parent/Guardian (Signature)

_____
Parent/Guardian (Print)

_____
Date