

# NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC HONOR CODE / DISCIPLINE CODE

## I. INTRODUCTION

- The Northern Lehigh School District Athletic Training Honor Code shall govern all students, on and off-campus, during the time they are participating in an athletic program as identified and created from time to time at the Northern Lehigh School District.
- The purpose of Northern Lehigh's athletic program is to add to our student's mental, physical, social, emotional, and ethical well-being. It is a positive step in preparing and enriching our athletes in becoming productive young adults.
- Participation in athletics at Northern Lehigh School District is a privilege and not a right. In the exercise of this privilege, all students shall comply with the Northern Lehigh School District Athletic Training Honor Code beginning with the first day of each athletic season. As a condition and precedent to a student's participation in the first scrimmage or contest of each season, the student and his or her parent/guardian shall acknowledge receipt of, and agree to abide by, this Honor Code by signing and returning the attached Consent Form.
- A coach will also distribute a separate constitution, which shall govern athletes who participate in a particular sport.
- The Northern Lehigh School District Athletic Training Honor Code shall serve as a supplement to the Northern Lehigh School District Student Conduct Code.

## II. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY PHILOSOPHY

- The extra-curricular and athletic programs offered in grades 7-12 at Northern Lehigh School District are an important and integral part of the total school program of each student. It is the goal of Northern Lehigh to educate each child to the best of his or her ability. Because of our strong commitment to scholastic excellence, and due to our philosophy of serving students, academic eligibility standards, and guidelines have been developed for all extra-curricular and athletic programs.

## III. Academic Eligibility Standards for Extra-Curricular and Athletic Activities

- **During Each Marking Period:** In order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities or athletics during the semester, a student must not be cumulatively failing two courses. The reporting period will start the third week of the semester and continue throughout the semester. Each weekly report will be produced on a Friday.
- **Period of Ineligibility:** In cases where a student's work during a previous report period does not meet the aforementioned academic standards, he/she shall be deemed ineligible to compete and/or perform in contests and/or events for a period of seven (7) school days. If a student's work meets the aforementioned academic standards, he/she shall be deemed eligible on the Friday of the reporting period.
- **At the End of a Marking Period:** In order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities or athletics during the semester, a student must not be cumulatively failing two courses. In cases where a student's work during a previous report period does not meet the aforementioned academic standards, he/she shall be deemed ineligible to compete and/or perform in contests and/or events for a period of seven (10) school days.

## IV. ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL

- To participate in any athletic contest, a student must be in attendance at school before 8:00 AM on the day of the contest.
- Exceptions to the above rule would be a doctor appointment, a family or medical emergency, or extenuating circumstances. These exceptions require a note from the student's doctor (for appointments) or parent/guardian and the exceptions will be reviewed by the coach and the administration who will determine the eligibility of the student to participate.

## **V. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- All student-athletes shall be governed by and subject to the athletic training honor code during the athletic season in which they participate.
- A student will no longer be eligible to participate in High School Athletics when he/she reaches his/her nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) birthday as defined by the PIAA guidelines.
- No student, who has been enrolled in grades 9-12 for eight semesters shall thereafter be eligible. The maximum high school (grades 9-12) participation shall be four (4) years in any one sport.
- Each student that participates in any sport or activity must acknowledge that all school-issued equipment or supplies must be returned at the end of the season, regardless of the condition of the equipment. If the equipment is not returned, the student is responsible for the full price based upon the replacement costs as determined by the Director of Athletics in coordination with local vendors.
- The student-athletes shall conduct themselves at all times showing good sportsmanship, courtesy to fellow players as well as coaches, referees, and opposing team members.
- A student-athlete shall abide by the Northern Lehigh School District Student/Parent Handbook as printed or explained. Any infraction by the student-athlete will be handled by the administration and/or the coach.
- If a violation involves exclusion from school, the student-athlete will be suspended from practice/games during the exclusionary period. He/she becomes eligible the next calendar day immediately following the last day of exclusion. If multiple days occur for exclusion, the athlete is ineligible until the exclusion is completed.
- If a student-athlete has detention, after serving the required time, he/she will report to the coach directly.
- If a student/athlete is late to practice because of academic reasons, he/she must bring a note from his/her teacher stating the time of dismissal.
- A student participating in a sport and/or activity must travel to and from away events via District transportation. No athlete may drive to or from, or travel with another to or from any athletic event. Written exceptions to this would be extend when circumstances warrant, with 24-hour advance notice via a written note to the coach and Director of Athletics and only that participant's parent or guardian. Participants may not travel with anyone else's parents at any time. Athletes who miss the bus and arrive later to a contest may not participate in that contest unless the Head Coach and Director of Athletics have previously approved the arrangement.
- A student-athlete must abide by the health and training routines as set forth in the team constitution established by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director and High School Principal.
- A student-athlete must be a team player and avoid any actions that would be detrimental to the unity of the team.
- A student-athlete may be permitted to move from one sport to another with the approval of the Head Coaches involved in addition to the Athletic Director and High School Principal.

