

# **NEWAYGO ATHLETICS**

“Home of the Lions”



**Athletic Code of Conduct**

**“Restore the Roar”**

## **Athletic Administration**

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## **FOREWORD**

This booklet contains information to make the student athlete and their parents aware of the policies and procedures which apply to all athletes participating in Newaygo Public Schools' athletic programs. It is important that a parent read this book, sign and date the contract form on FinalForms.

It is also important to remember that athletics is a privilege and that all athletes are expected to live up to high standards in representing themselves, their family, the school, and the community. We expect all athletes' conduct to be one of good sportsmanship, whether in victory or defeat. We expect all athletes to respect opponents, officials, facilities and equipment.

We wish you the best of luck and support as you pursue the opportunity to develop new life-long skills in team work, self-discipline, and responsibility, and also to push yourself both physically and mentally to achieve both personal and team goals.

Newaygo athletic program is an extension of its educational program and adheres to the philosophy and objectives prescribed by the Newaygo Board of Education and the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The contents of this handbook help define the policies and procedures used within the Department of Athletics that are specific to participants and parents/guardians. Coaches should also refer to Newaygo Coach's Handbook for additional guidelines and procedures.

### **Message to the Parents**

Welcome to the athletic program at Newaygo School District. We hope that all of your athletic experiences will be positive, and that you, as well as the school will benefit from your involvement in the athletic program. Please take the time to read the entire handbook so that you will have an understanding of our athletic policies, requirements, rules, and expectations.

Participation in athletics is a privilege offered to the students of Newaygo School District. To be a Newaygo athlete you must do more than make a team or participate in a contest. A high school athlete has to be dedicated, enjoy being challenged, and give 100% every day on and off the field. An athlete must strive to do well in the classroom and must maintain the academic requirements prescribed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and Newaygo School District. The teachers, coaches, and administrators of Newaygo School District are committed to helping each athlete to be the best they can be. Each athlete must make the same commitment.

As educators we, who are concerned with the educational development of young people through athletics, feel that a properly controlled, well-organized athletic program meets the student-athlete's needs for rigorous fitness, relevant to their future in any professional area, and gives them the ability to develop relationships in several settings. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student-athlete's educational maturity.

A student-athlete who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and dedication. These are the reasons we place such emphasis on good training habits. Failure to comply with training and self-disciplinary rules may result in the consequences and penalties outlined in this handbook. There is no place in athletics for student-athletes who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition or demonstrate appropriate behavior and/or sportsmanship. We are striving for excellence and do not want our student-athletes to settle for mediocrity.

When your son/daughter participates in athletics at Newaygo, our staff will strive to provide your son/daughter with:

- Adequate equipment and facilities;
- The best teaching and coaching personnel possible
- Equalized contests with skilled officials
- Adequate supervised transportation.

Similarly, we feel you have assumed certain responsibilities and obligations when you permit your son/daughter to compete. We take this opportunity to acquaint you with the rules and regulations of our athletic program. Please read it over carefully.

### **Message to the Student Athlete**

As a student-athlete, you are subject to the following Athletic Code, the rules and regulations of the Central States Activity Association and the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). MHSAA guidelines can be found in the Athletic Administrators office or online at [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com). Read the following rules carefully, so you fully know and understand them. Your dedication as a student-athlete is essential for a successful athletic program.

### **SPORTS OFFERED**

#### ***GIRLS SPORTS***

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Cross Country (6-12)	Basketball (7-12)	Softball (9-12)
Volleyball (7-12)	Competitive Cheer (9-12)	Track and Field (6-12)
Golf (9-12)		Soccer (9-12)

#### ***BOYS SPORTS***

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Cross Country (6-12)	Basketball (7-12)	Baseball (9-12)
Football (9-12)	Wrestling (6-12)	Track and Field (6-12)
Soccer (9-12)		Golf (9-12)

## **Article 1-Philosophy**

### **Athletic Philosophy**

Competition has long been considered a measure of excellence in our culture, whether it be in the business world, in scholastic achievement, or in athletics. Educational sports programs support the educational program and are an extension of the classroom. Every attempt should be made to encourage as many students as possible to share in the benefits of athletic participation. While participation is to be encouraged, it should be regarded as a privilege to compete for Newaygo. Newaygo School District believes that it is critical to provide a variety of activities, in addition to the academic requirements, as we meet the educational needs of our students. The athletic programs are a vital extension of the educational process and we remain dedicated to providing opportunities for our students. Through participation in these extra-curricular programs, student athletes are able to utilize and further develop their character, loyalty, discipline, leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship. One of the finest lessons learned in athletics is self-discipline. An athlete who elects to participate in athletics at Newaygo is voluntarily making the choice to develop good physical conditioning, meet minimum academic expectations and exercise good judgment. Newaygo's student athletes and all those who support them will consistently uphold excellence in the classroom, the community and in athletic competition.

