

# NEWBURYPORT HIGH SCHOOL



## Department of Athletics

### Student-Athlete / Parent Handbook 2022-23

Available on our website at  
[www.newburyport.k12.ma.us](http://www.newburyport.k12.ma.us)

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Dear Student-Athletes and Parents:

This handbook is written with the belief and understanding that you want to be aware of the part you play in making your experiences in our athletic programs both successful and harmonious. Please take the time to read and understand all the material covered in this booklet.

There are many parts to this document, but I want to start by stating the commitment that we expect of our administration, coaches, and athletes.

- We pledge ourselves to honoring the dignity of each person, taking a personal interest in them as individuals, helping them whenever possible to resolve personal problems, and assisting each person in achievement of educational goals and aspirations.
- We wish to excel in athletics, just as we desire to excel in academics and all activities associated with Newburyport High School. We are determined to do our best to field competitive, well-coached teams composed of positive young men and women who, in turn, represent our school with pride, enthusiasm, and loyalty.
- Finally, we will work to ensure that your student-athlete's academic, athletic, and social experiences yield satisfaction and rewards that will continue to enrich their lives long after leaving Newburyport High School.

Sincerely,

Kyle Hodsdon, CAA  
Director of Athletics

### **Handbook for High School Athletics**

The purposes of our handbook are:

1. To make student-athletes and parents aware of the philosophy and objectives of the athletic program.
2. To inform student-athletes and parents of the guidelines and procedures governing the student-athlete's behavior.
3. To create uniformity and equity of behavioral standards for all student-athletes in all sports.

## Message to Parents

Any head coach will tell you that a championship level team has to include a good working relationship with other staff members, but perhaps even more necessary is that every great team has invaluable and indispensable supporters who are always there when needed, and provide inspiration at exactly the right time. These supporters come from a variety of sources – alumni, community members, and friends. Perhaps the most crucial supporters for any high school program have a name – we call them *parents*. Without the support and care of parents our task would be intolerable and impossible. We say that because our coaches have lived it and know it to be true.

When a student decides to go out for a team, he or she may do so for a variety of reasons. For the vast majority, what motivates them to join a team is a sincere love of a sport, a desire to participate with others who are like-minded, and a belief that they are both mentally and physically capable of becoming a valuable, contributing athlete. This is where parents come in. Encourage your student-athlete to share their experiences with you. Let them talk about what they did. Reinforce what the coaches have been telling your children, and together we will find a young student-athlete who doesn't give up, who perseveres in the face of adversity, and who is better mentally and physically for the effort.

Insist that your child keep up with his/her school work. The physical conditioning your child receives from participation in sports should give them a new, vibrant energy which can be devoted to his or her studies.

Win or lose, sportsmanship is of paramount importance. Neither you nor the coaching staff likes to lose, and we, as adults, have the ability to rationalize such things and put them in proper perspective. Be there to understand, to sympathize, and to make your child see winning or losing a contest as one incident among many that will help make them better people in the long run. Be there to guide the disappointment one feels after losing into a resolve to try again. Be there and your child will learn from you the joy of competition along with the realities of life.

We propose a partnership starting now – a partnership between you and your child's school. Our partnership has our goal in view: your child as a student-athlete, sound in mind and sound in body. If we can see ourselves in this partnership then the single overall beneficiary of our efforts will be your children. With perseverance, understanding, and most importantly, with your child's welfare at heart, we will be successful.

In summary, please read the "Parent-Coach Communication Guide" section that is part of our handbook. The information in this guide is valuable in establishing communication and understanding with each of your children's coaches.

Sincerely,

Coaches and Administration of  
Newburyport High School

## **Philosophy of Newburyport Athletics**

Newburyport High School is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) whose primary purpose is to organize, regulate and promote interscholastic athletics for the secondary schools of Massachusetts. Membership requires that Newburyport High School agrees to abide by the rules of the Association's governing activities.

At Newburyport High School, the interscholastic athletic program is an integral part of the students' total education and development. It is in our athletic program that we strive to develop the student-athlete to the best of his/her ability. Our programs help to mold character and develop self-control, self-direction, personality traits and social patterns which will better prepare our students for adult life. We emphasize good sportsmanship and the spirit of fair play in all our athletic contests. The influence of athletics on the overall school environment contributes significantly to our students' education. Our main goal is to create a positive atmosphere for our student-athletes by promoting the following:

1. **STUDENT INVOLVEMENT** – All students are encouraged to become involved in our scholastic teams and invest in our programs.
2. **SCHOOL PRIDE** – Students, coaches, parents, and teachers rally together to promote a sense of pride in our school.
3. **POSITIVE COMMUNITY SPIRIT** – Individual parents and community organizations give our programs enormous support and help our student-athletes reach their goals.
4. **SCHOOL TRADITION** – Newburyport creates a positive and winning spirit for our entire school body and community. It is our hope that students, teachers, coaches, and parents will have positive memories of their time spent with the Newburyport High School Athletic Program.

