

Yes Prep Northline Athletics

Student-Athlete Athletic Department Handbook



Yes Prep Northline
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Code of Conduct

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of Yes Prep Northline's Athletic Department. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration.

Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics supplement and support the academic mission of the school system and assist students in their growth and development. Athletics assists in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals, and commitment. Interscholastic athletics is highly competitive but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication, and fair play.

Yes Prep Athletic Mission

The mission of the YES Prep Public Schools Athletic Department is to provide a rigorous athletic program that complements a challenging academic program in an unconditionally supportive environment. The Athletic Department uses a value-based approach to develop responsible leaders who demand excellence from themselves and their teammates on and off the field.

Northline Athletics Vision

Our vision is to stay consistent and committed to developing our program through professional development for coaches, providing ample practice times for team sports, reinforcing the importance of our student-athlete's education and attendance, providing resources for athletic recruitment to higher institutions, broadening opportunities for participation in athletics, and instilling and modeling positive morals and values for our players.

Athletic Core Values

- a. Commitment
- b. Responsibility
- c. Discipline
- d. Humility
- e. Teamwork
- f. Respect

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- g. Integrity
- h. Leadership

Department of Athletics Chain of Command

1. Parent
2. Coach
3. Athletic Director
4. Administration

Student-Athlete Norms

I WILL...

1. Graduate from Yes Prep Northline.
2. Arrive on time during the school day and at practice.
3. Respect ALL Staff and Peers at Yes Prep Northline.
4. Make up all work, quizzes, and tests from assigned classes due to early dismissals for athletic contests.
5. Be proactive in making up any missed assignments.
6. Take my EDUCATION seriously.
7. Be coachable.
8. Take ownership of my actions.
9. Be a good sport (win or lose); be honest, and fair and always show good sportsmanship to all coaches, players, officials, parents, and fans.
10. Put the team before my individual self.
11. Understand that athletic contests, including practice sessions are educational experiences and opportunities.
12. Exhibit public behavior that will reflect positively on the team, school, and community.
13. Not be engaged in any activity that would result in administrative or police intervention.
14. Exhibit responsible, respectful, and trustworthy behavior to teammates and the coach.
15. Exert efforts to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
16. Pass ALL my classes.
17. Comply with all team, school, and school system norms, regulations, and policies.
18. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all team and school-related activities.
19. Respect and comply with decisions made by the coach and athletic department.
20. Report to my coach any issues or developments that may affect my eligibility for athletic contests.
21. Consult with my coach or Director of Athletics regarding any support.

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Student-Athlete Policy

Expectation:

The student-athlete academic advisor will report grades to head coaches and the Director of Athletics for all students participating in athletics on a weekly basis. Coaches will consult with teachers and student-athletes to ensure ALL student-athletes pass ALL classes while participating in athletics. **It is the expectation that student-athletes will pass ALL classes while participating in athletic programming at Yes Prep Northline.** In addition, it is the expectation that coaches will uphold this standard and withhold eligibility from student-athletes who do not uphold this standard of academia. **In cases where there is not an academic advisor in place, the Director of Athletics will report grades to coaches on a weekly basis.**

Student-Athlete Academic Advisor:

Reports to head coaches and the Director of Athletics. Reports grades of all students participating on athletic teams throughout the duration of each athletic season. Highlights “at risk” student-athletes who are failing subjects or have obtained a D in classes. Reports are submitted each Monday of the week to head coaches and the Director of Athletics for review.

Deans:

Deans are responsible for investigating altercations/situations with student-athletes that occur during the school day. It is the expectation that student-athletes will follow ALL norms posted and directed throughout the school. In addition, it is the expectation that ALL student-athletes will accept redirection from ALL staff without feedback or negative confrontations.

Deans will consult with the Director of Athletics regarding situations that negatively impact the school culture with student-athletes. Accountability for infractions will result in the loss of eligibility for a period of time as a result of an investigation of the infraction.

In some cases, student-athletes may be removed from athletic teams for infractions that occur during the school day.

(NOTE: Student-athletes will be immediately ineligible for athletic contests pending an investigation by Deans, Managers of Student Enrichment, Director of Athletics, and/or Administration.)

OSS:

Student-athletes who receive OSS **will be removed from all team activities for that athletic season** pending an investigation.