## **VI. UNACCEPTABLE ACTIONS AND SANCTIONS**

- Ejection (Soccer: Hard Red or Soft Red) for misconduct during an athletic contest:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense = 1 Game Suspension
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = 3 Game Suspension
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = Administrative review for possible dismissal from team
- Use of profanity is prohibited. All offenses will be addressed by the coach
- Conduct unbecoming a student-athlete during an athletic contest or related activity, including, but not limited to fighting, insubordination, theft, disrespect, aiding / abetting, abusing equipment, etc. will be addressed by the coach. Possible consequences include but are not limited to one game suspension, three game suspension or, dismissal from the team
- Conduct unbecoming a student-athlete not during an athletic contest or related activity, including, but not limited to fighting, insubordination, theft, disrespect, aiding / abetting, inappropriate behavior on a school bus / van, abusing equipment, etc. will be addressed by the High School Administration and/or the coach and may result in:
  - Administrative Athletic Suspension from the sport for the number of specific days a penalty would have occurred if it happened in school. This is a penalty with a specific number of days and not contests. If an athletic administration penalty is enforced, the athlete will be suspended from all contests and practices during that time period.
  - If appropriate, referral to the proper law enforcement agency
  - The athlete may attend practice and contests but, may not participate during an Administrative Athletic Suspension.
  - Coaches reserve the right to have their own penalties run concurrent or consecutive to the administrative athletic suspension.

## **VII. Hazing**

- Any infraction will be disciplined in accordance with the infraction and may result in dismissal from the team and an indefinite suspension from all extracurricular activities, including athletics. The suspension will be determined on the administrative level.

## **VIII. Tobacco**

- During the athletic season, no student shall use, possess, or distribute tobacco or tobacco products.
- If the offense occurs on school property, the administration will enforce the Student Conduct Code in coordination with the Athletic Conduct Code.
- The commission of the offense, whether on school district property, in route to an away venue or at the host school district, while representing Northern Lehigh athletics shall result in an administrative suspension.
- If appropriate, referral to the proper law enforcement agency

## **IX. Alcohol, Other Drugs, Misdemeanors/Felonies**

- These regulations have been developed in order to discourage our student-athletes from using harmful drugs and alcohol and to foster the good health and welfare of all of our student-athletes.
- No student-athlete shall use, possess, or distribute alcohol, drugs, steroids, controlled substances, look-alikes, or possess drug related paraphernalia on or off school property.
  - The commission of the offense, whether on or off school property, shall result in an administrative suspension.
  - Referral to SAP
  - Referral for a drug and alcohol evaluation at the Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit and compliance with all recommendations
  - If appropriate, referral to the proper law enforcement agency
- Any student-athlete who has been formally charged as an adult or juvenile with a crime committed on or off school property which constitutes a misdemeanor or felony related to the use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, controlled substances, look-alikes, and drug paraphernalia, shall be suspended from participation by the Administration pending the outcome of the legal proceedings.
  - Upon conviction or a plea of guilty or a plea of no contest, the student-athlete will be:
    - Dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season and upon returning to school, the student shall be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period up to 90 calendar days.
    - Referral to SAP
    - Referral for a drug and alcohol evaluation at the Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit and compliance with all recommendations
  - Upon acquittal or dismissal of the charges, the student-athlete will be reinstated as a member of the team in good standing.
- Any student-athlete who has been formally charged as an adult or juvenile with a crime committed on or off school property which constitutes a misdemeanor or felony shall be suspended from participation by the Administration pending the outcome of the legal proceedings.
  - Upon conviction or a plea of guilty or a plea of no contest, the student-athlete will be:
    - Dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season and upon returning to school, the student shall be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period up to 90 calendar days.
    - Referral to SAP
  - Upon acquittal or dismissal of the charges, the student-athlete will be reinstated as a member of the team in good standing.
- If the student-athlete does not follow the procedure and recommendations the student-athlete will not be able to participate in any future Northern Lehigh School District athletic program until he/she comes into compliance.
- A student-athlete with a drug and alcohol problem may voluntarily come forward to request assistance without consequence. He/She will be evaluated by the Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit and must follow the recommendations set forth. However, once a student-athlete has been properly evaluated and appropriate recommendations set forth, the student-athlete must cooperate with the recommendations to participate in athletic activities. If the student-athlete does not follow the recommendations, he/she will be dismissed from the current team and will not be permitted to participate in any future Northern Lehigh School District athletic activities until the student-athlete comes into compliance.
- Please be advised that once a student is dismissed from any team, he / she forfeits all of the privileges of receiving awards, attending awards banquets / programs, and participating in any other activities involving the team.