It is the responsibility of our coaches, student-athletes and their parents to become familiar with our athletic code which presents the rules, regulations and policies of the athletic department. We encourage all students to participate in our athletic program and to abide by the rules established by the MIAA and Newburyport Public Schools.

There are currently fifty-one interscholastic athletic teams at the High School in which students who are enrolled may participate if they meet the academic and physical guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the administration of Newburyport High School. These sports activities are open to any student who wishes to participate, with the understanding that some teams have a limited number of persons per team, while others have an unlimited roster. The Newburyport Public Schools does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability in admission to, access to, employment in, or treatment in its programs and activities.

## **Program Objectives**

### **BELIEFS**

- We believe students are our highest priority.
- We believe the dignity, worth, and self-esteem of participants should be paramount in all athletic activities.
- We believe the most important result of competition is the development of life-long values and skills.
- We believe the athletic program is an integral part of the high school experience.
- We believe high school athletics should be fun and rewarding.
- We believe in the multi-sport athlete.
- We believe athletic programs are most beneficial when they are competitive.
- We believe winning is an attitude resulting from optimum preparation, concentrated effort and a deep commitment to excel.
- We believe well-designed athletic programs promote community and school pride.
- We believe open communication and mutual respect among coaches, parents, and athletes provide the foundation of a successful athletic program.
- We believe morale, satisfaction, and performance are enhanced when athletes work together as a team.
- We believe well qualified coaches and program administrators are important components in a successful athletic program.
- We believe positive parent support and involvement enhance student growth and program quality.

### **JV-2 Level Participation Athletic Goals**

The goal of JV-2 athletics at Newburyport High School is to begin to develop the complete student-athlete and to instill the joy of competition and sport. Rosters will be as large as possible. Communication will begin with the student athletes and their parents on the transition from middle school or recreation sports into the more comprehensive and competitive high school sports structure. Significant emphasis on fundamentals will be stressed that will enable the individual to climb the ranks within a program. It is important to understand that the progress and development of the student-athlete will take precedence over winning. Student-athletes will be introduced to time management and study skills that will assist them in maximizing their academic potential while participating in their respective sports.

### **JUNIOR VARSITY Level Participation Athletic Goals**

The goal of Junior Varsity athletics at NHS is to continue the learning and development process of becoming a student-athlete. Winning at this level is nice, but not at the cost of hindering player development or having fun. Student athletes at the JV level will be preparing to compete at the highest level; varsity. Programs will begin identifying potential post high school academic and athletic paths for each student athlete.

### **VARSITY LEVEL Participation Athletic Goals**

The focus of Varsity athletics at Newburyport will be a continued development of the student-athletes' academic and athletic potential. Programs will actively assist with the student athletes' pursuit of post high school academic

and athletic opportunities. Programs will continue to focus on developing player skill and having fun, but with an accelerated emphasis on winning and competing at the highest level. We will be in pursuit of the CAL, Regional and MIAA State Championship.

***Coaches are encouraged to include as many students as possible on their team roster, with the understanding however that student safety and team competitiveness are factors in the coach's decision relative to the size of their team.***

### **VACATIONS**

As coaches plan practices and prepare game lineups, it is important to know which student-athletes will be available. All student-athletes should be aware that if they leave the team for a family vacation they run the risk of losing their position. There is no guarantee that the student-athlete who has left for a vacation will continue to play in the exact position that he/she left when they return.

### **Try-out Policy**

#### **Roster Cuts**

Students may try out for any sport that is offered at Newburyport High School. For some sports students may be cut from squads. Cuts may be made for a variety of reasons which include, but are not limited to:

- a. size of squad
- b. safety concerns
- c. ability level
- d. facility restrictions
- e. coach to student-athlete ratio
- f. practice management/considerations

In those situations, coaches will have the prerogative of selecting the more experienced or more skillful players. Cuts may be made in all sports at all levels. Typical sports that may cut prospective student-athletes include, but are not limited to, baseball, softball, boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse, boys' tennis, girls' tennis, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, ice hockey, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, field hockey, and golf. We try to accommodate as many athletes as the sport allows, particularly at the JV-2 level, while keeping in mind the parameters listed above. The athletic department feels that there are options for the student-athlete to pursue if disappointed in his or her first choice. Contrary to popular belief, there are no guarantees that athletes will maintain their status from year to year (i.e. varsity players must try out each year and may be moved down to the JV level if the coach so judges).