### **Mission**

Newaygo Athletics works cooperatively with the academic curriculum to contribute in the development of self-governing adults. The athletic programs through their structure, integrity, and success will inclusively offer opportunities to all students and members of our communities to benefit from the values of "Lion Athletics".

Being a member of an athletic team is an important activity for the student athlete, the parents, the coach, and the community. Athletics assist the teaching of qualities that are needed to be successful in life. Some of these qualities include: responsibility, *preparation*, self-discipline, loyalty, *leadership*, effort, respect towards others, honesty, integrity, self-esteem, humility, *commitment*, the value of the team and the ability to handle competition with *enthusiasm* and grace. The individual who exhibits these qualities at the appropriate times is said to have *character*.

### **Belief Statements**

The athletes, coaches and parents of the Newaygo Athletic Department believe:

Student-athletes will develop leadership characteristics through athletic competition that carry into the classroom and prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Student-athletes serve as role models within the school community and are expected to act in a manner that demonstrates positive character traits and a willingness to serve others.

Self-discipline, sportsmanship and an enthusiastic love of the game are essential to a sound athletic foundation.

Teamwork builds relationships, which helps create strong and lasting friendships through athletic competition.

Participation in athletics is a privilege: with that privilege, comes responsibility.

Hard work through preparation and a strong commitment to be the best are important ingredients to the success of Newaygo Athletics.

## **Athletic Program Goals**

The first goal of our program is to develop character.

The second goal of our program is to improve preparation, commitment, and participation. This will create enthusiasm within the program and community.

The third goal of our program is to provide student athletes with the necessary tools to prepare physically, emotionally, and mentally.

The final goal of our program is to develop champions on and off the field.

## **Goals of Athletic Participation**

**STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN TEAMWORK** – to work with others in a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. You accomplish this by placing the team and its objectives higher than your personal desires.

**STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN TO BE SUCCESSFUL** – our society is very competitive. You will not always win, but you will succeed when you continually strive to do so.

**STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN TO BE A GOOD SPORT** – you must learn to accept success and not let it go to your head. You must also learn to accept defeat knowing that you've done your best. You must continually strive to treat others as you would have them treat you. Through participation in athletics you must develop positive social traits. Some of these traits worth mentioning are: emotional control, honesty, cooperativeness, and dependability.

**STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN TO ENJOY ATHLETICS** – many athletes are involved in athletics for many reasons, the least being the enjoyment derived. Hopefully, you will learn to enjoy this period in your life and appreciate your personal rewards.

**STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN DESIRABLE HEALTH HABITS** – to be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain and maintain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits. Your participation in athletics should demonstrate to you the importance of good health habits.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

As an athlete, you can help us continue to improve upon our reputation as a school which is known for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a respectful manner. Displays of poor sportsmanship can and will result in sanctions against the offending athlete (i.e., suspension from the following event) and/or school. Always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship:

1. The good name of our school is more important than any contest won by unfair play.
2. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are never responsible for your success, so do not blame them for your failure.
3. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
4. Be proud of your school's reputation and work hard to protect it.

5. Remember to practice "The Golden Rule" (do unto others as you would have them do unto you.)

## **Article II – Expectations**

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

It is expected that proper sportsmanlike behavior at athletic contests is ongoing and adhered to by all athletes, coaches, and spectators. The guidelines the Central States Activities Association has adopted for fans will be followed at all school sponsored events, at home or away. Cheers and signs are to be positive and respectful, fans should be considerate and courteous, noisemakers of any kind are not allowed, and the throwing of objects will not be tolerated. Newwaygo students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct as printed in the student handbook at all school-sponsored activities, home and away.

Administration and contest management will determine if these guidelines are being followed. Failure to adhere to behavior expectations may result in a warning and ejection from that contest, and/or a suspension of privileges to attend school activities for a specified period of time. Disciplinary action will be determined based on prior occurrences and/or the severity of the offense.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

Successful programs have student athletes, parents/guardians and coaches working toward common goals. As a source of encouragement, as a behavior model, and as a program and student supporters, parents/guardians are a critical part of this triangular partnership. Successful athletes and successful programs are often directly influenced by supportive and caring parents/guardians. In this important capacity, these standards should be practiced:

1. Recognize the importance of discussing and understanding with the student athlete the prerequisite of team membership, time commitments, team rules and a commitment to always doing one's best along with other team, student and family responsibilities.
2. Encourage participation while respecting the student athlete's choice of team or other activity involvement. Sometimes a choice may have to be made if a compromise between two or more interests is not possible.
3. Attend parent meetings and other school support group meetings.
4. Encourage and support involvement by attending contests.
5. Demonstrate positive support at contests as a way of modeling good sportsmanship.
6. Recognize that mistakes, poor choices, the need to try independence, the expression of ideas and thoughts, failure as well as success, are all important aspects of a young person's growing and learning opportunities.
7. Recognize that the real value of athletic involvement rests in the positive educational lessons that become growing and learning opportunities for the student athlete.
8. Recognize that parents are a strong and positive force in supporting, shaping and encouraging the real value of athletic involvement.
9. Understand and support the team concept and recognize how each student athlete accepts, contributes, and works toward this goal.

