



Newport-Mesa
Unified School District

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Revised April 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT	3
NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT	3
COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES	4
STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY	5
ATHLETIC INJURIES	6
BOOSTER CLUB GUIDELINES	6
COACHING COMPENSATION	8
SUMMER CAMP & PROGRAM GUIDELINES	8
PUPIL FEES POLICY	9
PARTICIPATION POLICY	9
TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES	10
CODE OF CONDUCT	11
ATHLETIC LINKS	
ATHLETIC CLEARANCE	
CIF STATE HANDBOOK	
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION BLUE BOOK	
CONCUSSION PROTOCOL	
ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES	
PHYSICAL FORM HS English	
PHYSICAL FORM HS Spanish	
SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION PERMISSION SLIP English	
SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION PERMISSION SLIP Spanish	
STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITY FORM English	
STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITY FORM Spanish	
TITLE IX	

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District Athletics Program is to enrich the mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all student athletes by providing cooperative and competitive opportunities which foster the development of lifelong values of sportsmanship, commitment, integrity, teamwork, individual effort, and good citizenship.

Beliefs

- Students are our highest priority.
- Participation in high school interscholastic athletics is an important part of a student's overall educational experience. **Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.**
- Student athletes have an inherent responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the values of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) as well as the school, district, league, and community they represent.
- Open and honest communication and mutual respect among coaches, parents, and athletes provides the foundation of a successful athletic program. Positive parental support and involvement enhance student growth and program quality.
- All stakeholders involved, including members of the athletic teams, pep and/or cheer squads, coaches, faculty members, booster club members, spectators, and volunteers have a duty to assure their sport's program imparts important life skills and promotes the development of sportsmanship, good character, and Pursuing Victory with Honor.
- AB 165 – NMUSD athletics is a public institution that promises "inclusion of all students" and at no time will a student be dismissed from a curricular, co-curricular, or extra-curricular program attached to the school, dismissed from instruction, and/or receive a lower grade due to financial hardship.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Newport Mesa Unified School District Board of Education is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs, activities, practices, and employment shall be free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. This policy applies to all acts related to school activity or school attendance within a school under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent. Any school employee who witnesses an incident of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so.

The Board designates the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources as the Compliance Officer designated to receive and investigate complaints and ensure District compliance with state and federal laws and regulations including Title IX. The Compliance Officer may designate another District administrator to investigate complaints. If you have a complaint, you are to submit it in writing to: Leona Olson, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Human Resources Officer Title IX Coordinator & Compliance Officer at 714-424-7589 or lolson@nmusd.us. If you have any additional questions regarding the process, please contact Human

Resources at 714-424-7589. A copy of Board Policy 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities is available at www.nmusd.us.

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

School Contact Information

Brian Walsh, Athletic Director, Corona Del Mar High School, 949-515-6058 or bwalsh@nmusd.us

Todd Young, Athletic Director, Costa Mesa High School, 714-424-8754 or tyoung@nmusd.us

Chris Anderson, Athletic Director, Estancia High School, 949-515-6516 or cmanderson@nmusd.us

Jerry Murray, Athletic Director, Newport Harbor High School, 949-515-6310 or jmurray@nmusd.us

Personnel or Program Complaints

Communication concerning district athletic programs and personnel are welcomed when motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of an athletic program and/or an athlete's participation therein. Please adhere to the following district athletic communication protocols:

1. Complaints regarding an individual coach must be made directly to the coach by the complainant. Every effort should be made to resolve the problem at this level. The first step is for the athlete to talk to the coach. The second is for parents to talk with the coach.
2. Complaints not resolved with the individual coach must be submitted in writing to the Athletic Director. The written complaint must contain:
 - a. The name of the coach or the specific sport, level of competition, and/or the general athletic concern involved.
 - b. A brief but specific summary of the nature of the complaint and the facts surrounding the same.
 - c. The suggested resolution that is desired.
 - d. The complaint must be signed by the complainant.

Note: Because selection for a team, playing time and level or position placement are the sole responsibility of the coach, complaints regarding these items will not be heard beyond the Athletic Director.