### **Procedure for Communication with Student-Athletes**

The coach will communicate clearly to the student-athletes the tryout procedures, which will include the following:

- a. length of tryouts
- b. who the evaluator(s) will be
- c. particular skills to be evaluated

- d. roughly the number of participants who will be selected
- e. how the final roster(s) will be communicated to students

### **Athletic Code - Program Rules**

Participating in the High School Athletic Program can be one of the most rewarding experiences a student may have. Individual as well as team success can be realized especially when an athlete develops the required self-discipline. On the field, the athlete not only represents himself/herself, but also the community of Newburyport. When a student chooses to participate, he/she must also accept this responsibility. The athletic code lists those responsibilities which will guide the student-athlete in conjunction with those established within *The Clipper's Compass* (the Student/Parent Handbook for Newburyport High School). The following rules and regulations shall be adhered to by all student-athletes participating in any sport.

1. All students must abide by MIAA rules as well as those in *The Clipper's Compass* (the Student/Parent Handbook for Newburyport High School).

### **IMPORTANT RULES (#s 2-7)**

2. ALL students must pass a physical exam before participating in any practice or game. Physicals are only good for 13 months and the student is required to provide an updated physical immediately after the previous one expires in order to remain eligible for participation in sports. A doctor's note in place of a physical exam is not acceptable. (MIAA Rule # 56)
3. At no time may a student miss a high school practice to attend a practice or competition with an out-of-school team. Any student who violates this rule for the first time shall be ineligible for 25% of regular season athletic contests. The penalty is effective from the date of his/her last participation in a high school sport. Any student who violates this rule for a second or subsequent time shall be declared ineligible for an additional 25% of the season and is ineligible for tournament play immediately upon confirmation of the violation (MIAA bona fide team member rule # 45).
4. Student-athletes participating in a sport (particularly at the varsity level) must understand that their attendance at practices and games is vital to the success of the team. In the rare circumstance where a student-athlete must miss a practice/contest, it is the responsibility of the athlete to communicate that absence to the coach as far in advance as possible in order for the coach and team to plan accordingly. Varsity athletes, particularly seniors in the spring (but not limited to a particular grade or season), must also understand that conflicts may arise that could cause them to miss other school activities because of athletic contests. For example, a senior may miss a senior class activity (including the prom) because of a spring tournament contest.
5. It is the policy of Newburyport High School that a student meet the academic eligibility standards established by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and Newburyport High School in order to participate in any extra-curricular activity. In order to academically qualify for involvement in any extra-curricular activity a student must have passed the following as the school year progresses:

- \* At least ten academic credits at the mid-semester grade checkpoint in November



- \* At least ten credits when the FINAL semester grades are issued in January
- \* At least ten credits at the mid-semester grade checkpoint in April
- \* To be eligible for the fall marking period, students are required to have passed for the previous academic year at least twenty academic credits.
- \* Any student failing two classes for the mid-semester grading period (in November and April), the semester FINAL grading period (in January), or semester 2 FINAL grading period (in June) would be considered ineligible at NHS.
- \* Incomplete grades may not be counted toward eligibility. An incomplete grade is considered a non-passing grade until the student completes the necessary work and a letter grade is assigned by the teacher. A student has two weeks to make up incomplete grades, otherwise the grade is considered and F. In the case of a student's approved under-enrolled status, he/she must pass the pro-rated number (80%) of academic credits at the end of the previous marking period. (Expansion of MIAA Rule #58) See *The Clipper's Compass*, the Student/Parent Handbook for Newburyport High School, for additional information.

### **Chemical Health Policy**

#### 6. [Clipper's Compass](#) **CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY**

##### **Alcohol**

Use, possession, distribution, purchasing, having consumed, or being under the influence of alcohol are all strictly prohibited in school, on school grounds, on school field trips, prior to or at any school events. Being part of a group, in school or at school events, in which alcohol is present, puts students in jeopardy; students are likely to receive the same discipline as all members of the group, simply by being present in the group, even if they are not consuming alcohol.

Students who are suspected of being under the influence of alcohol may be referred to the school nurse and/or a parent, and may be sent home. Alcohol "breathalyzers" may be used to determine whether or not a student is under the influence of alcohol. Students who violate the prohibition against alcohol use, possession, distribution, purchasing, having consumed or being under the influence will be subject to an immediate suspension of five\* days from school and a referral to the Student Assistance Team (STAT). In addition, depending on the nature of the offense, it may be determined by the administration that the violators will not be permitted to attend future social or athletic events at the school, and police may be notified.