10. Recognize how playing time relates to skill level, practice effort, team roles, and out of season preparation.
11. Understand and support adherence to training rules.

### **PARENT COACH COMMUNICATION PLAN**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult roles. By establishing an understanding of each, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. As parents, when your children become involved in the athletic program, you have a right to understand the expectations placed upon your child. This begins with clear communication from his/her coach. It is essential that parents be represented in the parent meeting that each head coach sponsors prior to each season.

### **COMMUNICATION THAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH**

- Philosophy of the coach, including issues such as playing time
- Expectations that the coach has for the players
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, out of season conditioning
- Procedures to follow should the athlete be injured during participation
- Discipline that may result in the denial of participation

### **COMMUNICATION THAT COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As students become involved in the programs at Newaygo High School, they will hopefully experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way they are expected to. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the above list, certain things can and should be discussed with the coach. Other things, such as those below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH THE COACH**

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes



There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. In order to promote a resolution to the issue, the following procedure should be followed when a conference is necessary.

### **IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW IS**

If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. *Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. This can be an emotional time for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature rarely promote resolution. Please allow 24 hours to pass before confronting a coach.*

### **WHAT A PARENT CAN DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DOES NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION**

- Call the Athletic Director and set an appointment to discuss the situation.
- Contact the Principal if a resolution is not achieved.
- We hope the information provided above makes your experience with Newaygo athletic teams less stressful and more enjoyable.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP FOR FANS AND PARTICIPANTS**

Acceptable behavior includes:

- Accepting all decisions of officials;
- Treating the competition as a game, not a war;
- Giving credit for outstanding effort regardless of the team;
- Showing concern for any injured player; and
- Encouraging surrounding fans to display only the best sportsmanlike conduct.

### **Unacceptable Behavior**

- Trash talk, taunting, and other intimidating actions on behalf of players or spectators;
- Displaying disgust for officials calls; name calling to distract opponents;
- Refusing to shake hands or give credit to opponents;
- Blaming the loss of a game on coaches, players, or officials;
- Accosting officials in any way, shape or form.
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game.

Any person, including adults, who behave in an unsportsmanlike manner during an athletic or extracurricular event **MAY** be ejected from the event or denied future admission for conduct that includes, but is not limited to: using vulgar or obscene language; possessing or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or illegal substance; possessing a weapon; fighting or otherwise striking or threatening another person; failing to obey a security officer or school employee; and engaging in any activity which is illegal or disruptive.

## **Article III – General Information**

### **Student-Athlete Defined**

A student athlete is a member of any interscholastic sports team. As an athlete at Newaygo, your peers and community will hold you in high esteem. You will be expected to be a leader, to exhibit self-control, and self-



discipline in all situations. You will need to develop a strong sense of character, and let this guide you as you face decisions in and out of athletic competition. When you wear the Black and White for Newaygo Public Schools, we expect you to assume the responsibilities that go with it. Keep in mind that many times during your years at Newaygo, our school will be judged by your actions and attitudes.

### **Expectations of a Student-Athlete**

The conduct of a student-athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in the following areas at all times:

In the classroom, a student-athlete should work hard and have good study habits and good behavior. Detentions must be taken care of promptly. A student-athlete must notify each coach of a detention or other disciplinary consequence, which always takes precedence over practice or games.

During competition, a student-athlete must always exhibit good sportsmanship. Use of profanity or illegal tactics is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Student-athletes are not to argue with or show disrespect toward officials, coaches, teammates, opponents or any adult personnel. Disciplinary actions will be left up to the discretion of the coach.

On trips, student-athletes directly represent the community, school and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all concerned will dress in an acceptable manner when traveling and conduct themselves on the bus in a respectful manner.

A student-athlete must respect school property and equipment at all times. If the student-athlete destroys, loses or steals equipment, s/he is taking from themselves, teammates and the school, entity or person that owns the equipment. Each student-athlete is financially responsible for destruction of equipment or loss of property. Student-athletes and parents will be notified by the coach of any item that is missing or that needs to be replaced due to loss or destruction. Student-athletes who intentionally destroy or damage school property or equipment, are subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including loss of the privilege of participating in athletics, suspension or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities in a respectful manner.

### **Physicals**

Interscholastic Competition: As a student-athlete, you are not permitted to participate in interscholastic competition until the following items have been completed and are on file in the Athletic Office.

A physical examination by a physician. The physician and parent or guardian must sign the Physical Form, including the medical treatment consent, parent or guardian consent, and emergency information. The physical form is available in the Athletic Office. Physicals are valid for the following year if they were done after April 15.

