



NORTHEAST MIDDLE
SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

SY2020-2021

**Northeast Middle School
4904 Independence Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri 64124**

**Principal: Mr. Brett Schriewer
Assistant Principal: Ms. Kathyrene Hayes**

Athletic Director: Ms. La-Toya Sheppard

PURPOSE

This athletic handbook is designed to explain and to inform athletes and their parents/guardians of the rules, regulations and policies relative to participation in interscholastic athletics at Northeast Middle School.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Northeast Middle Schools is dedicated to provide a comprehensive athletic program emphasizing sportsmanship, character, team spirit, self-discipline, individual and team commitment, school loyalty and competitive athletic interaction. The athletic program will be designed to allow for the greatest number of student participants possible while encouraging academic excellence through high academic standards.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Kansas City Public Schools is a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and adheres to the rules and regulations set forth by MSHSAA and actively promotes the philosophy of interscholastic athletics. The eligibility of students who participate in the athletic program shall be determined in accordance with the KCPS Athletic Department policies and MSHSAA regulations. Additional information regarding eligibility requirements is accessible via www.kcpublicschools.org/athletics

NEMS ACTIVITY AND ATHLETICS

NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Boys: Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Swimming, Track and Field, Flag Football, Club Baseball

Girls: Basketball, Volleyball, Cheer, Cross Country, Soccer, Swimming, Track and Field

Students may be restricted from participation because of failure to provide an acceptable sports physical, poor academic performance, disciplinary consequences, possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs, or as otherwise determined by KCPS administration.

For additional information, please refer to the Parent-Student Handbook at www.kcpublicschools.org/athletics.

NEMS ELIGIBILITY & ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The KCPS “You Pass, You Play” Policy

Participation requirements are: • MSHSAA minimum requirements • and 90% class attendance every week.
NOTE: Failure of a student-athlete to attend class due to out of school or in school suspension results in automatic ineligibility for practice or scheduled contest(s) for that student-athlete. Subsequent reinstatement will be at the discretion of the coach.

Students who fail to meet the MSHSAA academic standards during the season may still be a member of the team, club, or activity but will be required to attend mandatory tutorials, and progress reports rather than practice, rehearse, or perform until the student meets the academic & attendance requirements.

This enhanced policy will encourage students to maintain their GPAs before, during, and after their respective activities, and will guarantee satisfactory progress toward graduation. This new policy helps prepare college

bound students to meet college entrance requirements and the challenges they will encounter when balancing classes and activity involvement at the collegiate level.

Eligibility:

1. All students must have a completed physical on file in the Athletic Director's office in order to participate in any sport. Physicals must be dated on or after February 1st of the previous school year to be current.
2. Parents are required to provide proof of accident or health insurance that will cover an athletic related injury or accident. Physical examinations and submitting the completed forms to the coaching staff and or athletic directors are the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents/guardian. NEMS and District Athletic Department will have a few scheduled dates for physicals throughout the year.
3. **IMPORTANT: In the event of injury, KCPS shall not be responsible for the cost of medical attention provided to student-athletes not covered by insurance provided by the parent.**

Academics:

The coaches and administration of Northeast Middle School believe the first priority of a student should be his or her academic development. Our athletic programs offer opportunities for social, physical, and emotional development but these objectives are considered a second priority when compared to academic development.

Eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities is a privilege, which is attained by meeting the following standards. Only by abiding by all of these standards can you be considered eligible to take part in extracurricular activities. These standards are to be used as set forth by the MSHSAA which are also printed in this handbook.

1. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of seven (7) subjects to meet the MSHSAA requirements.
2. Students must pass a minimum of 6 classes in a semester in order to participate in extra- curricular activities the next semester.
3. In order for a student to remain eligible for extracurricular activities they will also be expected to behave as a good citizen. Students who are habitually absent or late to class, who create problems in or out of the classroom, who must be continually spoken to by the administration, teachers or coaches, may find themselves ineligible for their actions alone.
4. Those students who have an "IEP" program on file will receive special consideration only in that they must make standard progress in all of their subjects and continue to become good citizens.