In the event of a second violation, the administrator may offer to defer a suspension or portion of a suspension if the student agrees to have a substance abuse evaluation. The expectation of such agreement is full compliance with evaluation protocol. This will include the signing of release for information from all relevant contacts such as school counselor, outpatient counselor, doctor etc. This agreement also requires compliance with evaluation recommendations for treatment. The treatment plan and/or recommendations will be disclosed to the school.

*\*Though this is a guideline, suspension duration may vary due to the circumstance of the infraction.*

### **Drugs (Controlled Substances)**

Use, possession, distribution, purchasing, having used/consumed or being under the influence of a controlled substance are strictly prohibited in school, on school grounds, prior to or at any school events. Being part of a group, in school or at school events, in which a controlled substance is present puts students in jeopardy; students are likely to receive the same discipline as all members of the group, simply by being present in the group, even if they are not consuming controlled substances.

The definition of a controlled substance includes, but is not limited to: marijuana, K2/Spice, bath salts, cocaine, heroin, steroids, ecstasy, and prescription drugs not specifically issued to the bearer. Students who are suspected of being under the influence of drugs may be referred to the school nurse and/or a parent, and may be sent home. Students who violate the prohibition against drug use possession, distribution, purchasing, having consumed or being under the influence will be subject to an immediate suspension of five\* days from school, a referral to the Student Assistance Team (STAT) and may be subject to an expulsion hearing by the principal and the police. In addition, depending on the nature of the offense, it may be determined by the administration that the violator will not be permitted to attend future social or athletic events at the school.

Any student identified as violating the prohibition against drugs for a second time will be subject to an immediate suspension of ten\* days from school, and will be subject to an expulsion hearing by the principal and the police will be notified. In addition, depending on the nature of the offense, it may be determined by the administration that the violator will not be permitted to attend future social or athletic events at the school. In the event of a second violation, the administrator may offer to defer a suspension or portion of a suspension if the student agrees to have a substance abuse evaluation. The expectation of such agreement is full compliance by the student with evaluation protocol. This will include the signing of release for information from all relevant contacts such as school counselor, outpatient counselor, doctor etc. This agreement also requires compliance with evaluation recommendations for treatment. The treatment plan and/or recommendations will be disclosed to the school.

*\*Though these are guidelines, suspension durations may vary due to the circumstances of the infraction.*

### **Alcohol/Drugs for Athletics -- Additional**

Newburyport High School is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). Newburyport Public Schools abides by MIAA regulations and imposes some additional and more stringent regulations upon our student athletes. The MIAA Handbook states: "a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol, any type of tobacco product, including vapor/E-cigarettes; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as "NA or near beer". "It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor. This rule represents only a minimum standard upon which schools may develop more stringent requirements."

At Newburyport High School, the MIAA Chemical health policy is in effect for all athletes from the first day of tryouts for fall sports through the last official day of the school year. It is the policy of the Newburyport Public Schools that any situation in which student athletes who are part of a group of minors, in or outside of school, in which alcohol or controlled substances are present, puts students in jeopardy and will cause the student athlete to be subject to school discipline, including but not limited

to the loss of eligibility to participate in school athletics or the loss of leadership positions. As a result, students are strongly advised to immediately leave any situation in which alcohol or drugs (controlled substances) are present, even if they are not consuming them.

If a violation occurs in the summer, the student will be ineligible to participate in the first game of his/her team in the fall season. If the student does not participate in a fall sport, he/she will be ineligible to participate in the first game of the next season of sport they participate in.

Any student participating in athletics that receives a suspension resulting from a violation of the NHS Chemical Health Policy rules must complete the athletic season in which he/she is serving the suspension, otherwise the suspension shall not be considered served.

Team captains and co-captains or other leadership positions jeopardize their position if they violate the alcohol or drug (controlled substance) prohibition. A captain, co-captain or other team leader who is disciplined or involved in an incident involving an alcohol/drug (controlled substance) violation at ANY TIME, including summer vacation, will lose his/her leadership position in addition to any other consequences. When the principal confirms that a chemical health violation occurred, that student will not be eligible for the captaincy or other leadership position in any sport for a period of one calendar year.

### **Penalties per MIAA Handbook**

Minimum penalties (per MIAA Handbook)

*First violation: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. In addition, the student –athlete will not practice, sit or travel with the team. For the student, these penalties will be determined by the season the violation occurs. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. All decimal parts of an event will be truncated i. e. All fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season. A student – athlete may be reinstated if he/she follows the rehabilitation plan set forth through the Athletic Disciplinary Board. The Athletic Disciplinary Board Consists of*

- 1. Students –Athlete’s present coach*
- 2. Associate Principal*
- 3. Principal*
- 4. Athletic Director*
- 5. Two student members selected by the Principal*
- 6. NHS Alumnus*

*Rehabilitation Plan: Must include all three components*

- 1. Counseling designed to address behavior*
- 2. Community Service project*
- 3. Educational Activity*

*Second and subsequent violations: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity*

*for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, these penalties will be determined by the season the violation occurs. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.*

*If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events. The director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center must issue such certification. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.*

7. **MIAA Good Citizen Rule (#63)** – Students may not represent their school if they are on in- house or out-of-house disciplinary suspension. A suspended student is ineligible for practice or competition for at least the number of days (or partial days) equal to the number of days of the suspension.

