

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Code of Conduct for
Athletics, Extracurricular,
and
Co-Curricular Activities**



Approved by the Board of School Directors

August 23, 2022

2022 ▪ 2023 ▪ 2024

PHILOSOPHY

The Northern York County School District offers numerous activities, which are an extension of the classroom. The goal and purpose of these programs is to TEACH students the meaning and understanding of sportsmanship, commitment, fairness, sacrifice, teamwork, and hard work. Additional goals include knowing how to win and how to lose, increasing the knowledge of the activity, realizing potential, and developing a healthy lifestyle and skill development. The activities are laboratories for learning. The Northern York County School Districts school board, administrators, teachers, and coaches/advisors are committed to excellence and providing the best opportunities for students. The participants must keep in mind that they are often in the public eye and that their personal conduct must always be above reproach. They have an obligation to create a favorable image and to gain the respect of their peers and adult citizens of the community.

DEFINITIONS

Extracurricular Activities - those activities, which are approved by the Board, but are not offered for credit toward graduation. Such activities shall be available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate. In circumstances where eligibility requirements are necessary or desirable, the Board shall be so informed and must approve the establishment of eligibility standards before they may be operable.

Co-Curricular Activities – those activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board, are offered for credit towards graduation, and have components of their program that include attendance at and participation in activities scheduled during non-school hours.

Athletics – the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive or exhibition sport contests, games or events involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur between schools within this district or outside the district.

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the Northern York County School District Code of Conduct, the following rules have been developed for interscholastic athletics and all extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

1. Students are the responsibility of the coaches/advisors until the organization returns to the high school or middle school. When returning from an event, students are expected to leave the premises immediately. No student may be released by a coach/advisor prior to returning to the school unless it would be to a parent or guardian with written notification at least 1 day in advance signed by the athletic director/advisor or principal. Participants are strongly encouraged to travel with their organization at all times. We are striving to promote unity and loyalty.
2. Students will not practice or participate in any activity on the day of in-school/out-of-school suspension. Students may be dismissed from the organization for a second in-school/out-of-school suspension.
3. Stealing will not be tolerated. The consequence will be determined by the Principal and either Activity Advisor or Athletic Director.
4. For events where the National Anthem and/or alma mater are performed, students will be respectful and courteous. The first offense is a warning. The second offense is suspension for 3 days; the third offense is expulsion from the team/activity.
5. Students are expected to attend and participate in all practices, games, performances, etc. The only excusable absence from practice, games or public performance is an emergency situation or one previously approved by the coach/advisor. Below are some examples of emergency situations:
 - a. A death in the family
 - b. Automobile accidents

c. Illness and not in school

Below are some examples of absences that would receive approval from the coach/advisor assuming prior notification was given:

- a. College visits
- b. Medical appointments
- c. Religious observances
- d. Any other situation that the coach/advisor would consider acceptable.

An unexcused absence is an absence in which the coach/advisor did not have prior knowledge. An emergency situation would be an exception to this rule. The first unexcused absence will result in suspension from practices and/or games for 3 days. The second unexcused absence will result in immediate expulsion from the team/activity.

6. Equipment issued for practice and competition should be cared for properly. Loss or failure to turn in equipment at the end of the season will result in payment to replace it. Any awards due to the student will be held until restitution is made. Refusal to make full payment may result in law enforcement referral.
7. Berating or criticizing officials/judges will not be tolerated. Students should never have a dialogue with an official or judge. The only designated persons to talk to officials are the team captain and coaches/advisor. Being ejected from a competition will result in 3 days of suspension from the activity. This suspension will take place over the days immediately following the ejection and will follow PIAA guidelines for athletic activities. A second offense is expulsion from the team/activity.
8. The student must finish the season/activity as a team member in good standing to qualify for any awards sponsored by the school district or booster club. All awards will be presented at the end of the season. The coaching staff, advisors and athletic department will determine the types and numbers of awards to be presented.
9. Students are expected to:
 - Understand that their actions are representative not only of themselves, but also the entire program.
 - Represent the Northern York County School District, community, and themselves in a positive manner.
 - Show respect for all in authority as well as for all facilities, property, and equipment.

Disrespect towards any coach, advisor, or administrator will not be tolerated. The first offense is a 3-day suspension from the activity (practices, performances, contests, etc.) The second offense is removal from the team/activity.

