

# NEEDVILLE ISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Revised 7/27/11

Needville ISD strives to foster character, leadership, and decision-making skills through student involvement in supervised programs and activities. Remember that it is a privilege to participate in athletics. These policies provide guidelines and expectations applicable to all Needville ISD student athletes. These policies supplement the Needville ISD Student Code of Conduct. NISD Athletic Department Policies are in effect year-round including all weekends, school holidays, and summer vacation. Escalating consequences do not carry over to the next school year. That is, a student disciplined for a first offense formal complaint during the current school year who receives another formal complaint during the next school year will be treated under the first offense policy, not the second offense policy. The school year ends with the last day of school and the policies for the upcoming year go into effect the following day. The Athletic Director and/or the Head Coach have the authority to dismiss an athlete for violations of these guidelines. Students who are disciplined or dismissed may schedule a conference with the athletic director to discuss the charges pending against them.

## 1. CONDUCT:

Conduct yourself in a proper manner. The Needville athletes that have preceded you have given a great deal of class to our program. Needville athletes are noted for their clean, tough, competitive play. Praise your opponent and play to the best of your ability. This means you are to follow school rules and procedures while attending class at Needville ISD. You are to act properly in class, giving your teachers and administrators courtesy and respect. As a NHS athlete, you should also conduct yourself in an appropriate manner outside of school. Remember, once you are a Needville Athlete, you represent this school at all times. Inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated. The Athletic Director and/or Head Coach of the sport involved will discipline athletes for offenses that do not involve a formal complaint. Coach/ athlete conferences, coach/parent conferences, extra conditioning, corporal punishment and/or possible suspension may be given for **any conduct offense**. It is the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility to notify the athletic director in writing if corporal punishment is not to be administered.

**Formal Complaint** - A **formal complaint** is defined as an arrest, citation, charge or any other formal action by a law enforcement authority in response to conduct by a student athlete that rises to the level of misdemeanor or greater. Students whose charges are dropped or who are found not guilty will not be *automatically* re-instated under this provision. If the charges are dropped, the maximum suspension will be one half of the normal suspension and could possibly result in no suspension if found by the athletic director/head coach that the athlete was not involved.

**Disclosure Policy** - Disclosure enables an athlete to notify the head coach/athletic director of a formal complaint infraction. By disclosing, the athlete's suspension will be reduced by one half. Disclosure should occur by the end of the next school day or prior to the next scheduled practice or contest. If disclosure does not occur within this time frame, then full suspension will be applied.

**Formal Complaint: Misdemeanor offenses –**

**\*\* Any student suspended will not be allowed to travel or dress-out with team. All suspensions must be completed and may carry into the next sport and/or year.**

The **first offense** will result in suspension from an athletic contest or contests. Football, Track, Tennis, Golf, Power Lifting, and Cross-Country will have a two (2) contest suspension after school personnel have been notified of a formal complaint. Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball will have a four (4) contest suspension after school personnel have been notified of a formal complaint. The number of contest suspensions is based on the average number of games per week during the regular season. In addition to the suspension, extra conditioning will be required for five (5) school days. (Suspensions are affected by disclosure policy.)

The **second offense** will result in suspension from athletic contests. Football, Track, Tennis, Golf, Power Lifting, and Cross-Country will have a six (6) contest suspension after school personnel have been notified of a second formal complaint. Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball will have a twelve (12) contest suspension after school personnel have been notified of a second formal complaint. In addition to the contest suspension, extra conditioning will be required for fifteen (15) school days. A student charged with a second formal complaint may have the suspension reduced (with or without disclosure) by one or two contests depending on the sport, if the student agrees to participate in a counseling program (paid for by student/parent) approved by the athletic director.

The **third offense** will result in suspension from all athletic team activities for one (1) calendar year from the date of the formal complaint. This suspension is not effected by the disclosure rule. The athlete may continue to workout during suspension at the discretion of the athletic director and/or head coach.

## **Play-off Offenses:**

The **first offense** will result in a two (2) contest suspension. If disclosure occurs, then the suspension will be reduced to one (1) contest.