*****The requirement for IEP student participants will continue under the current standards for such programs (i.e., IDEA, Missouri state requirements, etc.). 2. Adoption of the You Pass, You Play policy does not eliminate any state mandated requirements for participation in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities. "Play" is defined in this policy as "participation in any KCPS high school sponsored or sanctioned extracurricular or co- curricular sport, activity, or club". 3. The attendance requirement mandated by the You Pass, You Play policy will be tracked daily by the site-based Athletic Director or designee(s).*****

School Attendance:

No student is to participate in any game activity if he or she has not been in attendance the complete school day, with the exception of a doctor or dentist appointment, or funeral without pre-approved absence from the principal, asst. principal, or athletic director. This includes practices of any kind.

If a student is absent on a Friday, or the last day of a school week, he or she will not participate on the following Saturday unless it was because of a doctor or dentist appointment, funeral or other principal pre- approved absence. They cannot participate in an activity until they have been in attendance for a full school day.

Participants must be in school, on time, the day after participation in an activity. Failure to do so will result in possible disciplinary action. Exceptions will be made if the parents notify the school before 8:00am that day and the absence or tardy is recognized as excused by the administration.

Citizenship standards

The following is taken from the official Missouri State High School Activities Association Handbook.

“Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be credible citizens and judged so by the proper school authority certifying a list of students for competition. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon them or their school are not considered “credible” citizens. Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline. A student shall not be considered eligible while under suspension. The student who is expelled or who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal.”

The ideas reflected in these paragraphs have been used in the establishment of the disciplinary sections of this handbook.

NEMS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Interscholastic activities shall supplement the secondary curricular program. Most worthwhile experiences to students result in learning outcomes that will contribute toward the development of the attributes of good citizenship. Emphasis shall be upon teaching through school activities. To this end, only interscholastic activities are justified.

Definition of Athlete:

Anyone participating in sports, band competition, vocal music competition, pom-pom or cheerleading.

Athletic Program Objectives

Our athletic program works toward the following:

1. To ensure that interscholastic activities **supplement** the curricular program of the school, provide opportunities for youth to acquire worthwhile knowledge, skills and emotional patterns.
2. To promote the educational values of interscholastic activities, which will contribute to the accepted aims of education.
3. To formulate uniform, and equitable standards of eligibility that must be met by all students to attain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities.
4. To foster a cooperative spirit and good sportsmanship on the part of school representatives, school patrons and students.
5. To develop qualities of strength, endurance, agility and neuromuscular skills in our participants.
6. To follow all of the regulations set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) Handbook and the KCPS Board of Education policies.

It is with these objectives in mind that this athletic handbook has been written by the athletic director, principal and coaches of the Northeast Middle School. As with any handbook, situations will be dealt with by a cooperative effort between the school administration, athletic director and coaches.

PRACTICE ATTENDANCE: A participant who misses a practice will be excused only if he or she has informed the coach in advance of the missed practice. Absences that will normally be considered excusable include doctor or dentist appointment, funeral or other principal or coach pre-approved absence. The penalty for unexcused misses from practice is discussed in the next section of this handbook.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOL: Participation in athletics is a privilege granted to those students who show the ability to conduct themselves properly in school. Participation is not a student's right. Participants must therefore maintain a certain degree of good conduct in the classroom and other school settings or activities. The privilege of participation may be taken away if a participant is involved in behavioral problems.

Inappropriate behavior in school that results in an **In School Suspension**, or cases of unexcused absences from practice will be dealt with and considered as being equal offenses. The athletic director, sponsor or coach will deal with the participant.

If a student is assigned an **Out of School Suspension** he or she, on the first offense in an academic year, will be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities during the suspension. Each coach will deal with any additional punishment during that season.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT AN EVENT

We must stress proper behavior and the consequences for improper behavior in our athletic programs.

A participant that exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior caused by an uncontrolled anger or frustration will be removed from that contest and miss the next contest. This includes cursing, verbal threats, or physical confrontation during a contest.

Fighting in any form will not be tolerated. Fighting includes pushing, wrestling, striking or any other aggravated act toward another person. If attacked by another we expect our participants to protect themselves and then back away from the situation. Striking a person, no matter who initiates the situation, will not be considered self-defense. If a participant is involved in this type of situation and acts in a manner other than simply protecting him or herself, they will then have been considered to be fighting.