10. Use of profanity or degrading comments is forbidden. The first offense is a warning. The second offense is a 3-day suspension from practices and/or games/public performance. The third offense is expulsion from the team/activity.
11. Students are expected to follow all school rules while riding to and from the activity. Standing or moving about the bus/van is not permitted.
12. A student has not officially quit an activity until he/she has spoken with the head coach/advisor of the activity and has handed in all of his/her equipment. A student who quits an activity after the first 3 weeks of the season may not join another activity during the same season. In addition, the student may not begin another activity, even if during another season, until they have completed all of the above.
13. Students are expected to follow the Social Media Guidelines as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Violators may be subject to disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, suspension or removal from co/extracurricular activities and/or athletic teams.

ELIGIBILITY

1. A student may not participate or practice for any athletic team or co/extra-curricular activity unless he or she is in school by 9:00am the day of the scheduled contest or practice. On a two-hour delay students must be in school by 9:40 a.m. This rule may be waived by the Athletic Director, Activity Advisor, and/or Principal for extenuating circumstances. If a student leaves school before the end of the school day and does not return to school, he /she must provide a medical excuse in order to be eligible to participate in any contest/practice.
2. Students must demonstrate academic eligibility in order to participate in interscholastic athletics and co/extra-curricular activities. The student must be passing four and one quarter (4.25) credits on a weekly cumulative basis, starting with the beginning of the marking period. If students do not meet this standard they become ineligible for the following week (Monday through Saturday). Students must also be passing four and one quarter (4.25) credits at the end of each grading period. If not, they will become ineligible for the first fifteen (15) school days of the next grading period. The first time a student is ineligible he/she may practice but not compete/perform during the time of ineligibility. For the second and subsequent periods of ineligibility (of that season), students may not practice or compete/perform.

DISCIPLINE

The Board establishes fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding the conduct of all students. Students shall not be subject to disciplinary action because of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or handicap/disability.

Participation in and attendance at extracurricular, co-curricular, and athletic activities is a privilege, not a right. As such, school districts are afforded broader discretion to enforce behavior standards against students participating in extracurricular activities.

Students participating in extracurricular, co-curricular, or athletic activities are required to abide by the applicable Code of Conduct at all times (24 hours day, 7 days week, 52 weeks per year) regardless of location of incident and whether the student is actively engaged in the activity or not.

1. **Controlled Substance Violation**

Policy 227 prohibits students from using, possessing, distributing, and being under the influence of any controlled substances as defined by Policy 227. Violations of this policy shall constitute grounds for suspension from participating in extracurricular, cocurricular, or athletic activities including but not limited to all competitions, performances, and practices.

- First Offense – From the date of the incident, a 30 Calendar Day suspension (within the School Year Calendar) from the activity (includes games, competitions, practices, etc.)
- Second & Subsequent Offense - 1 Calendar year suspension from the activity from the date of the incident (includes games, competitions, practices, etc.)

To return to competition and practice at the end of the suspension, the student must have successfully completed a Student Assistance Program evaluation, or a comparable evaluation completed by an outside agency that has been approved by the school. Additionally, student-athletes may need to satisfy the PIAA return-to-play requirements.

2. **Tobacco and Nicotine Vaping Violation** - An activity participant who violates the tobacco policy of the school district will be suspended from games/competitions according to the following:

- First Offense – two (2) calendar weeks
- Second Offense – four (4) calendar weeks
- Third and Subsequent Offense – one (1) calendar year

3. **Other Circumstances** – In circumstances where an activity participant engages in any action resulting in a summary charge, misdemeanor charge, or felony charge under the criminal or juvenile laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (including but not limited to the following examples – theft, weapon, assault, etc.), or any other offenses of the Student Code of Conduct, a committee consisting of the building principal, athletic director, advisor, and/or head coach will review the individual situation and take appropriate action. The student will have an opportunity, if desired, to appear before the committee before final action is taken.

4. **HAZING** – According to Board Policy #247, hazing is defined as “any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in, any organization. The term shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding;
 2. Forced calisthenics;
 3. Exposure to the elements;
 4. Forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance;
 5. Any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which is intended to or could result in humiliation, extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual; or
 6. Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.”

Any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Hazing of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in immediate removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