~~Athletic Permission Form signed by the parents and/or guardian and student athlete that indicate that both parties have read this athletic handbook and understands our policies.~~

### **Injuries**

A Certified Athletic Trainer, physician and/or qualified health care provider may prohibit any student-athlete who sustains an injury from returning to participation until evaluated and released.

Any student-athlete who has been referred to a physician must have a written release from a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) in order to return to participation.

A parental medical release or waiver is not acceptable for a return to participation following an injury.

If a student-athlete is restricted in any physical education class, that student-athlete may not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletic activities.

### **Missing Practice**

An athlete should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without permission from the coach will result in a loss of play during the next scheduled competition. Note: A school related suspension is not an excused absence. Students suspended from school are not allowed to practice/participate in contests until the conclusion of their school suspension.

### **Dual Sport Athletes**

Athletes may participate in more than one sport per season if the following criteria are met:

- Both coaches must agree to allow the athlete to participate.
- The athlete must select their primary sport and attend all practices and games of their primary sport. An athlete must not miss any practice or game time to participate in their secondary sport.
- A practice and game schedule must be provided by both coaches that include practice and game times of both sports.
- The health and welfare of the athlete must be considered by all parties involved.
- The athletic director must provide a letter to both coaches and the athlete that permission to be a dual sport athlete has been granted.
- The student must be of good academic standing.

### **Conflicts in extracurricular activities**

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors/coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

When a conflict arises the sponsor(s)/coach(s) will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. Competition/performance takes precedence over practice. If both groups have a competition/performance then a conference competition/performance will take precedence. State competition/performance will take precedence over all other competition(s)/performance(s).

If a solution cannot be found between the sponsor(s)/coach(s), the principal will make a decision based on the following criteria.

The relative importance of each team(s)/group(s) competitive schedule and the contribution the student can make to the team/group. The principal will consider how long the event has been scheduled and will have a discussion with the parents.

### **Equipment and Uniforms**

1. An athlete is financially responsible for all equipment and/or uniforms issued to her/him.
2. Destroyed, lost or stolen equipment or uniforms must be paid for, or the athlete will:
  - A. Not be allowed to participate in the next sport he/she goes out for;
  - B. In the case of seniors, they may not receive their diploma, not walk in graduation

Athletes that do not return uniforms have not contacted the athletic department to make other approved arrangements, and will be subject to a \$100.00 late fee. This fee is to cover the cost of individual care and maintenance of the uniform. Unpaid Fees/missing uniform replacement costs will be added to the individual student athlete's Fees/Fines.

### **Transportation**

When the school provides transportation to out of town contests, all athletes must travel to and from the contest in the transportation provided by the athletic department. Athletes will remain with their team and under the supervision of a coach when attending away contests. All regular school bus rules will be followed, including: food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect for vehicles. An athlete may return from an athletic contest with their parents provided a written permission slip has been signed by the parent and administration prior to the contest. They may ride with another parent, providing the appropriate travel release form has been completed in advance.

### **Squad Selection**

Any student who meets eligibility requirements may try out for an athletic team. Teams will be selected by the coaching staff in the sport or through other pre-arranged procedures. Coaches will select their teams based upon their judgment of talent and knowledge of the athletes.

Any student who desires to join a team after the first official practice (the day the coach has designated and announced as the beginning of practice which cannot be earlier than the MHSAA beginning practice date) must practice with the team for at least two weeks before he/she will be allowed to participate in a contracted athletic event. A student could try out for an athletic team within two weeks of the season beginning with the coach's approval, unless the team has a player limit policy. Students who wish to participate or try out in these sports after the first official day, but prior to two weeks after the start of the season, must make arrangements with the head coach prior to the first official practice.

No student may try out for an athletic team, with or without a player limit, two weeks into the season, unless approved by the athletic director. A transfer student who is eligible to participate may try out after the midpoint of the season with the approval of the head coach and athletic director, but must practice for at least two (2) weeks before competing in a contracted athletic event.

## **Dropping a Sport**

No student should quit any sport without first consulting the coach and explaining his or her intentions. An athlete will not be permitted to participate in another sport until she/he has the authorization of both coaches involved and the athletic director.

If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

All changes must have the verbal/written approval of the athletic director.

Return all equipment issued to you.

The coach must submit the athletic dismissal/withdraw form to the athletic office.

The student may be subject to penalty at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

## **Additional Rules and Regulations**

Each coach has the authority and responsibility, with the approval of the Athletic Director, to establish his/her own rules and regulations as they pertain to his/her sport. All team rules must be clearly communicated to each team member and his/her parent(s) at the beginning of the season. Coaches have the right to dismiss participants for conduct considered detrimental to the team. To assure that such decisions by individual coaches are reasonably just and fair, any decision can be appealed.