#### **Rules Specific to Newburyport High School (#'s 8 - 17)**

8. A student found in violation of the Chemical Health Rule above during the summer months will be ineligible for the next scheduled contest in which the student is a participant. (See *The Clipper's Compass*, the Student/Parent Handbook for Newburyport High School, for additional information).
9. A student is also subject to all other chemical health rule violations as it applies to school activities/programs/positions as defined in *The Clipper's Compass*. (See *The Clipper's Compass*, the Student/Parent Handbook for Newburyport High School, for additional information).
10. All team members are responsible for equipment issued to them (equipment will not be issued to athletes until the athletic activity fee has been paid). This equipment will be worn only as directed by the coach. Students will be assessed equipment damage or loss unless there are extenuating circumstances involved. Any items lost or misplaced must be reported to the coach immediately.
11. Student-athletes who arrive at school after 8:30 unexcused are not allowed participation in activities that day. An athlete may not participate in a practice or contest on a day when he/she has been dismissed from school due to illness.
12. Student-athletes absent from school or not present for at least four hours will not be allowed to participate in a scheduled practice or contest that day unless the student received prior approval from the administration. This regulation also extends to Saturday or holiday games on days following an absence.
13. All students must have a completed registration form submitted by their parent/guardian through the FamilyID registration portal prior to the first scheduled practice. Please be aware that injury is possible while participating in sports.

14. When traveling to away contests, students must be properly attired as designated by their coach and must use the means of transportation designated by the school. A parent may request to transport a son or daughter by submitting the [Alternative Transportation Form](#) 24 hours in advance to the athletic director for approval. This form can be found at the end of this handbook, on the athletic website or in the athletic office.
15. Student behavior that brings undue notoriety or that reflects unfavorably upon the individual, team, or school, may result in suspension or dismissal from the team activities on the determination of the coach, athletic director, and ultimately the principal.
16. The coach may suspend or remove a member of the team for inappropriate actions including, but not limited to:
  - a. display of an attitude detrimental to the individual's best interests or the team's welfare.
  - b. disrespect in word or action directed toward the coach, officials, members of an opposing team, or spectators.
  - c. fighting or other incompatibility with team members or opponents.
  - d. unexcused absences from scheduled practices/contests.
17. When school is in session, practice may not start until 3:10. High school athletes shall not enter the middle school gymnasium or fields until 3:10. A coach must be present when the team occupies the field or gymnasium.

### **Hazing Policy**

#### **Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Anti-Hazing Law**

#### **Chapter 269: Section 17. Hazing; organizing or participating; hazing defined**

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment. The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

#### **Chapter 269: Section 18. Failure to report hazing**

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

**Chapter 269: Section 19. Copy of Secs. 17 to 19; issuance to students and student groups, teams and organizations; report**

Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations. Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

**ATHLETIC ACTIVITY FEE SCHEDULE**

It is the policy of the Newburyport School Committee to charge an athletic fee each season for a participant who becomes a member of a Newburyport High School team. The fee will be collected by the Athletic Department prior to the 1st practice at a date to be determined by the athletic department. The fee structure is as follows:

<b>Tier 1:</b>	<b>Grades 9 - 12</b>	<b>\$450</b>	<b>Tier 1:</b>	<b>Football, Ice Hockey</b>
<b>Tier 2:</b>	<b>Grades 9 - 12</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>Tier 2:</b>	<b>Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Field Hockey, Basketball, Volleyball, Golf</b>
<b>Tier 3:</b>	<b>Grades 9 - 12</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>Tier 3:</b>	<b>Tennis, Track, Cross Country, Ski, Cheer</b>

*Note: Family maximum for 2022-2023 is \$1400*

The athletic fee must be paid before the start of the first day of practice. The fee must be made online through FamilyID at time of registration. There shall be no refund under the following circumstances:

- a. The athlete is dismissed from the team due to disciplinary problems
- b. An athlete is dismissed from a team due to scholastic deficiencies
- c. An athlete quits a team

Students will be reimbursed in the full amount if they are cut from a team or decide to leave a team before the 1st scheduled contest is played.

If an athlete is injured before half of the contests have been played in that particular sport and cannot participate for the remainder of the season, the athletic fee will be refunded.