The **second offense** will result in a four (4) contest suspension. If disclosure occurs, then the suspension will be reduced to two (2) contests.

## **Formal Complaint: Felony Offenses –**

Students charged with felony offenses will not be permitted to participate in NHS athletics. Felony convictions will result in a one-year suspension.

## **2. TOBACCO:**

**TOBACCO:** Tobacco will not be permitted in any form including chewing, dipping, or smoking.

The **first offense** will result in having five (5) days of extra conditioning assigned by the Head Coach.

The **second offense** will result in having ten (10) days of extra conditioning assigned by the Head Coach.

The **third offense** will be treated as a formal complaint misdemeanor first offense.

\*\*Any further offenses follow the formal complaint misdemeanor procedure.

## **3. ALCOHOL:**

**ALCOHOL:** Alcohol use by student athletes will not be tolerated. The Athletic Director and/or Head Coach of the sport involved will act on any alcohol offense that does not involve a formal complaint if he reasonably believes that the offending conduct occurred. Extra conditioning and possible suspension may result. If a formal complaint occurs, then the formal complaint misdemeanor procedure will be followed.

## **4. DRUGS:**

**DRUGS:** Drugs will not be tolerated. The Drug Testing Program and Protocol established in the Needville High School Student Handbook will be strictly enforced. The Athletic Director and/or Head Coach of the sport involved will act on any drug offense that does not involve a formal complaint if he reasonably believes that the offending conduct occurred. Extra conditioning and possible suspension may result.

### **Formal Complaint: Misdemeanor offenses-**

The **first offense** will result in a suspension from athletic contests. Suspension will be assigned according to length of season and the number of contests. The number of contest suspensions per sport are as follows: football ten (10), volleyball twenty-four (24), cross-country eight (8), basketball twenty-two (22), power-lifting eight (8), baseball twenty (20), softball twenty (20), track eight (8), golf eight (8), and tennis eight (8). In addition to the contest suspension, extra conditioning will be required for fifteen (15) school days, and the athlete will have to participate in a professional counseling program (paid for by student/parent) approved by the athletic director. (Suspensions are affected by disclosure policy.)

The **second offense** will result in suspension from all athletic team activities for one (1) calendar year from the date of the formal complaint. This suspension is not effected by the disclosure rule. The athlete may continue to workout during suspension at the discretion of the athletic director and/or head coach.

### **Felony Drug Offense-**

Felony drug offenses will be handled according to the guidelines defined in section one felony offenses.

## **5. OTHER CONDUCT:**

**GAMBLING:** Gambling or betting in any form will not be tolerated. Continued offenses may result in dismissal from the program.

**PROFANITY:** Profanity is not an acceptable form of expression. Any offense will result in disciplinary action. Continued offenses may result in dismissal from the program. Profanity directed at an adult authority figure will be treated as a major offense. The athlete will receive extra conditioning and suspension from one to two contests depending on the sport. (Football, Track, Tennis, Golf, Powerlifting, and Cross-Country – One Contest. Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball – Two contests.)

**STEALING:** Stealing will not be tolerated. The athlete will receive extra conditioning and suspension from one to two contests depending on the sport. (Football, Track, Tennis, Golf, Powerlifting, and Cross-Country – One Contest. Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball – Two contests.) Depending on the severity, the athlete may be dismissed from the program.

**CHEATING:** Cheating under no circumstances is an acceptable act for our Blue Jay athletes. The athlete will receive extra conditioning and suspension from one to two contests depending on the sport. (Football, Track, Tennis, Golf, Powerlifting, and Cross-Country – One Contest. Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball – Two contests.) Depending on the severity, the athlete may be dismissed from the program.

**HAZING:** No athlete shall engage in any form of hazing, nor shall any athlete encourage or assist other persons in hazing. Students, who engage in hazing, either individually or in concert with other persons, shall be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension if the circumstances warrant.