## **Article IV – Eligibility**

### **Attendance**

1. A student athlete will not be permitted to practice or play in a game, contest, or event, if absent any part of the school day. Absences due to prearranged medical/dental appointments, court orders, funerals, and/or school related absences are exceptions and are excused with valid documentation. The Athletic Director may grant exceptions to this policy in advance or in emergency situations.
2. A student athlete who demonstrates poor attendance patterns will be monitored and those that cause concern will be addressed on an individual basis.
3. A student athlete cannot drop out of one sport and begin practicing in another sport within the same season unless there is an agreement reached to do so by both coaches involved.
4. Attendance and practice policies are set by the head coach and his/her staff. Due to planning and safety reasons involved in athletics, absences from practices/games may result in lack of competitive playing time/removal from the team.

### **Eligibility**

*Previous Academic Credit Record:* A student who does not meet the minimum standard of receiving credit in 66% (HS) or 50% (MS/JH) of classes at the end of the semester is not eligible until the next semester, on the 61st scheduled school day – provided the student is passing the standard when checked on the 60th day. A student who does not meet the standard can also go to summer school or take online classes so long as the school accepts the credit. Once the deficiency is made up and the transcript shows the minimum standard achieved, the student would be eligible.

**Weekly Eligibility:** Academic eligibility shall be checked weekly through the end of each season. To remain eligible to participate in athletic activities, student athletes must pass all of their classes. Any student having 1 or more F's will be ineligible for the following week and grades must meet eligibility standards. The burden shall be on the student to prove their eligibility. This means that any ineligible student athlete will be unable to participate in contests/activities/interscholar athletics beginning the following Monday through Saturday. If a student is ineligible, they may not leave school early for any contests or team events.

Students' grades are pulled via Skyward every Wednesday morning. Students are then called to the athletic office and notified via writing their grades. They then have until Friday afternoon to check with the teachers and correct any grades. A list will be sent to coaches Friday stating who are ineligible for the week (Sunday through Saturday)

## **Article V – Code of Conduct**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the athletic code is to establish standards for the athlete in the area of academic performance and athletic behavior for those individuals who voluntarily become involved in the interscholastic athletic program.

The code is not a complete list of undesirable conduct of athletes. Newaygo athletes are considered to be examples and role models and expected to act accordingly during their high school career. Any student athlete whose conduct is found to be a discredit or to cause unfavorable notoriety to the athlete, the team, or NHS during their high school career, shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, Athletic Director or principal, whether or not the conduct is specifically described in the athletic code of conduct.

Student Athletes are required to abide by the Newaygo' Academic and Citizenship Agreement at all times and at all places. When a student voluntarily participates in interscholastic athletics, he/she agrees to abide by the agreement throughout his/her school career. A student will not receive a uniform until he/she has submitted a physical form and turned in any past uniforms that have been assigned to him/her. A student will not compete until all of the aforementioned requirements are completed along with a signed acknowledgement form which includes a parent/guardian signature agreeing to abide by the Student Athlete Academic and Citizenship Agreement. This agreement applies equally for male and female athletes, candidates, members, and managers of all athletic teams. The agreement will be enforced for all athletes from the first day of signing until the termination of the student's athletic experience at Newaygo with the stipulation that records of Intermediate School infractions will not impact any future application of the agreement but that all due penalties will be served. Though the agreement will be continuously in force throughout the athlete's career, each athlete will recommit to its guidelines annually. An athlete who violates the agreement will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the consequences provisions of the Academic and Citizenship Agreement.

### **Section I – Prohibited Conduct or Activities**

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Student Athlete Academic and Citizenship Agreement and subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the "Consequences" section of the agreement (this agreement covers behaviors demonstrated year round including the summer months):

**A.** Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, being under the influence of or being present at a party where minors are consuming any of the items listed in 1-6 below. For purposes of this section of the agreement, the term "distribution" includes the "hosting" of a party at which any of the substances listed in items 1-6 are used:

1. Tobacco or tobacco products in any form including e-cigarettes and vapors;
2. Alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form;
3. Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal and/or state statute;
4. Steroids, human growth hormones or other controlled performance-enhancing drugs;
5. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance enhancing, i.e., “look alike” drugs;
6. Misuse of prescription drugs.

**Note:** It shall not be a violation of the agreement for an athlete to use or possess a prescription or patent drug when taken pursuant to a legal prescription issued by a licensed practitioner for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board Policy. An athlete shall notify his or her coach if he or she is taking prescription medicine.

7. An established violation of federal, state or local law/ordinance, including felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses, may result in the application of the consequences listed.
8. Cumulative or gross misconduct, as described in the Student Handbook, will result in a penalty as provided.
9. Conduct determined to be detrimental to the athletic program, school district, and or team as determined by the administration.

Prior to the commission of an infraction, athletes who are genuinely concerned about personal substance abuse problems are strongly encouraged to seek the confidential support of coaches and staff. A school-approved substance abuse assessment program might at that time be recommended. If, however, a violation of the code occurs, then all stipulated consequences apply and will be enforced.

## **Section II – Reporting Violations**

Reports by the above violations of the code shall be forwarded to the athletic director. The athletic director will notify the participant and the parents/guardians of the participant of the specifics of the violation and provide the participant with the opportunity to discuss his or her actions. The athletic director will then determine whether a violation has occurred and will provide written notification to the participant and to the parents/guardians of the participant of the penalty to be imposed for a violation found to have been committed.