***Important Note:*** *The payment of the athletic fee allows the student-athlete the privilege of participating on the Newburyport High School athletic team. It does not guarantee that the student-athlete will play in each contest.*

#### **Notice of School Nurse on Duty**

There is no school nurse available during before-school and after-school programs and organized activities (e.g. sports, clubs). If an emergency arises (and the trainer is not available for student-athletes), staff will activate the emergency medical system and the student will be transported to the nearest hospital. Note that after-school personnel cannot deliver medical procedures or obtain or administer medications. Students with special health needs are encouraged to carry necessary items (e.g. inhalers, EpiPens) during these times. If your child requires specific assistance during and after school events please contact your child's school nurse for guidance.

#### **Concussions**

A concussion is a brain injury that is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body. All concussions are serious. Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Concussions can occur in any sport or recreational activity. You can't see a concussion. Recognition and proper response to concussions when they first occur can help prevent further injury or even death.

**MIAA RULE #56.4:** Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

#### **SIGNS**

Appears Dazed or stunned  
Is confused about assignment or position  
Forgets an instruction  
Is unsure of game, score or opponent  
Moves clumsily  
Answers questions slowly  
Loses consciousness  
Shows mood, behavior changes  
Can't recall events prior to the hit or fall  
Can't recall events after the hit or fall

#### **SYMPTOMS**

Headache or "pressure" in head  
Nausea or vomiting  
Balance problems or dizziness  
Double or blurry vision  
Sensitivity to light  
Sensitivity to noise  
Feeling sluggish, hazy, or groggy  
Concentration or memory problems  
Confusion  
Just "not feeling right"

If your teen reports one or more symptoms of concussion listed above, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, keep your teen out of play and seek medical attention right away. Tell all of your teen's coaches and school nurse about ANY concussion.

The Newburyport Public Schools is committed to the health and safety of our students and is committed to raising awareness about the signs and symptoms of concussions by implementing the following:

- Training coaches through seminars, online courses and resources provided by the CDC and NFHS.
- Educating student--athletes and their parents by providing access to online courses, videos, presentations, and materials provided by the CDC and NFHS.
- Informing faculty members about the signs and symptoms of concussions through literature provided by the CDC and NFHS.
- Raising awareness throughout the school system by hanging posters in visible areas of all schools.
- Collecting required data from parents at the start of each season which provides the history (if any) of past concussions suffered by the athlete.

#### NHS Athletics 4-Step Action Plan for concussions

- 1) **Remove the athlete from play.** Look for signs and symptoms of a concussion if your athlete has experienced a bump or blow to the head or body. When in doubt, keep the athlete out of play.
- 2) **Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by a healthcare professional experienced in evaluating for concussion.** Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Health care professionals have a number of methods that they can use to assess the severity of concussions. As a coach, recording the following information can help health care professionals in assessing the athlete after an injury:
  - Cause of the injury and force of the hit or blow to the head or body
  - Any loss of consciousness, and if so, for how long
  - Any memory loss immediately following the injury
  - Any seizures immediately following the injury
  - Number of previous concussions, if any
- 3) **Inform the athlete's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them the fact sheet on concussion.** Make sure that they know the athlete should be seen by a healthcare professional experienced in evaluating for concussion.
- 4) **Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating concussion, says they are symptom-free and it's ok to return to play.** A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the first-usually within a short period of time (hours, days, or weeks)-can slow recovery or increase likelihood of having long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in edema (brain swelling), permanent brain damage, and even death.

#### Choosing of Captains

Before the start of the season (any time from the last day of the previous season up to the 1st scheduled contest of the next season), students on the varsity team may vote for captains. All players are eligible to be a captain (regardless of class). It is the responsibility of the coach (es)



to conduct the voting in an appropriate manner and collect the votes by team members. Coaches must explain the process in detail, including, but not limited to, how many votes each student has, whether or not a student may vote for himself, and whether or not the vote is binding or non-binding. Coaches will list the voting procedures at the top of each student's ballot. Coaches shall give the ballots to the Athletic Director after the voting and appointment is completed.

- a. A player who has been suspended for a Chemical Health Rule Violation will be ineligible for one calendar year from the date of the infraction.
- b. A student who is academically ineligible is not allowed to be a captain of a team during the period in which the student is ineligible.
- c. A captain is elected for one season.
- d. Special circumstances may dictate that a team does not have a captain for the season.
- e. The coach will have the final say in determining who the captain(s) will be for the upcoming season.
- f. The coach may remove a captain at any time for conduct which consistently displays a lack of leadership.

### Sportsmanship

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity should permeate all interscholastic athletics in our community. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Our athletic fields should be the laboratory to produce good citizens reflecting "fair play" in every area of life.

