

NORTHSIDE ISD ATHLETICS

We hope this will serve you as a guide, answering some of the questions that will concern you during the course of the year. We realize many things will come up during the year that will not be answered in this Policy Book. Please call us at the Athletic Office any time you have a concern or questions about rules, policy, schedules, etc.

The University Interscholastic League is the governing body for the athletic programs in Texas Public Schools. The Northside ISD Board of Education, administrators, coaches and teachers fully support the UIL and its enforcement of the rules.

Please understand that athletics is designed to accommodate students who have the ability and emotional stability to handle competition as we know it at NISD. Therefore, not all students are capable of competing in this program. One of the difficult tasks you face as coach is making the judgment as to who should be selected to compete in this program. Students are not obligated to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. It should be stressed that being a member of an athletic team is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coach should have the authority to revoke that privilege when rules are not followed.

We are all aware that being involved in athletics demands a lot of time and dedication from the coaches and players alike. There is a lot of satisfaction gained by students who have competed in an athletic program, which will last a lifetime. It should be a positive experience, even though there is a lot of discipline involved. We all know students want discipline and rules by which to abide. We all want an athletic program that will be a compliment to Northside ISD, and we know you will work hard to make it a reality.

NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC OFFICE

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

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EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Athletics, when utilized properly, serves as a potential media through which the optimum growth...physical, mental, emotional, social and moral...of the participants may be fostered. During the many arduous practice sessions and in the variety of situations that arise during the heat of the contest, the players must repeatedly react to their own capabilities and limitations, and to the behavior of others. Their repeated reactions, and the psychological conditioning that accompanies them, inevitably results in changes...mental...as well as physical...in the players. Because each contest is usually surrounded by an emotionally charged atmosphere and the players are vitally interested in the outcome of the game, they are more pliable and subject to change than in most educational situations. To insure that these changes are educationally desirable, all phases of athletics should be expertly organized and conducted.

To attain success in athletics, the participants must train their minds and bodies to respond instantly and effectively to the multitude of situations that arise during the course of play. This, of course, parallels learning to succeed later in life.

The competitive world is neither gentle nor overly kind. In such a world however, the student, under wise direction, begins to grow toward a social maturity by learning to: 1) suffer mild hurts, mental or physical, in silence; 2) control emotional outbursts; 3) disguise or hide feelings of fear; 4) restrain the outward expression of sudden impulses; 5) understand and endure delays in getting what he/she wants.

Because of physical makeups and for other reasons, many students should not participate in competitive athletics. We should not expect all students to do so. Reasonable efforts should be made to locate and identify students who have the interest, desire, ability, and heart to participate.

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

Every coach should read the Constitution and Contest Rules of the Interscholastic League regarding his/her sport, and be aware of all rules and rule changes.

The principal and coordinator of each school should confer with other staff members regarding rules, starting dates, etc.

Head sport coaches will be held responsible for his/her eligibility in that particular sport.

Do not hesitate to contact the Athletic Office on any questionable matters.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Northside Independent School District's competitive sports is to maintain a broad-based program that will afford all students with athletic interests, an opportunity for safe and healthful participation in the sports of their choice. This philosophy is based on the concept that there is a need for rugged physical development and fitness for every youngster, as well as a variance of interest, abilities, and desires.

OBJECTIVES

1. Keep as many pupils as possible in a good environment.
2. Instill good habits, sound morals, exemplary citizenship, and a high standard of sportsmanship in the pupils of Northside Independent School District.
3. Encourage students to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially.
4. All athletes should have an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness. The importance of proper rest, good eating habits and cleanliness should be stressed at every opportunity.
5. Develop all programs in such a manner that the end result will be one of unity, harmony, and success.
6. Instill in all athletes the desire to represent their school and community in a manner that will make the school administrators, coaches, parents, teachers, and other citizens of the community proud of them.
7. Emphasize to athletes at all levels of competition, the realization that athletic competition is a privilege that carries definite responsibilities. Some of these are: training, loyalty, eligibility, improvement, courage, and perseverance.
8. Create in all pupils a greater interest in the value of education.
9. Maintain and conduct the most successful interscholastic athletic program possible.

ATHLETIC COORDINATOR

The Coordinator serves in a dual role as a coach and an administrator of the athletic programs for high school and middle schools assigned to his campus. The Coordinator shall be responsible for the following:

1. Will be involved with the Principal, Assistant Coordinator and Athletic Director in the recommendation of coaches for high school and middle school.
2. Will follow the direction of the Athletic Director in the evaluation process. At the High School level, the Principal, Coordinator and Head Sport Coach (for assistants) will be involved in the evaluation process for coaches of boys' athletics. The aforementioned in addition to the Assistant to the Coordinator for girls' athletics will be involved in the evaluation process for coaches of girls' athletics. At the Middle School level, the Middle School Principal, Coordinator, Head Girls and Boys Coach (with respect to the gender for which they are responsible to oversee), and the High School Head Sport Coach will be involved in the evaluation process.
3. Is designated the supervisor of athletic programs, grades 7-12.
4. Will settle conflicts and problems within the department, if possible, before the problem is brought to the attention of the Principal or Athletic Director.
5. Is authorized, along with the Principal, to coordinate activities of the Booster Club.
6. Coordinates with the Principal, the assignment of staff to supervise athletic activities on campus.
7. Makes coaching assignments for the high school staff.
8. Works closely with the middle school principals on coaching assignments for the middle school staff.
9. Responsible for all forms and reports required by the Athletic Office and the UIL for all sports (should keep a copy of all forms on file).
10. Sees that all UIL rules and regulations are followed.
11. Works jointly with the Principal, Assistant Coordinator and Athletic Director on maintenance of athletic facilities on campus and other assignments as deemed necessary.
12. Other assignments as deemed necessary by the Athletic Director.