**DISMISSAL FROM COMPETITION:** If an athlete is removed from an athletic contest for inappropriate conduct, extra conditioning and/or possible suspension may be assigned depending on the extent of the infraction.

**SCHOOL EQUIPMENT:** Everyone will wear their uniform in the same manner. NISD will furnish your equipment, so do not bring personal equipment from home unless the coach permits you to do so. All uniforms should consist of the school colors of white, blue, or neutral gray. Lost or damaged equipment will be replaced by the student athlete at their expense. School equipment must be turned in within a reasonable time after the season is complete. Failure to do so will result in fines and/or disciplinary action.

**RESPECT FOR COACHES:** Players should be respectful to coaches when speaking to them. “Yes Ma’am,” “Yes Sir,” “No Ma’am,” “No Sir,” will be expected.

**DRESS / GROOM:** All athletes will follow the dress and groom code established in the Needville I.S.D. Student Handbook. Additionally, to attain a team appearance, and for safety reasons, your hair should be neatly trimmed and be within the athletic dress code. Boys’ hair should not touch the top collar of the shirt or be on the ear. Beads in the hair will not be worn during practices or athletic contests. There will be no facial hair. Sideburns shall not extend past the middle of the ear. Haircuts should be conventional and not attract attention to the person. According to U.I.L. policy, student athletes are not permitted to wear any type of jewelry during competition for safety purposes. No male athlete will be permitted to wear dew rags, earrings, posts, or straws through his ears during school or school related activities. No athlete will be permitted to have a tongue ring, body piercing, or openly display tattoos. Failure to comply will result in a warning the first time. If the problem occurs again, extra conditioning will be assigned. Continued offenses will result in game suspension or dismissal from the program at the discretion of the head coach and athletic director. Your appearance and dress at school, school events, or when traveling to school events should be appropriate and follow NISD and athletic policy.

**CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES:** You are to keep your equipment in your locker. You are to clean your equipment before going into the dressing area. When you change into workout gear, your school clothes should be hung up in your locker and your locker locked. Latrines and toilets are to be flushed, showers and faucets turned off so they do not drip, and all trash thrown in the trash can, especially soft drink cans. Clean up in and around your locker each day. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in discipline for the whole squad.

## 6. **STUDENT PARTICIPATION:**

**ATTENDANCE:** It is very important that an athlete be present and on time for every athletic period, practice, or contest. Cutting any class, as well as missing the athletic period/practice for other classes, is not permitted. If you miss your athletic period, practice, or contest, make sure there is a valid reason. Appointments should be scheduled at other times. If you must be absent, call and talk to one of the coaches before your athletic period, practice, or contest. It is up to the head coach’s and athletic director’s discretion to determine if an absence from a practice or a contest is excused.

**Excused Absence From a Practice:** If the athlete calls in and the absence from practice is excused, then the make-up conditioning is one (1) mile per practice. If the athlete does not call in but the absence is excused, then the make-up conditioning will be two (2) miles per practice.

**Unexcused Absence From a Practice:** Regardless if the athlete calls in or not and the absence is deemed unexcused, the first offense will result in extra conditioning for five (5) consecutive days (2 miles a day). The **second offense** will result in suspension from athletic contests. Football, Track, Tennis, Golf, Power Lifting, and Cross-Country will have a one (1) contest suspension. Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball will have a two (2) contest suspension. In addition to the contest suspension, extra conditioning will be required for ten (10)

consecutive days (2 miles a day). The **third offense** will result in dismissal from that sport.

**Excused Absence From a Contest:** If an absence from a contest is excused, it will be treated as an excused absence.

**Unexcused Absence From A Contest:** If an absence from a contest is unexcused, the **first offense** will result in suspension from an athletic contest or contests. Football, Track, Tennis, Golf, Power Lifting, and Cross-Country will have a one (1) contest suspension. Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball will have a two contest (2) suspension. In addition to the suspension, extra conditioning will be required for five (5) consecutive days (2 miles a day). The **second offense** will result in suspension from athletic contests. Football, Track, Tennis, Golf, Power Lifting, and Cross-Country will have a three (3) contest suspension. Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball will have a six (6) contest suspension. In addition to the contest suspension, extra conditioning will be required for ten (10) consecutive days (2 miles a day). The **third offense** will result in dismissal from that sport.

