NEASC Athletic Program Standards

Standard 1: Program Guiding Principles

The athletic program has developed a mission statement that clearly defines what the school/program is seeking to achieve and delineates the expectations of the program for student-athletes, coaches, school administration, parents, and the community. The expectations of the athletic program are the fundamental goals by which the school assesses the effectiveness of the athletic program and services provided.

Standard 2: Athletic Program

The athletic program has developed and implemented programs, activities, and curricula that enable the school to achieve its athletic mission and expectations. Embedded in this standard, in addition to sport-specific skill development and the promotion of academic achievement, are the teaching and endorsement of sportsmanship, character development, ethics, values, living a healthy and drug-free lifestyle, and appropriate behavior for all student-athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators.

Standard 3: Program Resources and Equity

The athletic program is provided sufficient support and resources by its governing body and the community to ensure the safe and equitable achievement of the athletic mission and expectations. Equitable and appropriate resources, facilities, and opportunities are afforded to all student-athletes and sports programs. The athletic program is in compliance with all local and national laws and requirements.

Standard 4: Program Administration

The athletic program has the administrative structure, policies, procedures, and personnel in place to allow for the attainment of the athletic mission and expectations. The program has a clearly defined formative and summative personnel evaluation plan in place which is designed to enhance the professional growth of all coaches. The athletic program promotes and supports all state association regulations and bylaws including those of the National Federation of State High Schools and is in compliance with all state and federal statutes.

Standard 5: Program and Player Evaluation

The athletic program has an ongoing program evaluation procedure in place designed to measure the department's success in achieving its mission and expectations and the developmental skill growth of each student-athlete. The skill growth of athletes is formally assessed at the end of each season and improvement plans are co-developed by the coach and athlete. The athletic department reports its progress in meeting its mission and expectations to the school administration and develops action plans for improvement.

Standard 6: Safety, Well-Being, and Inclusion

The athletic program provides a physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually safe environment that ensures diversity, equity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging for all student-athletes. Administrators, coaches, and other stakeholders take collective responsibility for the well-being of every student-athlete. The program commits to a culture of education-based athletics that prioritizes safety and well-being, academic success, sportsmanship and character, athletic skills, and multi-sport athletics.