3. For complaints not tied to an individual coach or a specific program, the first contact for concerns about any phase of the athletics program is the Athletic Director.
4. Complaints regarding an individual coach or program not resolved with the Athletic Director will be referred to the school's administrator in charge of athletics. The administrator in charge of athletics shall receive a copy of the written complaint and a written report of the efforts made to resolve the problem. The complainant shall receive a written response.
5. Complaints not resolved by the school's administrator in charge of athletics and/or the principal may be referred in writing to the Director of Secondary Education, for study and resolution following the NMUSD procedures.

Channels of Communication

1. **Player-coach:** To empower our athletes to learn personal responsibility, they must communicate their concerns/questions directly to their coach before having someone else do this for them. Every effort should be made to resolve the problem at this level. Please note that since the player and coach are the only two people who work together on a daily basis, both should be included in all communications.

2. **Player-coach-parent:** If an issue still needs to be resolved after step 1, the player and coach will set up a meeting which will include the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the player. Communication with a coach regarding a concern should never take place at or immediately following a game or event. Parents/guardians are encouraged to not confront a coach, team, player, administrator, or official to discuss any “negative” game or practice situation(s) until at least 24 hours has passed from the completion of the game or practice. A confrontation shall consist of any conversation, which is elevated from a normal speaking tone and demeanor to one which involves yelling, profanity, or derogatory comments toward said coach, team, player, board member or official.
3. **Player-coach-parent-athletic director:** If an issue still needs to be resolved after step 2, the athletic director will set up a meeting with all those involved. Please note that since the player and coach are the only two people who work together on a daily basis, both should be included in all communications. Remember that playing time and level or position placement are the **sole** responsibility and discretion of the coach.
4. **Player-coach-parent-athletic director-administration:** After following steps 1-3, any unresolved issues can be referred to the school’s administrator in charge of Athletics by submitting a written, signed “statement of concern” (S.O.C). This S.O.C. must include the following: Name of coach, specific sport and level of competition, general athletic concern involved, and brief but specific summary of the nature of the issue and the facts surrounding the same. Once the signed, completed S.O.C. is received by the administrator in charge of athletics, a meeting including all parties involved will be scheduled for the purpose of resolving the issue.
5. Reprisals will not be taken against any parent or student athlete for expressing their concerns or participating in the conflict resolution process.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Student athletes must adhere to the following requirements to be eligible for athletic competition:

1. **Student:** Only students regularly enrolled in a public and private CIF member school, grades 9-12, shall be permitted to participate in CIF.
2. **Enrollment:** A student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or participating in at least one class at the school shall be considered to be “enrolled” in that school.
3. **Attendance Area:** The student must be living with the parent/guardian within the boundaries of the school attendance area. If not, the student must be eligible under an intra- or inter-district permit.
4. **Age:** No student, whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15th, shall participate or practice on any team for the following year. A student may not compete on a freshman (9th grade) team after he/she reaches his/her 16th birthday on or before June 15th. A student may not compete on a sophomore (10th grade) team after he/she has reached his/her 17th birthday on or before June 15th.
5. **Consecutive Semesters:** Once you enter the 9th grade, you have eight consecutive semesters in which to play athletics, after those eight semesters, you lose your eligibility.
6. **Scholastic:** The student must be currently enrolled in at least 20 units during a semester periods of work. The student must have passed a minimum of 20 units during the previous grading period while maintaining a minimum of a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
7. **Probation:** A student who passes four (4) classes but does not reach a 2.0 GPA may be placed on probation for no longer than the grading period that immediately follows the grading period with a below 2.0 GPA. At the end of a probationary period students who improve their GPA to 2.0 or above will become academically eligible; students who do not achieve a GPA of 2.0 or higher will become ineligible until the end of the next grading period. Students may have more than one probationary period during their four years of high school, but students will be limited to one probationary period

per school year, and the probation period will be assigned automatically whether or not the student is participating in a sport. Students may not have two consecutive probation periods and a probation period must follow a period of eligibility.