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ISS:

The ISS room is assigned to student-athletes who are involved with infractions that result in the removal and isolation from the school community. In most cases, the duration of time a student will spend in ISS is less than a week. It is the expectation that student-athletes that are in ISS for infractions **will follow ALL expectations associated with the ISS room and treat ALL staff with respect.**

The Director of Athletics will consult with the Dean and lead Behavior Specialist in ISS to determine if removal from the team is warranted. **In all cases, student-athletes who have ISS will be ineligible for (1) athletic contest that week.** There can be additional losses of eligibility based on the conduct of the student-athlete while in ISS. In addition, **if a student-athlete has ISS twice for (2) separate incidents during (1) athletic season, that student-athlete will be removed from the team pending an investigation.**

Detentions:

Student-athletes who receive detentions will serve detentions on the day designated regardless of home or away athletic contests. Student-athletes who are warranted detention will not be condoned to choosing the date for which the detention is served. It is the expectation that student-athletes are following all norms and procedures throughout the school. Likewise, student-athletes will take ownership and accountability for their actions. **Student-athletes who receive detention will lose a period of playing time in the next athletic contest.**

In addition, the following will take place per athletic season:

- ✓ **1 Detention** = *Loss of playing time for a period of time in the next athletic contest*
- ✓ **2 Detentions** = *Loss of playing time for a quarter*
- ✓ **3 Detentions** = *Loss of playing time for a half*
- ✓ **4 Detentions** = *Loss of playing time for an entire athletic contest*
- ✓ **5 Detentions** = *Removal of the team for that sport*

Non-Negotiables for Removal of Athletic Teams:

- Fighting
- Stealing
- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Severe Attendance/Truancy Concerns
- Steroids
- Drugs & Alcohol

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Academic Standing:

It is the expectation that student-athletes **will pass ALL classes to remain eligible for athletic contests.** If a student is **failing any classes** any given week, that student-athlete will be eligible for that week and that week only until ALL failing grades are passing. **Yes Prep Public Schools perform quarterly grade checks. If a student-athlete does not pass a quarterly grade check by the district, he or she will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests for (3) weeks following the district grade check. This means the student-athlete would be allowed to participate in all team practices, attend but not participate in home athletic contests, and not be allowed to travel to all away athletic contests during this period.** It is the expectation that student-athletes are consulting and communicating with their teachers regarding missed assignments or make-up work due to early dismissals for athletics.

Teachers may email the Athletic Director and Head Coach to confirm that student-athletes are passing in extreme circumstances.

College Eligibility:

The NCAA establishes academic standards for high school students, which will determine college athletic eligibility. The Director of Athletics, Head Coach, and College Readiness Team can provide current standards to assist student-athletes in college recruitment. A student-athlete must take several core credit classes and obtain at least a 2.4 GPA during their high school career to be eligible to obtain scholarships from division I and II universities.

School Attendance:

The coaching staff and Director of Athletics will check attendance every Monday before or after school. The expectation is that the student-athlete is in school, on time, every day. Student-athletes are required to attend practice & training sessions as outlined by the coach. **It is expected that student-athletes will not be held accountable for attendance concerns due to early dismissals for athletic contests. It is expected that student-athletes will make up all the work missed due to early dismissals for athletic contests.**

Student-athletes will lose eligibility for athletic contests for (1) week if (2) or more days of school are missed within any given week without an acceptable written notice to the head coach of that sport. **A student-athlete who is ineligible for athletic contests due to attendance would be allowed to participate in team practices, allowed to attend but not participate in home athletic contests, and not allowed to travel to all away athletic contests for that week.**

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Practice Attendance:

Under no circumstances should a student-athlete not attend a practice session without notifying the coach prior to the assigned start time of practice. Under no circumstances should a player miss a practice session the day prior to an athletic contest. **The student-athlete shall be suspended from play should they violate any attendance policies set forth by the Head Coach.**

Student-athletes will lose eligibility for athletic contests if not attending practices as set forth by the Director of Athletics and Coach.

Student-athletes must stay with the sport participated while “in-season.” Student-athletes may not attend a tryout for another sport during another sport’s season until their “in-season” responsibilities have been met and that athletic season is officially over. In addition, all student-athletes who are participating in a team sport and are deemed “in-season” **will be allowed to try out for a sport during another athletic season once their “in-season” requirement is met and the season is completed.** “Out of season” head coaches cannot penalize a student-athlete for trying out and must hold a separate tryout on the first optimal practice date for their sport if a student-athlete was deemed “in-season” during a team tryout.

Sportsmanship:

An important mission of the interscholastic athletics program is to teach and reinforce values relating to sportsmanship, competition, and fair play. It is expected that team personnel, parents, and spectators respect this mission by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events. **A Zero Tolerance rule is in place at Yes Prep Northline regarding fighting.** Should any student-athlete engage in a physical confrontation with another party, whether in school, practice, or a game, the student will be dismissed from the team indefinitely as determined by the Director of Athletics and Dean for that grade/school. This rule is non-negotiable.

In addition, student-athletes should always exhibit sportsmanship during athletic contests with opposing teams/schools.

Student-Athletes WILL....

1. Treat opponents with the respect that is due as guests and fellow human beings.
2. **Shake hands with opposing team members before or after athletic contests.**
3. **Exercise self-control always, accepting decisions and abiding by them.**
4. **Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.** Never argue or make gestures indicating a dislike for a decision.
5. Accept both victories and defeat with pride and compassion, being neither boastful nor bitter.
6. Congratulate the opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.