## **X. Parent Code of Conduct**

Northern Lehigh Athletics asks your support and cooperation as parents whose child(ren) are participating in Northern Lehigh Athletics.

- We encourage you to enjoy watching athletic contests, but remember to be positive in your remarks. Support your child and his/her teammates. Please be a positive role-model regarding sportsmanlike conduct.
- Remember that the ultimate responsibility for coaching and making coaching decisions rests solely with the coach. Should you feel there is a problem, discuss it privately with the coach rather than involving the player or other parents. This is usually best accomplished, by appointment, before or after practice, not immediately before or after an athletic contest. If after speaking to the coach, you feel that your problem has not been addressed completely, please contact the Athletic Director.
- Players will be asked to make a large commitment to the team and take a great deal of responsibility in the respective Northern Lehigh athletic program. You can help greatly by giving them the support they require to fully participate in the team's activities. Allow your child to assume responsibilities for him/her self.
- Strive to set the same standards of sportsmanship that is expected of the players. Be considerate of others when watching games, and enjoy the athletic contests.

### **Parental Code of Conduct Expectations and Responsibilities**

- I will uphold the Northern Lehigh Parent Code of Conduct.
- I will ensure the coach/manager is informed when I know my player will be absent from scheduled events.
- I will support the team by volunteering at the coach's request.
- I will control my emotions at athletic contests. I will not yell at players, parents, coaches, or officials.
- I will be a positive cheerleader at athletic contests for my child and his/her teammates.
- I will allow the coach to do his/her job. I will not attempt to interfere with nor negatively influence the coach.
- I will respect the authority of the coach and communicate openly with him/her.
- I will respect and encourage all players.
- I will do my best to make Northern Lehigh athletic contests a positive experience for all participants.

The undersigned, have read and understand the Northern Lehigh Athletic Code of Conduct. We agree to abide by these rules and guidelines indicated. We also agree to accept all actions taken for parent failure to abide by these codes. Any violation of the stated Code of Conduct will result in a parent suspension from Northern Lehigh School District Property for an extended period of time to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN AND THE STUDENT-ATHLETE MUST SIGN THE NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC TRAINING HONOR CODE CONSENT FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE COACH BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN ANY PRACTICE, SCRIMMAGE, OR CONTEST OF THE SEASON. THIS WILL ASSURE THE COACH THAT THE ATHLETE AND PARENT/GUARDIAN HAVE READ THIS HONOR CODE AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY IT.**

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ATHLETIC HONOR CODE  
CONSENT FORM**

I have read the Northern Lehigh School District Athletic Training Honor Code as a supplement to the Student Conduct Code and agree to abide by the terms and standards set forth. This form is valid for the entire school year.

**STUDENTS NAME (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT 1/GUARDIAN 1 NAME (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATIONSHIP (CIRCLE) MOTHER FATHER GUARDIAN**

**PARENT 2/GUARDIAN 2 NAME (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATIONSHIP (CIRCLE) MOTHER FATHER GUARDIAN**

***PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:  
THE HEAD COACH OR THE ATHLETIC OFFICE***