Students and their parents/guardians shall be informed of the Activity Code prior to participation in the school activity program. The fact that the code is included with the student handbook will be considered notification. Students and their parents/guardians shall certify in writing that they have read the code and are aware that it is applicable to their son or daughter as long as their son or daughter is a participant.

**NOTE: STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AT NEWAYGO HIGH SCHOOL WITHOUT WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES CODE.**

### **Reasonable Suspicion**

*Reasonable suspicion* is intended to target situations when there are objective facts or specific occurrences that support the conclusion that a student-athlete may be using alcohol or other prohibited drug substances.



Reasonable suspicion may also be triggered by a previous positive test or an arrest and/or suspension for possession/use of illegal substances within the preceding twelve months. *Reasonable suspicion* is based on a common sense conclusion upon which practical people ordinarily rely. These conclusions can be drawn from observed or reliably described human behavior that is determined to be warning signs for possible drug/alcohol use (e.g., changes in emotional and physical condition and academic/athletic achievement, witnessed drug use, possession, etc.).

All Athletic Department personnel are required and other teaching or administrative staff are encouraged to report to a student-athlete's respective head coach, head athletics trainer, administrator or athletic director specific facts or observable behaviors that indicate that a particular student-athlete may be violating the policies expressed in this program.

### **Section III - Consequences**

Conduct Offenses: The Student Handbook and other regulations will, in most instances, determine the consequences in non-substance cases.

1. Violations of the Academic and Citizenship Agreement will be addressed by the Athletic Director.
2. Any student suspended from school for disciplinary reasons, as per the Student Handbook, is automatically restricted from participation in or attendance at any school sponsored athletic activity for the duration of the out-of-school suspension.
3. A team may have specific rules written by the coach, approved by the athletic director, and established by the coach at the first meeting of the season. Violations of team rules will be addressed by the coach.
4. In the event that school policies, procedures, and or this agreement do not cover situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and consequences to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances and to inform all affected individuals and/or groups.

B. Substance Abuse Offenses: Violation of conduct standard above. The use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is prohibited. Research provides evidence that students involved with controlled substances have increased truancy, poor academic performance, a loss of personal motivation, and a general lack of concern for citizenship and ethics. Students involved with controlled substances will be dealt with in a responsive manner. Parent involvement will be sought immediately. Disciplinary action may include mandatory assessment and/or criminal prosecution and may lead to long-term suspension or expulsion.

### **C. Consequences**

**1. First Offense:** Participation in 20% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the number of contests/dates based on how the MHSAA allows in the current season will be forfeited. The current season is defined as that season in progress at the date of the offense. The denial of participation will extend into the athlete's next season, if necessary, to fulfill the suspension assigned. The number of contests will be prorated on a percentage basis. During the suspension, the athlete will participate in all practices and be dressed in street clothes at all contests.

**2. Second Offense:** Participation in 50% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the number of contests/dates based on how the MHSAA allows in the current season will be forfeited. The current season is defined as that season in progress at the date of the offense. The denial of participation will extend into the



athlete's next season, if necessary, to fulfill the suspension assigned. The number of contests will be prorated on a percentage basis. During the suspension, the athlete will participate in all practices and be dressed in street clothes at all contests.

**3. Third Offense:** The team member is to be suspended from participation in all interscholastic events for the remainder of their middle school and or high school eligibility as defined by the MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

Appeal to the Superintendent/Board of Education for reinstatement of athletic participation.

**4. Self-Reporting:** If a student athlete finds his/herself in a situation of being present at a party where minors are consuming any of the items listed in section 1.A. 1-6 and unable to leave he/she may report it to the assigned number/site within 24 hours of the violation and an investigation will be conducted by the administration to determine if disciplinary action is warranted.

#### **Section IV - Penalties for Violations (post season)**

If the violation occurs during the postseason, the student-athlete will become immediately ineligible for the remainder of the postseason. Depending on the number of the violation (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.) or the seriousness of the violation, the penalty may be extended into the next sport season.

#### **Section V - Penalty Enforcement**

All current student-athletes and potential student-athletes shall be considered under the jurisdiction of the athletic code, upon enrollment in the Newaygo School District. It is understood that the Principal, designee or other administrator may suspend from athletics a student-athlete at any time when the student-athlete's conduct may have a detrimental effect upon the image of Newaygo School District.

These regulations are in effect throughout the calendar year (365 days).

When serving a team suspension, a student-athlete must attend all practice sessions and (unless excused) must be present (not in uniform) at all contests. The only exception to this rule would be if a student-athlete were suspended for the full season in one sport. The student-athlete would not be allowed to participate with the team.

If a second penalty is imposed while a previous penalty is being served, the penalty for the second offense will not begin until the penalty for the first offense has been served.