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Hazing:

Hazing is always prohibited. Hazing involves any act that subjects teammates to mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. In some instances, hazing constitutes a criminal act. Hazing may lead to immediate dismissal from a team.

Communication with Coaches:

Parents should not attempt to address coaches immediately after games and practices.

Coaches have many post-game/practice responsibilities, including the supervision of players. Also, the post-game/practice period is often emotionally charged, and not conducive to productive discussion. If a parent feels a need to communicate a concern, the parent should contact the coach and/or Director of Athletics to arrange a meeting later the following day.

Schoology will be the primary source of communication among a team and its members. The head coach will create a Schoology account for the team coached and share all important information and updates to the master schedule. Parents, families, student-athletes, and all team members will use that account to communicate with head coaches throughout the course of that athletic season.

Coaches **will not be allowed to use their personal phones** for communication among team members.

Uniforms & Equipment Policy:

It is our policy to hold players accountable for their uniforms and equipment. Student-athletes will be issued a uniform and the equipment necessary to participate in team and individual sports. It is the expectation that all uniform items except for undergarments, socks, and hats along with any equipment distributed at the beginning of the season are returned in the same condition it was distributed. Loss of any uniform items or equipment is the student-athlete's financial obligation.

There will be a \$60 obligation fee assessed for any Nike uniform item (jersey or shorts) that is ripped, lost, or deemed unusable upon completion of an athletic season. Student-athletes will be ineligible to attend graduation or tryout for another team sport until the fee is paid or the uniform is returned. **All fees should be submitted directly to the Office of Athletics.**

Participation:

A student-athlete may participate in only one sport per season.

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Release from Class:

It is the **responsibility of student-athletes to check in with their teachers to make up any missed work due to athletic events before being dismissed for scheduled contests.** Student-athletes should dismiss from class at the arranged time designated by the Director of Athletics and Head Coach. **Student-athletes may not dismiss early from a class until an announcement is made due to a home or away athletic contest.**

Vacation Policy:

Vacations by athletic team members during an athletic season are discouraged. Parents/student-athletes wishing to do so may wish to reassess their commitment to being on the team depending on the circumstances.

Appointment Policy:

Scheduling appointments, such as a doctor, orthodontist, therapist, etc. during practice or game hours are discouraged and are not excusable absences. Student-athletes will be provided with a practice and game schedule; we ask that you please plan appointments around these schedules.

Transportation:

All players must travel to and from athletic contests with the team on the school-issued bus or athletic van. If a player requests to ride home from a practice or game with a parent, the coach must receive written permission via email or text from the parent/ guardian only. **Only players, coaches, volunteers, and approved staff members at Yes Prep Northline will be allowed to board team buses and athletic vans.**

It is the expectation that ALL student-athletes will follow all protocols and procedures with Yes Prep Public Schools buses and vans. Student-athletes are to refrain from “playing around” on school-issued buses, vans, and transportation. Student-athletes will be held accountable for inappropriate behavior. In most cases where student-athletes are found culpable for an infraction, a loss of eligibility will be enforced.

Illegal Substances/Alcohol/Tobacco/Steroids/Controlled Substances:

All students at Yes Prep Northline are expected to refrain from the use of all tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol, both at school and during non-school times. Parents are responsible to oversee and monitor their student’s behavior while off school grounds and are expected to take appropriate, decisive action to identify and prevent the non-prescribed use of these substances by their students.

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Dropping or Transferring Sports During Seasons:

Quitting is an unacceptable habit. **Student-athletes who quit athletic teams of which they are a member, will not be allowed to try out for future athletic teams during that calendar school year.**

Likewise, once a student-athlete begins practice in a sport and his/her squad membership is terminated for a reason other than being cut due to lack of ability, he/she is ineligible to participate in any other sport during that season unless he/she is given prior approval by the Director of Athletics and/or the Administration after a thorough investigation of the case with all involved parties. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

- A. Consult with Head Coach
- B. Consult with the Director of Athletics
- C. Return all equipment

Assumption of Risk:

Participation in interscholastic athletic activities often includes intense competition and poses the potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury. **Participants and parents are urged to consider that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with athletic participation.** Risks vary from sport to sport and can occur under direct supervision with the use of proper safety equipment.

Under Yes Prep Public Schools, **student-athletes who do not have health insurance are participating in athletics at their own risk.** It is important for families to understand this risk and that Yes Prep Public Schools will not be liable for any injuries that may occur.

Physical Process:

Student-athletes are required to obtain a cleared HCAL physical that is dated within (1) year and cleared by a licensed physician to participate and try out for athletics at Yes Prep Northline.