MISSING GAMES

A participant that has received the punishment of missing a game may travel with the team upon approval of the coach and sit on the bench, or any other area designated for the team, for that game. For the purpose of these rules, a game is defined as the length of competition normally played on one date. A game in track would be one entire meet and a game in volleyball would be one entire match. A two-day event, such as state wrestling or track meets will be considered as one game.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS

The use of tobacco products, drugs, or alcohol limits an athlete's ability to perform up to his or her potential. If a coach or school administrator confirms that an athlete is guilty of use or possession of tobacco products, the first offense will result in a suspension according to the district's student code of conduct. Participants will not be allowed to participate in any games during this suspension period. A second offense will result in a suspension from all extra-curricular activities for the rest of the school year.

INJURIES

It is important that participants inform a coach of any injuries sustained during a practice or game. In most cases the coaches will be aware of participants that are hurt but situations can happen where the coach might

not have noticed an injured athlete. Coaches must be informed of any such cases so that the proper actions are taken.

Participants who have missed practice or school at a doctor's request must have a doctor's release before he/she will be allowed to practice. This is for your safety as well as ours. In certain situations, the school may require a doctor's release before participating.

DRESS CODE

Individual coaches may establish dress codes for their participants on game days and penalties for not being in compliance. All participants representing Northeast Middle School are expected to wear appropriate clothes. Participants should dress up when attending award ceremonies. Hats or ball caps are not considered part of appropriate dress.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms should never be worn by any person to whom the uniform was not checked out. Special exceptions may be made at times with the approval of the principal or athletic director. Any clothes or uniforms associated with an athletic activity are not to be worn inside out.

DEBTS DUE TO LOSS OF EQUIPMENT

Expensive equipment and uniforms are checked out to the participants for their use in our programs. The participants and their parents are responsible for the proper care and washing procedures of these items. The athlete, or parent/legal guardian will pay for items that are lost, stolen or damaged through improper use or excessively faded and discolored by improper washing. These measures are necessary to enable the athletic program to continue to outfit participants and provide the safest equipment affordable.

If a participant owes money to the athletic department because of equipment not returned or damaged, he or she will not be allowed to participate in an event of any sport until the money has been paid. **The athletes grade cards, possible suspensions, diploma and transcripts will also be held until the fines are paid or equipment returned.**

TRANSPORTATION

Participants must ride the school bus to games. Exceptions may be made for the athlete to ride with a coach or school administrator in emergency situations ONLY. Participants will be expected to ride the school bus back to their school community following a contest. Exceptions will be made only when the athlete's parent(s) or legal guardian communicates with the activity sponsor or coach.

TRAINING RULES

Individual coaches may establish training rules for the participants and penalties for those not following those rules in cooperation with the building administrator. These training rules will be giving to the participants when the pre-season practice begins.

TATOOS

Inappropriate tattoos will be covered before individual participation will be allowed. Inappropriate would be described as obscene, offensive, gang related or pertaining to drugs or alcohol.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, everyone is better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. The following is an outline of what all parties may anticipate.

Coach expect from Parents –

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

Parents expect from Coach –

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your student as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Notice of discipline resulting in the denial of your student's participation.

Appropriate Topics –

1. The treatment of your student mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your student improve
3. Concerns about your student's behavior.

Inappropriate Topics –

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes/participants.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the following procedure should be followed.:

Call to set up an appointment with the coach. Do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. If you do not receive a satisfactory resolution you may call the athletic director and set up a meeting with the coach, principal, and athletic director. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined. Please keep in mind all parties are wanting the experience to be positive and promoting team values and goals, the Northeast coaching staff will not hold grudges against players who proceed through this process.

MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION RULES and REGULATIONS

The following rules and regulations are excerpts from the MSHSAA Official Handbook.

☐ PARENTAL PERMISSION

Prior to each year of interscholastic athletic participation, a student shall furnish a statement signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian which grants permission for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics.

☐ PHYSICAL EXAMS and INSURANCE

Any student that participates in an athletic activity shall be required to provide the school with a physician's certificate that states that the student is physically able to participate in said activity.

A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete in an activity until the school has been provided with verification that he or she has basic athletic insurance coverage.