If a penalty is not completed during a given sports season, the portion not served will be carried over to the next sport that the student-athlete participates in. (This would apply to student-athletes who are sophomores, juniors or seniors).

Student/athletes serving out of school suspensions are ineligible to practice or compete during the time they are suspended. For suspensions ending on Friday, a coach may allow the athlete to compete on a Saturday. In-school suspensions will be treated the same as an out of school suspension. After-school suspensions may or may not affect the athlete depending upon whether the required time conflicts with the practice or game schedule. After-school suspensions will be assigned on the next scheduled date, regardless of conflicts.

Penalties will not be considered to have been served unless the athlete fully completes the season. Quitting the team is not considered "serving the penalty".

If a subsequent offense is committed while a previous penalty is being served, the penalty for the subsequent offense will not begin until the penalty for the first offense has been served.

The offenses will be cumulative during a student's intermediate or high school career, rather than on a yearly basis.

### **TRANSFERS FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS OF A SCHOOL STUDENT/ATHLETIC CODE**

Newaygo School District will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject as a result of a student or athletic code violation(s) at that student's most recent previously attended school.

A student who transfers to Newaygo School District after becoming ineligible because of student or athletic conduct code violation(s) at the previously attended school, shall remain ineligible at Newaygo School District for not less than the period of ineligibility imposed by the previously attended school. This would be the case even if the student's situation would otherwise satisfy one or more of the exceptions to the transfer regulation of Newaygo School District and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (Regulation I, Section 9), and even if the act which caused the student's ineligibility at the previous school would not be a violation or cause the same period of ineligibility at Newaygo School District.

That student was subject to the rules and penalties under the previous school and shall not be allowed to escape the consequences of his/her conduct and, in doing so, displace students of Newaygo School District from teams, positions, events, and awards at least until the full period of ineligibility has been served.

### **Citizenship Code of Conduct**

Athletes are expected to be leaders in the classroom as well. We expect our athletes to show respect to the teachers and classmates just like we expect them to show respect to their coaches, teammates and opponents. Athletes are students first which includes academics and appropriate classroom behavior. Those not showing proper behavior may be disciplined further following these steps:

1. Name on minor behavior list for the 4th time results in a restorative practice reflection given by administration with an added question of "how will these continued behaviors affect your team." Administration will make a phone call home informing parents of the consequences moving forward.
2. Subsequent times a student is put on the minor behavior list or receives a major infraction, may result in changes in playing time, game suspensions and/or removal from the team. A parent/guardian may be notified via phone about the discipline.
3. The administration has the discretion to discipline a player as they feel necessary.

### **Section VI - Appeals Process**

**A.** An athlete, and his/her parents or guardians may appeal the decision of the Athletic Director. The request should be in writing and submitted to the building principal within five school days of receiving written/verbal notice of the breach and its consequences from the Athletic Director.

**B.** The principal will review the issue and make a determination as soon as possible but in not more than five school days from the receipt of the appeal. Written notice of the principal's decisions shall be forwarded immediately by mail/email to the athlete, parent/guardian, athletic director and superintendent. Every effort

should be made to communicate the decision verbally and in a timely manner, however the written communication verifies the decision.

**C.** A parent/guardian may request the superintendent to review the principal's decision. Written notice of the superintendent's determination shall be forwarded by mail/email to the parent/guardian, principal and athletic director.

**D.** A parent/guardian may appeal the superintendent's decision through a written and signed statement to the president of the board of education within five school days of their receipt of the superintendent's decision. The board of education shall meet with the concerned parties at the next regularly-scheduled board meeting. A copy of the board's decision of the appeal shall be forwarded by mail/email to each concerned party within five school days of the meeting. The decision of the board of education is final.

## **CONCUSSIONS**

### **MHSAA PROTOCOL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION SPORTS PLAYING RULES FOR CONCUSSIONS**

“Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.”

The language above, which appears in all National Federation sports rule books, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. This language reflects an increasing focus on safety and acknowledges that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness.

This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care professional for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
2. If it is confirmed by the school's designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
  - a. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
    - b. Only an M.D., D.O. Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to activity.
    - c. The clearance must be in writing and must be unconditional. It is not sufficient that the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner has approved the student to begin a return-to-play progression. The medical examiner must approve the student's return to unrestricted activity.

d. Individual schools, districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols including but not limited to mandatory periods of inactivity, screening and post-concussion testing prior to or after the written clearance for return to activity.

4. Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player's school and the MHSAA if the situation was brought to the officials' attention.

5. **ONLINE REPORTING:** Member schools are required to complete and submit an online report designated by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events when they occur in all levels of all sports during the season in practices and competitions. Schools with no concussions for a season (fall, winter and spring) are required to report this at the conclusion of that season.

6. **POST-CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM:** Prior to returning to physical activity (practice or competition) the student and parent (if a minor student) must complete the Post-Concussion Consent Form which accompanies the written unconditional clearance of an M.D., D.O., P.A or N.P. This form should be kept on file at the school for seven years after the student's graduation and emailed to or faxed to 517- 332-4071.

7. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO/PA/NP) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to activity may not be overruled.

**SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY** Following are the consequences for not complying with National Federation and MHSAA rules when players are removed from play because of a concussion:

- A concussed student is ineligible to return to any athletic meet or contest on the same day the concussion is sustained.
- A concussed student is ineligible to enter a meet or contest on a subsequent day without the written authorization of an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner and the signed "Post-Concussion Consent Form."

These students are considered ineligible players and any meet or contest which they enter is forfeited. In addition, that program is placed on probation through that sport season of the following school year. For a second offense in that sport during the probationary period – that program is continued on probation through that sport season of the following school year and not permitted to participate in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the original and extended probationary period. A school which fails to submit required online concussion reports will be subject to the penalties of Regulation V, Section 4 A. This includes reporting zero if no concussions occurred in a season.

## **MHSAA REGULATIONS**

### **Michigan High School Athletic Association**

In all matters of interscholastic athletics, Newaygo is governed by the rules set forth by the Michigan High School Athletic Association of which the district is a member. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, an athlete must comply with these rules. The athletic director and coach of the athletes will emphasize these at the beginning of the season of each individual sport. To familiarize parents with procedures, the athletic director will arrange meetings with coaches and parents annually. It is the responsibility, however, of each athlete to become familiar with all rules governing competitions at Newaygo.

## **PHYSICAL EXAM**

Students must have on file, in the school's office, a physician's statement for the current school year (on or after April 15), certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests. An assumption of risk and consent to participation signed by the student and parent or guardian as well as consent to disclosure of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA must also be on file prior to participation.

## **AWARDS**

Athletes may not accept any award or merchandise exceeding \$40.00 in value for athletic performance. Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates, or money are in violation.

## **LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

After practicing with or participating with high school teams, students cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport in the same season. Exceptions include ice hockey and all individual sports, which apply the rule from the point of a student's first participation in a contest or scrimmage, rather than practice. In tennis, the rule applies from the first date that competitions are allowed to commence for any player. In skiing it applies when the team holds its first scrimmage or contest. In girls spring soccer, up to two scrimmage competitions are allowed at certain college ID camps. Students in skiing, hockey and soccer may only enter the MHSAA tournament if they have been a team member in a contest against at least four MHSAA member school teams. Students in individual sports may participate in a maximum of two (2) non-school individual meets or contests during the school season while not representing their school.

## **AGE**

High school students become ineligible if they reach their 19th birthday before September 1 of a current school year.

## **SEASONS OF ENROLLMENT**

Students cannot be eligible in high school for more than eight semesters and the seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four first semesters and four second semesters of enrollment and competition and cannot compete if they have graduated from high school or accepted a GED. Terms count to the allowed total whether or not a student participates in sports.

## **DISQUALIFICATION RULE**

The MHSAA Regulations Handbook states that students and coaches who are disqualified from one contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be disqualified from the next contest in all sports and will be ineligible to participate indefinitely until he/she completes the specified NFHS online sportsmanship course.

## **Revision**

School personnel will make every effort to ensure the consistent and equitable application of the Newaygo School District Student Athlete Academic & Citizenship Agreement. Pursuant to this goal, an "ad hoc" committee composed of student/athletes, parents, coaches, teachers, and administrators will review the agreement on a yearly basis in the spring. The Newaygo Board of Education must approve all revisions.

# 2024-2025 (High School) Newaygo Athletic Consent Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Athletic & Citizenship Agreement / Code of Conduct**

By my name and signature below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the Newaygo Athletic Code of Conduct. I understand that an athlete who elects to participate in athletics at Newaygo is voluntarily making the choice to develop good physical conditioning, meet at least the minimum academic expectations and exercise good judgment. I also understand that Newaygo' student athletes and all those who support them will consistently uphold excellence in the classroom, the community and in athletic competition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Signature

## **Sportsmanship Contract**

By my name and signature below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the Newaygo Sportsmanship Contract. I understand that this is a binding contract between the athletic director, coach, parent, and student athlete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Signature

## **Injury Consent**

By my name and signature below, I acknowledge that I give permission for the athletic trainer/ school to treat my child in the event of an emergency or injury.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Signature

## **Concussion Awareness**

By my name and signature below, I acknowledge in accordance with Public Acts 342 and 343 of 2012 that I have received and reviewed the Concussion Fact Sheet for Parents and/or the Concussion Fact Sheet for Students provided by the Newaygo School District.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Signature

.....  
**Athletic Packet**

By my name and signature below, I acknowledge that I have received a hard copy of the Newaygo Athletic & Citizenship Agreement/Code of Conduct/Sportsmanship Contract/Injury Consent/Concussion Awareness and it has been reviewed with me. I also understand that a copy of these items can be found on the Newaygo Website under Athletics.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Name Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Signature