8. **Citizenship:** The student must have earned no more than 1 “U” in citizenship.
9. **Transfer:** All students must adhere to CIF bylaws and guidelines for eligibility and transfer rules. If a student attended a different school within the previous year, **the student must notify the athletic department and complete all necessary CIF paperwork prior to participation.**
10. **Amateur:** Athletes cannot play high school athletics if they lose their amateur status.
11. **Independent Team:** Athletes cannot play on a school team and an independent team during the same sport season per the CIF Blue Book.
12. **Disciplinary Action:** Fighting in an athletic contest may result in the athlete's suspension from additional contests and may result in removal from the team.
13. **Athletic Clearance:** Before a student can participate in a sport (including practice), he/she must have received clearance from the Athletic Department by completing all necessary documentation including CIF mandated forms, proof of insurance, and an annual physical exam. **All physicals are good for one calendar year from the date of exam.**

ATHLETIC INJURIES

NMUSD takes seriously its role in helping to minimize the risk of injury and promoting safety in all athletic endeavors. Even with this focus, injuries do occur within athletics. Please report all injuries to the coaching staff and Athletic Trainer. Together with your doctor they can help with recovery and bring the athlete safely back to competition. The following guidelines should be observed:

1. If an athlete is seen by a doctor they **MUST** provide a doctor’s note to the Athletic Trainer and Health Office with appropriate signature.
2. Following an injury, an athlete understands they **MUST** be cleared by the Athletic Trainer before returning to play.
3. If a concussion is suspected or if an athlete is diagnosed with a concussion, the athlete will follow a Return to Play protocol administered by the Athletic Trainer **AFTER** medical clearance is given in writing by an appropriate doctor. Adherence to state laws and CIF guidelines is key in this area.
4. Proper equipment is critical for safe participation in athletics. While donations help sustain programs, they should not become a barrier to participation. Equipment will be provided to all athletes as needed.

BOOSTER CLUB GUIDELINES

Booster Clubs are school-connected organizations. As such, Booster Clubs should reflect and work collaboratively within school and district guidelines. The role of a Booster Club is to be supportive of programs rather than to influence the direction or content of programs. The Booster Club should be committed to providing support and additional resources that enhance the experiences of the student athletes and compliments the vision of the coach.

Parent Participation

It is the desire and expectation of the athletic department that many parents will join and contribute in some way to the booster organization supporting their respective sport. Parents of players involved in athletic programs are usually part of the organized Booster Club, and parent participation can include:

- Attending games

- Helping with various events and fundraisers
- Attending Booster Club meetings
- Being an active part of the booster organization and board

Responsibilities & Activities

There must be a *clear separation* between the legitimate functions that are the responsibility of the district athletic program and the activities of the Booster Clubs:

- Booster organizations do not participate in choosing players or deciding on which team-level athletes will play.
- Booster organizations should not expect to be involved in coaching decisions or strategies in any way.
- All decisions and all responses to situations on the field or the court are the sole responsibility of the coaching staff.
- Any issues that a parent and/or booster would like to raise with the coaches should be brought to the head coach at a separate time and place after the conclusion of the athletic contest. Usually the next day or a 24-hour waiting time is optimal.
- Parents and/or boosters who would like to address a lower level coach should schedule a meeting time when the head coach can be in attendance.
- All conflicts should follow the district guidelines for communication.
- Booster club social gatherings, although generally not considered school sponsored events, should exemplify and model positive experiences for our student athletes.
- Alcohol should never be available or served when students are present. Any school sponsored event that has student athletes in attendance, should adhere to the education code.

Financial Guidelines

The following recommendations ensure clubs do not violate any rules and regulations:

- Booster Clubs have their own charter and elected board of directors.
- Booster Club accounts are not run through the school district or the school ASB. Booster Clubs must have their own federal tax identification number.
- All donations must be made in accordance with state, district, CIF-SS and student body rules and regulations.
- Any purchase and/or donation made by the Booster Club for the respective sport team will become the property of the school/district.
- Boosters cannot directly pay employees during the school year, all monies must go through the school district (this process can take up to six to eight weeks for payment, so please plan accordingly.)
- Booster Club budgets and spending decisions should be created in consultation with and approval of the head coach/advisor. The Boosters then conduct their fundraising activities to meet the needs of the program. All budget issues and spending decisions should take place at Booster Club board meetings.
- Every account should be set-up to require two signatures at some point in their prescribed processes for any withdrawal (whether internally or on the actual check). No coach or advisor may be a signer on a Booster Club account.