**\*Extended absences due to sickness, death in the family, vacations, or extenuating circumstances will be evaluated by the athletic director and head coach of that sport to determine the consequences.**

**MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION:** All sports are classified in one of three seasons: fall (Football, Volleyball, Cross-Country), winter (Basketball), or spring (Baseball, Softball, Track, Tennis, Golf). Athletes are permitted to participate in more than one sport at one time as long as they are in the same season. An athlete may not start a winter season sport while still participating in a fall sport. An athlete may not start a spring sport while still participating in a winter sport.

**CLUB SPORTS/SELECT TEAMS:** Club sports or select teams should not interfere with any practice or contest of Needville athletics. It is not acceptable for an athlete to miss, arrive late, or leave early from a practice or contest for a club sport or select team. If an absence from practice does occur, then it is an unexcused absence. If an athlete misses a contest for a club sport or select team, then a one contest suspension will be applied in addition to counting as an unexcused absence. Any further contest absences will result in dismissal.

**INJURY OR ILLNESS:** An athlete is required to inform their head coach/athletic director of their illness or injury before practice. The coaching staff does not expect you to workout if you are ill or injured, but we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group from station to station unless given special permission to leave by the head coach/athletic director. A note from a parent/guardian for an injury or illness will not be accepted. Any non-participation beyond two days or an injury that limits participation must have a doctor's note. However, please let our coaches and training staff evaluate the injury prior to going to the doctor.

**QUITTING/DISMISSAL:** An athlete who quits or is dismissed from a sport after the first contest will not be allowed to start another sport until that sport's regular season ends unless the athlete is released by the head coach. An athlete that has quit or has been dismissed from a sport will not be permitted to participate in another sport's contest, until he/she has run two (2) miles per practice for ten consecutive practices (20 miles). If an athlete is participating in two or more sports at one time and is released by the head coach of one sport, the athlete may continue to participate in the other sport(s). The athlete must complete the season, including play-offs, and finish in good standing to receive a varsity letter and to be recognized at the sports banquet.

**PROMPTNESS:** The bus will wait for no one on trips. If an athlete misses the bus, they will not be allowed to start the contest and possibly not participate that day depending on the circumstances for missing the bus. During school you will have a certain amount of time after the athletic period bell to be dressed in the uniform of the day and to be in the appropriate place. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

**PARTICIPATION PRE-REQUISITE:** In order to participate in football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball a student must be in the athletic period the previous spring semester and be enrolled in the fall semester. If a student does not meet this pre-requisite, they will be allowed to participate after he/she runs two miles for ten consecutive practices (20 miles) and enrolls in the athletic period. All athletes in the athletic period must participate in at least two (2) sports. A student may be denied the opportunity to participate in a sport due to failure to enroll in the athletic period or non participation in a sport the previous year. This determination will be left at the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or Head Coach of that sport.

## **7. LETTER JACKETS:**

It is the responsibility of the head coach of each sport to determine if an athlete has lettered. If the athlete has participated most of the season on the varsity level, positively contributed to the team, and finished the season in good standing, the student athlete will receive a varsity letter for that sport. Each athlete who letters for the first time will be given one letter jacket per high school career. Any lost or damaged jackets will be replaced at the cost of the athlete. Additional patches, besides the letter itself, will be purchased by the athlete.

## 8. NISD ATHLETIC PASSES:

The NISD athletic department will issue each athlete in good standing an athletic pass. This pass enables each athlete free admission to all NISD home contests only. If an athlete loses or fails to produce the pass, they will be expected to pay full admission. These passes are non-transferable and will be taken up permanently if they are loaned to another student. If an athlete quits, is dismissed from the program, or moves to another school, their pass will be taken up.