☐ CONDITIONAL STANDARDS

Each squad must have fourteen days' practice on fourteen different days in most sports. Individual athletes must have participated in these fourteen practices prior to the first game. In Softball an individual must practice for ten days. In Football a player can participate in the Jamboree after ten practices. The exception would be if the student was a participant of another school's activity program immediately preceding coming to Northeast and has had the fourteen days conditioning.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- If you commit an unsportsmanlike act while participating in an event, you could become ineligible.
- If your conduct as a spectator is found to be unsportsmanlike, you could be barred from attending any further high school contests.
- The unsportsmanlike conduct of any spectator, regardless of age, could cause that spectator to be barred from attending school contests.

ACADEMICS

☐ Grades 9-12

- You must have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is GREATER, at your school.
- For your current semester, you must be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned at your school, whichever is GREATER.

- Credits earned or completed after the close of the semester will not fulfill this requirement. Summer high school courses for FALL academic eligibility may count provided the course is necessary for graduation or promotion or is a core subject course, and credit is placed on the school transcript. No more than one unit of credit in summer school shall be counted toward fall eligibility.
- Students promoted for the first time into 9th grade is considered academically eligible for the first semester after promotion.
- Do not drop courses without first consulting with your school principal, athletic director or counselor to determine whether doing so will affect your eligibility.

□ **Grades 7-8**

- You must be enrolled in a normal course load for your grade at the member school.
- You will be ineligible if you failed more than one class the previous grading period.
- You must have been promoted to a higher grade prior to the first day of classes for the new school year.
- Students promoted for the first time into 7th grade are considered academically eligible for the first grading period after promotion.

□ **SEMESTERS of PARTICIPATION**

A student shall not participate for more than four (4) seasons while in grades 9 through 12 in any interscholastic activity. These will be during the student's first eight (8) semesters of attendance in high school beginning with his or her entrance in the ninth grade and the eighth semester will follow immediately the seventh semester.

A student is eligible for only two (2) semesters in both the seventh and eighth grades beginning with the first semester of entrance in each grade. A student who is repeating a grade is not eligible.

□ **AMATEUR and AWARD STANDARDS**

Any student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be considered an amateur. A participant forfeits amateur status in a sport by the following:

1. Accepting money or other monetary compensation
2. Receiving any award or prize of monetary value
3. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money, gifts, merchandise or anything of monetary value
4. Signing a professional playing contract in that sport

Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized sports program, recreation or playground activity will not jeopardize amateur standards.

A student athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport may accept only symbolic awards of no intrinsic value. A student may receive unattached school letters or emblems, medals, ribbons, plaques or trophies without compromising amateur standards. A student shall not have accepted or competed for the following types of awards (regardless of value); services, cash, gift certificates or merchandise items such as jackets, sweaters, equipment, jewelry, blankets, balls, watches, etc.

This standard will not prevent a student from signing an agreement that binds him or her to play only for one particular team or an athletic letter-of-intent with a university or college.

□ **AGE STANDARDS**

A student shall not have reached the age of 19 prior to July 1st preceding the opening of school. Is a student reached the age of 19 prior to July 1st, the student may be considered eligible for that school year.

To be eligible for junior high competition against teams all in a particular junior high grade classification, the student shall not have reached the following ages prior to July 1st preceding the opening of school: Grade 7, 14 years and grade 8, 15 years.

If a student does not meet the age standard for a particular grade classification, that student may compete on a team of a higher grade classification. Seventh and eighth grade students will not compete with or against students in grade 10 or above except in cases where they attain the age of 15 prior to July 1st preceding the opening of school and their school does not sponsor a separate ninth grade team in the sport at issue, or where they attain the age of 16 years prior to July 1st preceding the opening of school.

□ **NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION**

During the sport season a student represents his or her school by competing in an interscholastic athletic contest. The athlete shall neither practice nor compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in the same sport. However, he or she may compete in organized non-school competition in other sports in which MSHSAA member schools compete interscholastically under the following conditions: no school time is missed to compete and practice for or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator: and the student will not practice for or compete in the non-school competition on the same date her or she practices or competes for the school.

□ **TRANSFER of ENROLLMENT STANDARDS**

The following standards are for the purpose of assuring fairness to all students;

- Students who transfer for reasons other than promotion are ineligible for 365 days unless their cases meet the standards under the following exceptions.