- All disbursements (payments) should be made by check and no checks should ever be made out to “Cash.” Boosters should not release checks without the proper documentation and back up. The Booster Club treasurer should maintain a record of all receipts in preparation for an annual audit.
- Treasurer reports, budget updates, and financial reporting should be kept current. Members should be updated at all Booster meetings or in a timely manner upon request. Accurate record keeping is essential for Booster Club operation.
- Insurance is required if the Booster group is on campus and doing any kind of fundraising activities, etc. if the activity has any risk involved. Please review “Use of School District Facilities” for more complete details on requests, insurance certificates, and permission for activities.
- School administration reserves the right to approve or deny booster clubs.

COACHING COMPENSATION

A coach shall not be reimbursed for coaching services from any source other than school funds without the approval of the school’s governing board, nor be subject to any bonus arrangement dependent upon the success of the school’s team. Any team, coached by any person receiving any part of the salary for coaching from other than school funds without the approval of the school’s governing board, is ineligible.

School Site Procedures

In order to maintain compliance, school sites are responsible for following coaching compensation parameters to ensure all athletic programs are not in violation. For the purpose of organizing compensations, the school calendar year will be broken up into approximately three-month periods:

- September 1 – November 30: Fall Sports
- December 1 – February 28/29: Winter Sports
- March 1 – May 31: Spring Sports

Coaches will be coaching in the sports offered by the school either during the fall, winter, or spring sports sessions. All coaches during the season of sport will only receive district allocated stipends, or, compensation commensurate to district-established stipends. The latter would be in cases where there are more coaches on staff than established by the district stipend schedule. These additional stipends can be funded by donations from outside groups (Booster Clubs) as long as the money is deposited through the district office and these coaches are paid by the district office for their services during the season of sport in accordance with CIF-SS Bylaw 507. No coach can receive any additional compensation during the season of sport above the stipend schedule set by the district office.

No certificated coach can receive any compensation outside their season of sport during the school year. No classified coach can receive funds more than their district stipend outside their season of sport during the school year.

SUMMER PROGRAM & CAMP GUIDELINES

Summer programs are NOT affiliated with Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

- All summer programs will be run through a Booster Club with a 501 3c status (non-profit)
- Participation or non-participation in summer programs **CANNOT** determine the status of a student athlete during the school year. There can be **NO** correlation between summer camp participation and making a team during the school year

- An NMUSD address or email cannot be used for collection of summer monies. A Booster Club official address, P.O. Box, PayPal account or a strategically placed lock box can be used for the collection of summer monies.
- The Booster Club collecting the summer fees will have a non-ASB account.

Please remember:

1. NMUSD does not run summer athletic camps.
2. A Booster or private organization may apply for a facilities use permit to run a summer athletic camp.
3. A coach that works for a booster or private summer program is not doing so as an employee of NMUSD.

Participation in summer booster/private programs is voluntary, not affiliated with high school, and bears no impact on the selection process for any school affiliated sports program.

PUPIL FEES POLICY

AB 1575

A pupil enrolled in a public school shall **not** be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.

A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

1. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
2. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
3. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.

A number of laws do authorize specific fees a school or district may charge. Please note the law does not prohibit a school district or its programs from requesting voluntary donations or engaging in fundraising activities and programs. These donations and fundraising financial contributions are voluntary, and all students will be allowed to participate in school activities and extracurricular activities regardless of whether the parent or legal guardian makes a donation or contribution.

Allegations of unlawful pupil fees are addressed through Board Policy 1312.3– Uniform Complaint Procedures. Complaints regarding pupil fees may be filed anonymously if the complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support the complaint. A pupil fees complaint may be filed with the school site principal.

PARTICIPATION POLICY

Participation in Extra-Curricular and Cocurricular Activities (BP 6145)

Newport-Mesa Unified School District Governing Board recognizes that extracurricular and cocurricular activities enrich the educational and social development of students and enhance students’ feelings of connectedness with the schools. The district shall encourage and support student participation in

extracurricular and cocurricular activities without compromising the integrity and purpose of the educational program.