## 9. HEALTH AND INSURANCE INFORMATION:

Physical exams are required, at least, every two years. They must be administered to incoming 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade athletes. Physicals for all athletes must be current and on file with the athletic department before an athlete is allowed to participate in any practice or competition. If an injury occurs while participating in athletics for NISD, the athlete is expected to make sure their coach is aware of the injury and notify our trainer, Bob Marley, to make arrangements for an evaluation unless an emergency situation exists. All athletes are expected to attend injury treatments as set up by the head athletic trainer or coaching staff. If it is necessary for an athlete to be seen by a doctor, "Doc" will make his suggestion and help arrange an appointment based on the type of injury. NISD provides supplemental insurance through the athletic department. Coverage of this policy goes into effect after the athlete's primary care insurance provider files their claim. Claims on school supplemental insurance cover only claims that are usual and customary. Any questions regarding an injury or school insurance should be directed to "Doc" at 713-410-8041.

## 10. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:

The NISD coaching staff realizes and appreciates the tremendous commitment by the parent(s)/guardian(s) for their child/children to participate in an extra-curricular athletic event. Our coaching staff considers the opportunity to work with your children a privilege. We want an open line of communication at all times to maximize the relationship between parents and coaches. Parents are asked to give positive support to your children and their team by attending the competitions, ensuring your child attends all practices and contests, provide transportation to and from practices, and help furnish, if any, equipment the athletic department does not provide. When concerns or unavoidable circumstances do occur, parents should first contact the coach directly working with their child. If a problem still exists, contact the campus coordinator and/or athletic director to rectify the situation. To provide the safest most productive environment, we ask that parents do not attend N.I.S.D. athletic practices. Our staff truly appreciates parents that want to be present for their child. However, in certain situations there is sometimes an added distraction and/or pressure not only on your own child, but also with the other athletes when parents are watching a work-out. This will allow the coaches to closely monitor the activities of the practice and more efficiently conduct the work-out. If a special situation should arise, then the parent can receive prior consent to attend the practice from the head coach of that sport as long as a reasonable distance is maintained to ensure the practice is not interrupted.

## 11. ACADEMICS:

At N.I.S.D., every student/athlete is a student first and athlete second. Our goal every year is to go through an entire school year without losing one athlete to failing grades. The staff realizes this can be difficult due to learning differences, time constraints, and personal issues, but at the same time does not accept any excuses for not being successful in the classroom. To emphasize the importance of academics, the staff will conduct weekly grade checks to closely monitor our athletes' progress. If an athlete is failing one or more classes, the coaching staff will assign different motivational techniques to strongly encourage our athletes to get this situation taken care of before the next grade check including, but not limited to, extra conditioning, team study halls, and mandatory tutorials with the athletes' instructors. As a group (parents/athletes/coaching staff), we can achieve our goal of no Blue Jay Left Behind.

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTE\*\*:** Remember, YOU are representing yourself, your parents, your coaches, Needville Independent School District, and the Needville Community at all times.

*Discipline yourself, so others will not have to! We are looking to you to carry on the pride and tradition of Needville High School.*

## **SCHOOL SONG**

**For Needville's honor, her spirit and her name,  
We'll fight on to victory and guide her to fame.**

**Through Victory her name will be  
hailed throughout the land.**

**For our dear Ole Needville, we'll take our stand.**

**Our courage never wavers, spirits never die,**

**WE'RE PROUD OF THE BLUE JAYS OF  
NEEDVILLE HIGH.**

## **SCHOOL FIGHT SONG**

**On you Blue Jays, On you Blue Jays,**

**Go right through that line,**

**We are proud of, We are proud when,**

**On that field you shine. Rah! Rah! Rah!**

**On to glory, On to glory, Give a Victory Cry,  
Bring fame and honor to our NEEDVILLE HIGH.**

**Athletic Policies Acknowledgement Form Revised 7/27/11**

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM AND KEEP THE ATHLETIC POLICIES FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE GUIDELINES THAT WILL BE USED IN THE NEEDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT AND AGREE TO SUPPORT AND ABIDE BY THESE POLICIES.

**Parent's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_