#### Expectations for Parent, Guests, and Other Fans

- Game attendance is a privilege and not a license to verbally assault others or to be obnoxious.
- Respect the entire playing of the National Anthem.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible.
- Become aware of the purpose of the league and rules to keep winning in its proper place.
- Respect fans, coaches, and participants.
- Be a fan...not a fanatic.
- Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing field.

#### Suggested positive Behavioral Guides

- Applaud during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Accept all decisions by officials.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of a contest, regardless of the outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance of coaching.
- Applaud at the end of a contest for performances of all participants.
- Demonstrate concern for an injured player, regardless of the team.
- Encourage supporting people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

#### Unacceptable Behavior

- Yelling or negative chanting or gestures toward an opponent.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.

- Taunting or trash talk.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches, or participants.
- Laughing or name calling to distract an opponent.
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game.

## **Bullying**

Bullying can occur at any age or grade. It is the repeated threat of physical or emotional harm by one student to another. Like harassment, it is determined by the perception of the victim, and/or not just the individual or group action. Bullying may also be reported by third party observers. Students who are bullied for sustained periods of time, without intervention, can suffer low self-esteem, isolation, and depression. Children need to learn to recognize the signs of bullying, and then learn ways to resist (refuse) the threats. Teaching students to report bullying to the trusted adults in the school is the most critical step. All students need to know that their concerns will be heard and actions taken. When a victim or a bystander reports bullying to an adult, that person must immediately contact the Principal or designee (Dean of Student Life, Dean of Student Support or Student Support Counselor).

### **1. Intervention Procedure for Bullying Behaviors**

Once a bullying incident is reported and a referral submitted students involved will have the opportunity to separately participate in behavioral coaching. Interventions for more serious behaviors may proceed directly to Step 4 or 5 if it is determined, by a school administrator, to be necessary. Interventions will result as follows:

#### ***Step One: Warning***

A staff member may re-direct or re-teach the rule with which a student is having difficulty, and coach the student on specific strategies to avoid bullying behavior in the future. Report form is completed. Parents are notified at teacher/staff member's discretion. Depending upon the severity of the offense, the student may be referred directly to the Assistant Principal/Principal.

#### ***Step Two: Intervention by Teacher/Faculty Member or Administrator***

Meetings/conferences are held with student(s) involved (coaching). School expectations and rules regarding bullying are reviewed with bullying student. Parent is notified. Report form is completed. Student is informed of Steps 3-5. Interventions are applied consistent with the level of severity of the bullying behavior.

#### ***Step Three: Initial Intervention with Assistant Principal/Principal***

A conference is held with student(s) involved. Parent is notified and contract is created, which is signed by parent(s) and student. Student is informed of Steps 4 & 5. Interventions are applied consistent with the level of severity of the bullying behavior.

#### ***Step Four: Intervention with Assistant Principal/Principal for Repeated Offenses***

One day suspension is issued. Student calls parent with Assistant Principal/Principal. Student is informed of Step 5. Interventions are applied consistent with the level of severity of the bullying behavior.

**Step Five:** Crisis Intervention Response with Assistant Principal/Principal and/or other staff Parent is required to pick up student and remove them from school. Short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion required.

*\*Retaliation against a reporter will result in immediate Level Two or Level Three Intervention.  
\*\*All Level Three behaviors should be referred to administration even without prior warnings or steps in the process.*

### **Hierarchy of Bullying Behaviors and their Possible Interventions**

Definition of Bullying: Bullying is unfair and one-sided; it involves an imbalance of power. It happens when someone is repeatedly hurting, frightening, threatening or leaving someone out on purpose. Like harassment, bullying situations take into account the perception of the victim and not just the individual or group action.

*Please note that any of the interventions may be enacted. Depending upon the severity or frequency of the behavior, a Level One offense may arise to that of a Level Two intervention and a Level Two offense may arise to that of a Level Three intervention.*

#### **Level One Bullying Behaviors**

Gossiping/Spreading Rumors  
Embarrassing someone on purpose  
Name-calling/Put Downs  
Dirty Looks  
Teasing in a hurtful way  
Saying something hurtful  
Excluding from a group/leaving someone out on purpose

#### **Level One: Possible Interventions**

1. Apology/making amends by repairing, cleaning, replacing, etc.
2. Loss of privileges
3. Parent notification
4. Develop a behavior plan
5. Make an environmental change
  - a. move seat
  - b. adjust schedule
6. Peer mediation
7. Warning
8. Teacher detention issued

*A pattern of Level 1 offenses may result in interventions for Level 2 offenses and referral for additional intervention services.*