Extracurricular or co curricular programs or activities are available to all persons, without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination in the district's extracurricular and co-curricular programs or activities shall be filed in accordance with the district's BP 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures.

A copy of BP and AR 6145 – Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities is available at www.nmusd.us.

Participation in Athletic Competition (AR 6145.2)

The district's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices in accordance with state and federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for both sexes.

Interscholastic, intramural, and/or club athletics participation is open to all persons, without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Administrative Regulation (AR) 6145.2 – Athletic Competition outlines the considerations to determine whether equivalent opportunities are available to both sexes, as well as the criteria used to ensure the district's athletic program effectively accommodates the interests and abilities of both sexes in athletics.

Any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination within the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with the district's BP 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures.

A copy of AR 6145.2 – Athletic Competition is available at www.nmusd.us.

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

Bus Transportation

- School buses will be used for transportation to/from athletic contests and the cost will be covered by the district.
- Any event that requires students to be dismissed from school prior to the end of the school day must use district transportation.
- If the district provides transportation to an event, students must use it. Exceptions to this guideline must be approved by the school principal prior to transport.
- Requests for recliner buses will require a 2nd non-district budget line to pay the difference between school bus cost and recliner cost.

Transport by Other Means

- If the district does not provide transportation then it is expected that students will arrange their own transportation to/from the event.
- When district transportation is provided, parents may ONLY take their own child home from events with approval in advance from the coach. To do so, the “Student Transportation Permission Form” must be submitted to the coach 24 hours in advance of the activity and completed forms are to be kept on file in the athletic department and are to be auditable.
- Students may not transport other students to/from events.
- Staff will not transport students except in district vans with proper clearance.

Bus Conduct Rules

1. Passengers must follow the instructions of the bus driver. A driver has the authority to pull the bus over and/or return to the school if necessary. Individual students will be held responsible for their behavior while riding a district school bus.
2. Passengers are not permitted to enter a bus unless the driver is present.
3. Passengers shall enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner.
4. Passengers shall remain seated while the bus is in motion.
5. Passengers shall sit facing the front of the bus.
6. When necessary passengers may be required to share their seats with other students.
7. Passengers shall not put any part of their bodies outside of a bus window.
8. Passengers shall not use vulgar or profane language on the bus or direct comments to any person outside the bus.
9. Passengers shall not engage in fighting or boisterous conduct, create unnecessary noise or commotion, or shoot or throw things while on the bus.
10. Passengers shall not smoke or light matches on the bus.
11. Items which may jeopardize the safety of any person shall not be permitted on the bus.
12. No animals shall be transported on a school bus (except guide dogs.)
13. Passengers shall not be permitted on buses if they are wearing track spikes or shoes with metal cleats. Students who must change the spikes should put the discards in a bag or other container and not leave them on the bus.
14. Passengers must not leave debris of any kind on the bus.
15. Passengers shall not tamper with the bus or equipment.
16. Passengers who are responsible for damage or vandalism to a district vehicle will be held individually accountable to reimburse the district for the cost of repairs and will also be subject to school disciplinary procedures.

CODE OF CONDUCT

It is recognized that each member of the educational community has a responsibility to conduct themselves in a way that promotes and models the attributes that we hope to build in our student athletes. In CIF’s “Pursuing Victory with Honor” we are reminded that everyone involved in competition including parents, spectators, ASB leaders, and all auxiliary groups has a duty to honor the traditions of the sport and to treat other participants with respect. Coaches have a special responsibility to model respectful behavior. Each community member must help to ensure that the academic, social, emotional,

physical and ethical well-being of our student athletes is always placed above desires and pressures to win. Athletics is a privilege and not a right and comes with higher standards and expectations.

Coaches

Above all else, athletics at the high school level is an educational endeavor. Athletes learn lessons that serve them for their entire lives. Among these are sportsmanship, perseverance, teamwork, and appropriate responses to winning and to losing. For these lessons, each coach is the teacher.