General Discipline Policies and Procedures:

The rules, policies, and procedures addressed in the Athletic Handbook do not cover every possible infraction. Yes Prep Northline's discipline policy and procedures will cover any infractions not listed. The consequences for student-athletes not adhering to any rule, policy, or procedure will be at the discretion of Yes Prep Northline's principal, assistant principals, deans, manager of student enrichment, and behavior specialist(s).

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Rank One Documentation:

Yes Prep Public Schools uses Rank One to collect emergency contact information and approval forms for athletics. It is the expectation that all student-athletes will have their parents complete these requirements in Rank One at yesprep.rankonesport.com. **All student-athletes will be ineligible for the first regular season contest and those thereafter if Rank One documentation is not approved and completed by families for the sport participated at Yes Prep Northline.**

Registration Fees:

Yes Prep Public Schools require a registration fee to participate in athletics for interscholastic team sports. The registration fee supports the overall budget for athletics by supporting the purchasing of uniforms, equipment, team-sanctioned events, etc.

The breakdown of registration fees is:

- ✓ \$75.00 for the first sport played during a calendar school year
- ✓ \$50.00 for the second sport played during a calendar school year
- ✓ \$25.00 for the third sport played during a calendar school year

Please note that it is the expectation that all registration fees are paid in full prior to the start of the first athletic contest for that sport season. If athletic fees are not paid in a portioned amount of at least \$25.00, that student-athlete will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests until the fee is paid. Likewise, **the registration fee must be paid in at least \$25.00 increments and paid in full by the 3rd week of the regular season for a student-athlete to remain eligible for athletic contests. The regular season begins when district games start. If not paid in full by the 3rd week, the student-athlete will be deemed ineligible to participate in athletic contests until the fee is paid in full.**

Adding Team Members (In-Season):

Per HCAL bylaws, team members can be added during an athletic season; however, **once the date is official to submit and certify team rosters for playoffs, team members cannot be added.** Thus, transfer students or students who did not tryout may receive a tryout under the head coach's discretion if **the roster certification date has not passed, the student has a cleared HCAL physical dated within (1) calendar year that is signed by a licensed physician, the registration fee is paid in full, and rank one compliance has been met.**

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NFHSlearn.com (Captains Course):

It is expected that all HS student-athletes complete the NFHS Captain's Course requirement that is mandated by HCAL prior to playing in the first regular season contest. **HS student-athletes only need to fulfill this requirement for (1) time during their high school athletic career and must submit proof of their certification upon completion of the course to the Director of Athletics to keep it on file.** The course can be found at nfhslearn.com. Once registered, go to courses, and search for captain's course. In addition, **there may be cases where student-athletes are required to complete online NFHS courses to remain eligible for athletic contests per the Director of Athletics.**

CPR, First Aid, AED Release:

All athletic staff at Yes Prep Northline are required to be CPR, First Aid, and AED certified. By signing the acknowledgment form below, you are approving all certified staff at Yes Prep Northline to perform CPR, First Aid, or AED in cases of emergencies involving athletic-sanctioned activities.

Tutorials and Study Halls:

It is the expectation that **student-athletes attend tutorials after school always even if a scheduled practice is taking place.** Student-athletes must attend tutorials and report to team practices directly thereafter on scheduled dates.

Student-athletes do not have to attend scheduled tutorials on dates on which scheduled athletic contests take place.

Likewise, coaches may implement the use of study halls when applicable based on academic eligibility reports received by the Office of Athletics. In addition, **the Director of Athletics may reinforce the use of study halls if it is deemed that the athletic team must provide academic support due to academic eligibility reports.**

Acknowledgment and Signature:

The undersigned are committed to and will adhere to this Athletic Department handbook policy, whereby all undersigned parties understand the consequences and will support the Athletic Program at Yes Prep Northline.

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Steroid Law

Anabolic steroids are for medical use only. State law prohibits possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid in any manner not allowed by state law. State law provides that bodybuilding, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength using anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a person who is in good health is not a valid medical purpose.

Only a medical doctor may prescribe an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone for a person. A violation of state law concerning anabolic steroids or human growth hormones is a criminal offense punishable by confinement in jail or imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

| | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| My child may walk home after athletic team practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please note that all student-athletes must be picked up on-site at Yes Prep Northline when returning from away athletic contests. **Student-athletes will not be allowed to walk home after participating in a home or away athletic contest.**

By signing below, I agree to the policies and procedures in the student-athlete, sportsmanship, and concussion handbooks. I have read the handbooks and do not have any questions regarding the policies and procedures for my child's involvement in athletics or the spectator policies in place for athletic-sanctioned activities at Yes Prep Northline. I understand all the information outlined in the handbooks in its entirety and will uphold all expectations as set forth by the athletic department at Yes Prep Northline.

Student-Athlete Signature: _____

Parent First & Last Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Phone Number: (____) - ____ - _____