

# NEW HOME ISD ATHLETIC POLICY

## **VIEWS, GOALS & RESPONSIBILITIES of the SCHOOL**

### **The Role of Interscholastic Athletics**

Organized athletics offers the participants an opportunity to foster the physical, mental, emotional, social and moral growth. Through situations which arise during strenuous practice sessions and athletic contests, student athletes must not only learn how to react to their own capabilities and limitations, but how to appropriately react to the behavior of others. These reactions result in physical and mental growth, as well as change. Because of the competitive and emotional nature of athletic contests and the player's obvious interest in the outcome, they are more susceptible to change than in many educational settings. To insure that these changes are positive, all phases of athletics should be expertly organized and conducted.

In order to attain success in athletics, the participants must train their minds and bodies to respond instantly and effectively to the various challenges that arise during practice and game play. This parallels learning to effectively deal with challenges that arise later in life.

The competitive world, is often neither gentle nor overly kind. With effective direction, the child may grow toward social maturity by learning

- patience for a desired result,
- sacrifice and common goal setting,
- to deal with minor physical/mental difficulties,
- to control emotional outbursts,
- to deal with fear, and
- to be more self-reliant.

### **New Home ISD Athletic Philosophy**

It is the belief of New Home ISD that athletics provide many opportunities to develop the body, mind and soul of the participating students. To facilitate the pursuit of these opportunities, New Home ISD desires to facilitate and athletic program that gives all interested students a place and role in which to compete in a safe and healthy way.

### **Objectives of the New Home I.S.D. Athletic Dept.**

- Provide safe, organized and productive ways for our students to compete in physical competition
- Developing work ethic through preparation for competition
- Developing teamwork and social skills
- Effectively teach the rules and strategies of each sport.
- Teach students to respect the games, the opponents and themselves by playing within the rules and showing exceptional sportsmanship
- Encourage students to grow physically, mentally, morally and socially.
- Further in students an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness.
- Develop an overall athletic program, where the standards and values of each individual sport are cohesive with those of the entire program
- Instill in all athletes the desire to represent their school and community in a manner that will make school administrators, teachers, parents, and the community proud.

## **Responsibilities of the Coaching Staff**

- Create an environment where the students feel welcome, accepted, challenged, encouraged and are held accountable to standards of expectations
- Promote student safety through teaching proper techniques and monitoring student health
- Be examples of the characteristics we hope to teach the students
- Be teachers – on the fields and courts as well as in the classroom
- Treat students fairly
- Be open in communication
- Continually learn and develop their knowledge of the sports they can teach effectively
- Work with students and other coaches when a student is involved in activities that occur at the same time.
- Determine the playing time and strategies that they feel best serve the team.

## **EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES of the STUDENT ATHLETES**

Participation in the athletic program and/or University Interscholastic League contests is not a right but a privilege. No student is required to take part in the athletic programs. Therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the expectations and responsibilities of the athletic program. There will be measures of accountability for students who fail to meet these expectations and live up to these responsibilities.

- Academic Success
  - Beyond simply maintaining eligibility, athletics will always be subordinate to academics. Athletes should be leaders in the classroom. Any issues with classroom behavior will have consequences in athletics as well.
- Compliance with Coach's expectations
  - Each coach will have certain ways they want things done and it is the responsibility of the student to adhere to those expectations.
- Responsibility with School Equipment
  - The student should use school equipment in the manner in which it was intended to be used and take care of it. Damaged or lost equipment will be the financial responsibility of the student.
- Practice Responsibilities
  - Students are required to attend the practices of the sports they are committed to.
    - It is the responsibility of the student to let a coach know if they have to miss a practice
    - It is the responsibility of the student to accept any extra conditioning or punishment required by the coach
    - Coach's have the right to exercise discretion on certain reasons for missing practice such as a family member's death, etc...
  - Each program will have similar and comparable ways to deal with missed practices
  - Each student is expected to put forth exemplary effort in practice in whatever role asked by the coaching staff
- Grooming and appearance
  - Students are expected to present themselves in a manner that reflects the values and expectations of our school and community in practice, competition and travel as a team
    - All grooming will conform to the school dress code
      - Hair should be neatly groomed
      - Male athletes should have no facial hair
      - Boys will not have piercings of any kind
      - Girls will not have any piercings other than ears
      - Tattoos are to always be covered
      - No inappropriate clothing

- In practice and competition students will be dressed in appropriate uniforms.
- Coaches have the right to set further restrictions on clothing deemed to be individualistic
- Conduct and Behavior
  - Students are expected to show character in their conduct and behavior and represent New Home ISD in a way that is indicative of our values and beliefs
    - Play fairly and within the rules
      - Unsportsmanlike Conduct will be addressed by the coach
      - Ejection from a contest will result in further suspension
    - Total, absolute respect for officials and their decisions
    - Players will need to control emotions and actions in the heat of competition
    - Profanity – in practice or competition – will not be tolerated
    - Interaction with fans or parents deemed inappropriate by the coach will not be tolerated
- Punctuality
  - Students are expected to be on time for all travel, games and practices
    - Coaches may deal with lack of punctuality at their discretion
- Travel
  - Students will always remember they are representatives of New Home ISD and our community. They are expected to show this with
    - Respect of other school's facilities
    - Respect towards other school's officials and fans
    - Respect towards businesses they may come in contact with as we travel
  - Students will travel with the team to all out of town events
    - Coaches may make exceptions to this at their discretion due to unexpected circumstances or other school activities
  - Students will return home with the team or their parents.