The coach sets the tone for these lessons, and the coach's behavior serves as a model to the crowd and most of all, to the athletes. Athletic coaches in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District are expected to reflect a positive attitude in all their approaches to and their interactions with officials and opponents.

There can never be justification for physical or verbal abuse of an athlete, nor malicious behavior in any form. Coaches are expected to always treat every athlete with dignity and respect. In the Newport-Mesa Unified School District athletics programs, swearing and the use of obscenities are always inappropriate, whether at practice or during an event. Coaches are also expected to act professionally and responsibly in relationships with athletes, parents and other coaches while keeping appropriate boundaries.

Parents & Spectators

At the high school level, the importance of parents behaving as model spectators cannot be overstated. Spectators, both students and adults, are an important and integral part of all athletic events. Spectators serve to validate the positive values learned through athletic experiences and to support the personal efforts and successes of individual athletes.

Occasionally, the excesses of spectator behavior can unnecessarily taint the activities at an athletic event. What follows is an effort to provide clarity about inappropriate behavior and about the consequences of such behavior.

At athletics events, to reduce the potential for conflict among spectator groups, it is appropriate to:

- Sit on the team side or team seating area, if designated.
- Cheer for your own team and not demean the opposing team.
- Apply the CIF principles of "Pursuing Victory with Honor" and incorporate the Beliefs and Values stated in this document.

At athletic events, it is inappropriate for spectators to engage in:

- Violence
- Taunting other team
- Verbal abuse
- Obscenity or obscene gestures
- Vandalism
- Possession or use of alcohol
- Throwing objects
- Harassment of officials
- Using illegal substances

Each of these inappropriate spectator behaviors, whether by students or adults, shall be cause for immediate removal from the event and a subsequent meeting with school administration. Repeated violation of spectator expectations may result in being barred from future events. (Following CIF and League Guidelines)

Student-Athletes

Athletics within Newport-Mesa Unified School District follow CIF policies and procedures, as well as guidelines for conduct of participants. With this as a base, schools and coaches may communicate additional expectations and consequences. While “Pursuing Victory with Honor,” we expect our student athletes to:

- Treat one another and opponents with respect.
- Respect the judgment of officials, abide by the rules of the game, and promote positive behavior from parents and fans.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school community, displaying positive public action at all times.
- Promote sportsmanship and help to foster the development of good character in such a way that enhances academic, emotional, social, physical and ethical development.
- Remember that academics is a priority and that character building is essential.

An important part of the educational aspect of high school athletics is the learning of behavior appropriate to the circumstances and setting. Because athletes often perform publicly, their behavior is subject to more than the usual scrutiny.

With this in mind, there are some behaviors that are particularly concerning and are subject to standard consequences. This does not preclude the coach from administering other consequences.

Leaving a Team or Dismissal from a Team

An athlete who quits or is dismissed from a team after competition begins cannot participate in another sport until his/her original season has ended.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

If an athlete is ejected from a game for any reason (unsportsmanlike conduct, fighting, etc.), the athlete shall be prohibited from participating in the next contest per CIF rules and must attend a post-ejection meeting with school officials before rejoining activities.

Interaction with Officials

If an athlete physically assaults an official, the athlete shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student’s eligibility (CIF Blue Book Sect. 552).

General Student Conduct

Academic and personal integrity is to be adhered to at all times. Any issues related to problems of a disciplinary nature, in or out of school, including threats, bullying, harassment, or hazing may result in

disciplinary consequences. Students convicted of a crime, including violation of Technological Resources Acceptable Use Policy, theft or acts of violence/vandalism, will also warrant consequences.

Illegal and Banned Substances

Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal and non-prescriptive drugs, anabolic steroids or performance enhancing drugs, in or out of season, on school time or at a school district event, or based on verifiable information outside of school, shall result in immediate disciplinary action.

Subject to Change Disclaimer

The policies, regulations and procedures in this handbook are subject to change without prior notice, if necessary, to be in compliance with state laws, education code and/or with rules and regulations of the Board of Education for the Newport Mesa Unified School District. For the most current, updated version of this handbook, please refer to our website at <https://web.nmusd.us/>