- If there is a corresponding change of residence of parent(s) or legal guardian from the district where a student has been in attendance to the new district, the student will be eligible. A transfer of residence during the school year for the primary purpose of making a participant eligible shall not be accepted. Guardianship shall be recognized under this standard only if appointed for the primary purpose of making a participant eligible shall not meet this standard. A change of residence under this rule shall consist of the moving of all household properties to the new address and the parent(s) and student actually living there. A second family residence shall not meet the requirements of this standard.
- The Board of Control of the MSHSAA may grant a student eligibility who does not meet the Transfer Standards when sufficient evidence is provided to show that it was necessary for the student to transfer because of unforeseen, unavoidable or unusual circumstances. These circumstances include, but are not limited to: broken home conditions, death of parent(s) or guardian, abandonment, and provided the transfer was not for athletic reasons and there was no undue influence.
- A student must be eligible in all respects at the school from which he or she is transferring to be eligible at the school to which he or she is transferring.
- Even though a student transfers schools under circumstance which do not meet the terms of the Transfer of Enrollment Standards, he or she still may be granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics if the student qualifies under the following terms and conditions; (1) the student whose name has been included in a school eligibility roster at any level for a given sport during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer can be eligible only for sub-varsity competition in that sport. (2) The student may have unrestricted eligibility in all other sports in which his or her name has not appeared on a school eligibility roster. Eligibility can be granted provided the athletic eligibility is approved by the principals of both the sending and receiving schools; the Board of Control and provided there is no athletic purpose involved in the transfer. (Approval must be granted in the special MSHSAA form provided.

□ **SPORTS CAMP ELIGIBILITY**

A student may participate in a specialized camp, clinic or similar program involving coaching and instruction in a sport provided the program and the student's participation meet the following requirements.

- The student may not attend a specialized sports camp during the school year
- No camp involving a fall season sport shall be attended after July 31st.
- A student may not attend a camp or camps (combination of school and non-school) in any one sport for longer that two (2) calendar weeks in any one calendar year where he or she receives instruction or coaching from a member of the coaching staff of the school the student attends.

- There is no restriction on the number of specialized sports camps an individual athlete may attend during the summer (when school is not in session) provided all of the guidelines in this section are met.
- A student must have a current physical on file to participate in any camp activity.

☐ **COLLEGE TRYOUTS**

No athlete will participate in any type of try-out or audition for a college team prior to completion of his or her high school eligibility in the given sport.

☐ **LOCAL SCHOOL STANDARDS**

Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and to judge students under those standards.

Any member school has the authority to set any restrictions that it deems advisable.

NOTE: *If you have questions regarding any rules, regulations or procedures concerning the athletic program, please contact the respective coaches, the athletic director or school administration.*

NOTE: Any of these rules may be superseded by board policies or a MSHSAA rule change. You can visit on-line at www.mshsaa.org

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian:

The Kansas City Public Schools, Northeast Middle School, and Board of Education has adopted the Athletic and Activities handbook proposed by the principal, athletic director and coaches of Northeast Middle School. We feel that all parents, as well as participants, should read and

understand this handbook. All participants will have to abide by these rules and regulations if they wish to participate in athletics or activities at Northeast Middle School. Should the policies of the Kansas City Public Schools Board of Education change, these changes will become effective immediately.

We are requesting that both students and parent(s)/legal guardian sign below for verification that this handbook has been read. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL THIS IS RETURNED WITH SIGNATURES**

Please return to:

Ms. La-Toya Sheppard
4904 Independence Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri 64124

Students Signature _____ Date _____

Parent(s) Signature _____ Date _____

Phone number _____

Sport(s) to be played: _____

Head Coach name: _____

Participation:

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, ancestry, religion, or disability are welcome to and encouraged to participate in any athletic program sponsored by Kansas City Public Schools. **Participation is voluntary and a privilege, not a right.**

Students may be excluded from these groups as a disciplinary action or as a consequence for poor academic performance in school as determined by district administration. A student and/or his or her parents/guardians are not entitled to a hearing solely because the student has been excluded from an extracurricular activity which is not required for a course in which the student is enrolled.