



North Santiam School District  
Middle School  
Parent and Athlete  
Co-Curricular Handbook  
2023-24

# **NORTH SANTIAM SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOLS ATHLETIC RULES, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES**

## **AUTHORITY**

North Santiam School District maintains final authority regarding the implementation of its athletic programs. Concerns about athletic programs should be addressed initially to the middle school coaching staff and administration.

The purpose of the program of interscholastic athletics is to promote, direct, and conduct athletics to further the aims of fitness and general education, to promote friendly relations with other schools, to provide an opportunity for students to experience teamwork, to encourage participation by all students, and to teach good sportsmanship and fair play.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the middle school athletic program is consistent with the overall district philosophy in that it is based upon a belief in the worth and dignity of the individual. We strive to create an activity environment that will aid each participant in developing confidence, self-esteem, and a desire to be a contributor to a positive group effort. The activities program is expected to promote self-discovery, fitness, good sportsmanship, and citizenship, respect for people and property, self-discipline, and responsibility.

A properly organized and conducted activities program should be a distinct contribution to an individual's total education. However, it should be understood that participation in middle school activities is both a right and a privilege which carries specific responsibilities to the team/group, the school, and the community that supports it.

Playing time is an important part of skill development. North Santiam middle schools will follow their league policies stating the need for playing time in each half of every contest for team sports. Attendance problems or inappropriate behavior while participating in any team activity may result in reduced playing time.

Parent complaints should be dealt with at the lowest level. Schedule a meeting with your child's coach. Parents and athletes will not address concerns with coaches at the contest site on the day of games. Concerns will not be addressed to coaches before, during, or after athletic contests. Instead, a separate appointment will be made so that concerns may be addressed privately with the coach and, if necessary, the athletic director and an administrator.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

1. To be eligible to participate in the organized interscholastic athletic program of North Santiam middle schools, a student must:

- Be enrolled as a middle school student in the North Santiam School District.
- Maintain academic grades in all classes during the sport/activity season, as verified by each individual middle school in the District.
- Maintain satisfactory behavior while at school. Any suspension will result in a one-game suspension following the return to school.

- Have a recent physical examination on file with the school, indicating approval for participation. In order to play interscholastic sports, a student must have a current physical on file and have medical insurance coverage (family or school).
  - Have a signed *Athletic Participation Permit* on file with the school.
2. When all eligibility requirements are completed and all forms submitted, the student will be cleared for participation.
3. There are certain character traits and behaviors desirable in all students and necessary in athletic participants if we are to comply with the goals of our philosophy. Athletic participants must:
- Maintain regular attendance in class, especially the day of and the day following an activity.  
  
Students who are absent for any part of the day due to illness or out-of-school suspension will not be able to participate in after-school or evening activities. If an *absence is pre-arranged* with the athletic director or principal, a student may be cleared to participate in after-school or evening activities, including athletics. A student suspended in-school may practice but not play in competition.
  - Demonstrate self-control and refrain from unsportsmanlike actions or words that bring discredit to the team or the student body as a whole.
  - Refrain from using profane or obscene language.
  - Refrain from any actions or words considered insubordinate to coaches.
  - Refrain from any actions or words considered insubordinate to the officials.
  - Demonstrate responsibility and respect for equipment.
  - Maintain appearance and grooming which is neat, clean, and appropriate to the activity.
  - Refrain from possession or use of alcohol in any form.
  - Refrain from possession or use of tobacco in any form.
  - Refrain from possession or use of illegal drugs or narcotics.
  - Refrain from involvement in criminal activity, including actions relating to theft or destruction of property.
4. Consequences for violation of the above rules will be addressed specifically in the athletic agreement and team rules established by each coach.
- Probation: The athlete will be formally warned about any violation of a team regulation and likely will be suspended or dismissed from the team if any further violation occurs.
  - Suspension: The athlete will be required to participate in all team practices and meetings, but will not be allowed to dress down or participate in a specified number of games.

- Dismissal: The athlete will be excused from the team for the remainder of the season.
5. School uniforms and gear must be returned (or paid for) before students may start the next sport.
  6. Additional team rules specific to each sport will be provided to participants and parents by the coach.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

In order to implement the concepts of the athletic philosophy into a working program, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. North Santiam Middle School athletic programs are open to any student who meets eligibility requirements and is willing to make a commitment to the activities in which they wish to participate. Participants must also be willing to accept the philosophy and agree to specific rules.
2. Each participant and their parent/guardian shall be made aware (in writing) of the program philosophy and all eligibility and participation requirements.
3. Although individual activities may have specific rules, these rules must be consistent with the general philosophy. They are to be in writing when appropriate and provided to the participants and their parent/guardian.
4. Individual coaches must be diligent in maintaining standards consistent with the philosophy. It is their responsibility to uphold the rules that were made for the benefit of the individual and the group.
5. Teachers, coaches, and administrators are the only people who may report infractions or violations of team rules. All reports of alleged violations must be referred to them.
6. Coaches have the authority to discipline participants for actions and behaviors that violate the rules and expectations of participants. Suspensions and dismissals must be reported to the parent, and to the principal, by the coach within one school day of the action. Dismissals are subject to approval by the principal.

## **WARNING STATEMENT**

The benefits of participation in organized athletics are many, as outlined in our philosophy statement. It is important, however, that participants and their parents be aware that there is risk of injury in virtually every athletic activity. Supervision, quality instruction, sportsmanlike actions, and emphasis on safety greatly minimize the potential for injury, but the risk remains.

**For sports participation, sports physical or permission forms for your student to travel by private vehicle with someone other than you, click on this link [SIS/SMS Athletic Forms](#) to be directed to our website. You may also obtain copies from any school office.**