## **EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES of the PARENTS**

Parents are a crucial part of the Athletic Program. We want parents to be involved in all the activities at the school, and Athletics is no exception. Here are some of the best ways to be involved:

- Attend the games and cheer on the Leopards! Even games your child isn't playing in.
- Cheer for the team, not just your child.
- Join and support the Athletic Booster Club.

We want open lines of communication between parents and coaches. We will communicate new information primarily with the students; we feel this helps them develop ownership and responsibility. If you are unsure of information your child brings you, feel free to contact the coach or the school.

If you are unhappy with a situation, please consider these guidelines for communicating with your child's coach.

- Try to leave your child out of the communication loop. By being supportive of the coach in your home, you don't put your child in a position where he is questioning the authority of the coach or parent
- Speak to the coach at the right time. Immediately after a game, when emotions may be high, is not the best time for anyone to talk. Set up a time the next day to visit with the coach.
- Speak directly to the coach. Avoid trying to contact them by Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc..) or by text.
- Follow a chain of command. Speak first to the coach you have an issue with. If you still have an issue after that, talk to the head coach of that sport. If you still have an issue after that, talk with the Athletic Director. If your issue still exists, talk to the school administration. Skipping any part of this chain of authority and communication damages our ability to handle issues and generally creates more problems.

## **INJURY PROTOCOL**

Unfortunately, participation in athletics carries a potential for injuries. How we deal with those injuries is important. All injuries must be reported to the proper individual as soon as they occur/or are noticed. Injuries need to be reported so that:

1. They can be properly cared for. This may include only some treatment, possibly rehabilitation or physician referrals if needed.
2. All parties involved can be notified. This may include but not be limited to Parent(s), Guardian(s), Coach & Administrator(s)

The coaching staff, in conjunction with Covenant Sports Medicine, can facilitate referral to doctors who specialize in sports medicine. These doctors are sensitive to the injuries and needs of athletes and structure their care with the athlete and their quickest, safe return to activities in mind. Family physicians will often take a more cautious approach. In any case, if the athlete is referred to a physician, or chooses to visit a physician on their own, documentation must be provided to the proper people.

The documentation is to include the following:

- Diagnosis
- Status – Not only what you can't do, but also what you can do.
- Treatment Options
- Next appointment date

This documentation is necessary to ensure that the athlete is medically able and cleared to participate. Doctor's notes must be legally followed, so we will follow them until we have different instructions from the doctor.

## **POTENTIAL ATHLETIC ISSUES**

### **Athletic Review Committee**

In order to maintain consistency in our programs, an athletic review committee will convene if necessary. The committee shall consist of the head coach of the sport involved, a coach not directly involved and the Athletic Director. In the event that committee convenes to determine infractions and an athlete's status, a parent of the athlete shall be contacted. If the committee cannot come to an adequate decision, the problem will be taken to the next level: principal, superintendent, etc... The Athletic Review Committee will handle punishment for these offenses that do not have a set consequence

### **Alcohol**

Use of alcohol is illegal for persons under 21 years of age. Any issues that a coach becomes aware of, or any issue that results in a citation by law enforcement will be reviewed by the Athletic Review Committee.

### **Criminal Activities**

If a student athlete is arrested and charged with a felony crime, he/she will automatically be suspended from athletic activities until guilt or innocence is determined. If the student is found guilty, they will be suspended from all athletic activities for one calendar year. A misdemeanor offense will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the review committee and could result in suspension from the team.

### **Drugs**

Use of illegal drugs is not allowed. Any issues involving this will be handled in accordance to the Extra Curricular Drug Policy manual set forth by NEW HOME I.S.D.

### **Fighting**

Student athletes are expected to exercise self control. **FIGHTING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Punishment for incidents in athletics will be up to the Athletic Review Committee.

### **Hazing**

The National Federation of High School Sports Associations defines **hazing** as any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a group, regardless of their willingness to participate. Hazing will not be allowed, condoned or accepted by any group in the athletic program. Punishment will be up to the Athletic Review Committee.

### **Quitting a team**

Being a part of an athletic team requires hard work, time commitment and dedication to the group. As each individual member of a team is vital to the success of a team, it follows that someone who quits a team hurts that team. A student who quits a team faces the following consequences:

- Non participation in any other sport at New Home ISD until completion of 50 miles running, supervised by a member of the coaching staff.
- Student will not be allowed to participate in the sport that he or she quit without consensus from the coaching staff
- Students who quit give up any rights to awards and letter jackets.

### **Suspension from School**

If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason, they will be ineligible during the period of suspension. A second suspension in the same school year will result in review and could result in total expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year. This includes on and off campus suspension.

### **Theft**

Taking things from other players, students, schools, etc. will not be tolerated. Punishment will be handled individually by the review committee and may result in expulsion from all athletic activities for up to one calendar year from the date of the incident. At the end of one calendar year from the date of the incident, all parties concerned may review the case and his/her behavior during the previous year to determine reinstatement into the athletic program.

### **Other Issues**

The Athletic Department reserves the right to deal with other issues deemed important, but not listed with these Potential Issues, in a manner it deems necessary.