*This is not an all inclusive list*

#### **Level Two Bullying Behaviors**

Threatening to take or destroy a possession  
Taking or destroying a possession  
Making verbal threats to harm or intimidate  
Coercively encouraging others to exclude, reject or isolate someone  
Coercively encouraging others to spread rumors  
Verbal Threatening and/or Using force to get someone to act unsafely

#### **Level Two: Possible Interventions**

1. Loss of privileges
2. Making amends by repairing, cleaning, replacing, etc.
3. Peer Mediation
4. Student Behavior Plan / Counseling Intervention
5. Office detention issued
6. Saturday School / ISS

Retaliation against someone reporting bullying  
Teasing in a racial/sexual manner  
Humiliating someone publicly

7. Out-of-school suspension

*This is not an all inclusive list*

**Level Three Bullying Behaviors**

Verbal threats of aggression against property or possessions  
Stealing or damaging another person's property/extortion  
Verbal threats of violence or inflicting bodily harm  
Physical violence/inflicting bodily harm  
Retaliation  
Threatening with a weapon  
Maliciously excluding  
Manipulating social order to achieve rejection  
Malicious rumor mongering  
Threatening with total isolation by peer group  
Threats of using coercion against family or friends  
Coercion  
Racial/Sexual Harassment

**Level Three: Possible Interventions**

1. Student Behavior plan
2. Saturday School/ISS
3. Out-of-school suspension
4. Expulsion from school or school district

*Criminal behavior will be referred to law enforcement under Newburyport High School and Newburyport Police department memorandum of understanding.  
This is not an all inclusive list.*



## NEWBURYPORT HIGH SCHOOL Parent/Coach Communication

### **PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our students. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### **COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH:**

- ◆ Philosophy of the coach
- ◆ Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad
- ◆ Locations and times of all practices and contests
- ◆ Team requirements; i.e., special equipment, off-season conditioning
- ◆ Procedure should your child be injured during participation
- ◆ Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

### **COMMUNICATION COACHES SHOULD EXPECT FROM PARENTS:**

- ◆ Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- ◆ Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- ◆ Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in the athletic program, 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 child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:**

- ◆ The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- ◆ Ways to help your child improve
- ◆ Concerns about your child's behavior or safety

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

### **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:**

- ◆ Playing time and position
- ◆ Team strategy
- ◆ Play calling and tactics
- ◆ Other student-athletes

### **PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW SHOULD YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH:**

The following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Step 1 – The student-athlete and coach will meet to discuss the issue.

Step 2 – The parent and student-athlete should schedule a meeting with the coach.

Step 3 – If not resolved, the parent may schedule a meeting with the Athletic Director and Coach.

Step 4 – If not resolved, the parent may contact the building Principal.

Step 5 – If not resolved, the parent may contact the Superintendent.

Parents are expected to sequentially follow the conflict chain listed above.

Kyle Hodsdon, CAA - Director of Athletics

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NEWBURYPORT HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETICS

Parental Permission Form for Alternative Transportation  
of Student Following Extra-Curricular Event

Newburyport High School (NHS) and Newburyport Public Schools (District) provide transportation to and from extra-curricular activities. Students are expected to ride to and from extra-curricular activities with their team/group and coach/advisor unless this form is signed by the student's parent/guardian and submitted to the NHS Athletic Director 24 hours in advance of the event. NHS will permit students to take alternative transportation only when this Permission Form is completed and approved by the Athletic Director 24 hours prior to the date of the event.

If this authorization is signed and approved, the student will be released from District supervision at the conclusion of the event. The District does not and cannot take responsibility for ensuring that the student rides in the particular vehicle authorized by the parent(s). Accordingly, parent(s)/guardian(s) take full responsibility to ensure that their sons or daughters in fact ride home with the person(s) whom they have authorized and that the alternative transportation is safe and appropriate.

*Authorization and Release*

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission for our son/daughter,  
(parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_ to travel from \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(student-athlete) (sport – JV-2 / JV / V) (opponent)

on \_\_\_\_\_ in a vehicle driven by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(date – only one date) (adult driver)

- - - THIS FORM IS VALID FOR ONE DATE ONLY - - -

I/We expressly decline the bus transportation made available to our son/daughter by NHS. We have read this form in its entirety and acknowledge that Newburyport Public Schools has no responsibility to supervise or monitor our son/daughter following the conclusion of the event. I/We hereby agree to assume all risk of injury, harm or damage to our child's person or property arising during or in connection with the alternate transportation. I/We have approved, and I/We hereby release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Newburyport Public Schools, its directors, administrators, coaches, agents, and employees from any and all liability and claims of any kind or nature whatsoever for injury or harm to our child that may arise or occur during or in connection with said transportation.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of NHS Athletic Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_