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR FOR GIRLS' ATHLETICS

The head girls' coach is primarily responsible for overseeing all issues concerning the girl's athletic programs for high school and middle school assigned to his/her campus. The head girls' coach shall be responsible for the following:

1. Will be involved with the Athletic Coordinator and Principal in the recommendation of coaches for the high school.
2. Will be involved with the coordinator in the athletic evaluation process.
3. Will settle conflicts and problems within the womens' department, if possible, before the problem is brought to the attention of the coordinator or principal.
4. Will organize, with the coordinator, girls' athletic involvement within the Booster Club.
5. Works with the coordinator on the assignment of staff to supervise athletic activities.
6. Works with the coordinator and the principal on coaching assignments for girl's athletics.
7. Involved in the collection and distribution of all UIL forms and information. UIL forms will then be turned in to the coordinator.
8. Is knowledgeable of general UIL rules and regulations and is the first resource of information for women coaches. Assists staff in finding answers for UIL issues in question from coordinator and/or principal.
9. Communicates facility maintenance, needs and concerns with the coordinator. Prior to the start of seasonal play, (fall, winter, and spring sports), the head girls' coach will report the conditions of facilities to the Principal, Athletic Coordinator and Athletic Office.
10. Will attend seasonal meetings with the Central Office Athletic Staff concerning personnel, scheduling, facilities and play-off concerns.
11. Other assignments as deemed necessary by the Athletic Director.

HIGH SCHOOL HEAD SPORT COACHES

The head coach at the high school level shall be responsible for the following:

1. Communicating with the coordinator on staff assignments concerning his/her sport.
2. Designs offense, defense, and techniques to be used in that sport, grades 7 through 12.
3. Supervises all coaches in grades 7 through 12 working in that sport.
4. Should be familiar with UIL rules concerning his/her sport and see that all rules are followed.
5. Responsible for UIL forms, inventory and requisitions for his/her sport.
6. Responsible for assuring eligibility of all participants in his/her sport and the handling of the necessary forms through the Principal's office.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HEAD COACHES

One girl's coach and one boy's coach on each middle school campus will be designated as Head Coach. The middle school head coaches shall be responsible for the following:

1. Handling problems among coaches on his/her campus.
2. Supervise athletic activities on the campus.
3. Responsible for seeing that rosters and inventories are submitted at the proper time.
4. Handling communications with the High School Coordinator, Head Girls' Coach and Athletic Director.
5. Works with the principal on coaching assignments for his/her staff.
6. Is knowledgeable of general UIL rules and regulations and is the first resource of information for women coaches. Assists staff in finding answers for UIL issues.
7. Is knowledgeable of the Northside Athletic policies and procedures pertaining to athletic contests. The head coach is responsible for educating all staff and providing assurance that these procedures are consistently carried out.
8. Will attend seasonal meetings with the Central Office Athletic Staff concerning personnel, scheduling, facilities & play-off concerns
9. Other duties in athletics as deemed necessary by the High School Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and Athletic Office such as track meets, tournaments, etc.

EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

Northside provides comprehensive extracurricular programs for the benefit of NISD students. The underlying belief is that that participation in an extracurricular program can provide students the opportunity to learn responsibility, dedication, leadership, hard work, respect for rules, respect for authority and many other positive qualities. Regulations are established to promote these qualities and to help build and maintain strong programs. **It is recognized that some of the expectations for students involved in extracurricular activities exceed the expectations for the general student body.** These students are expected to follow district policies and all program-specific procedures set by the district and the school. Violations of the rules will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. The facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining consequences for rule violations.

It is the desire of Northside coaches, directors and sponsors to educate and counsel our students on the harmful effects of a violation of this Code of Conduct and the potential consequences inflicted upon themselves, their families, and their respective teammates should they choose to breach the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. It is also the intent of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct to provide a clearly defined course for our students to follow and instill a belief that a one time infraction need not result in a permanent pattern in life.

In all instances of an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct the student will be provided due process. The process for determining a violation of the Code of Conduct will be established by the principal on his/her campus. Any student involved in an extracurricular activity who is found to be in violation of any of the infractions mentioned below will face disciplinary action.

Once guilt has been determined, the General Guidelines for Student Discipline as outlined in NISD Board Policy FO (Local) will be used when possible and applied to all cases concerning the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. The following penalties will be administered throughout the district when infractions occur:

TOBACCO

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of tobacco. This includes an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device.

A first offense will result in 2-week suspension of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there are not 2 weeks remaining in the particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

A second offense will result in a 4-week suspension of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there are not 4 weeks remaining in the particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. Another contract will be required. 6

A third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

ALCOHOL

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol.

The first offense will result in a 3-week suspension of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there are not 3 weeks remaining in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

The second offense will result in a 6 week suspension of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there are not 6 weeks remaining in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. Another contract will be required.

The third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of any controlled or otherwise illegal substance.

A first offense will result in a 5-week suspension of the student from game competition or activity. If there are not 5 weeks remaining in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

A second offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

THEFT (on campus)

Any extracurricular participant guilty of theft on campus will face the following consequences:

A first offense will result in a 3-6 week suspension of the student from game competition determined by the circumstances involved in the theft. If there are not 3-6 weeks left in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in the subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

A second offense will result in dismissal of the student from extracurricular participation for the remainder of the school year. Another contract will be required.

A third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular activities.

ARRESTS

Citations or arrests on or off campus in regards to smoking, using/selling or possession of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, drinking alcoholic beverages, vandalism or any behavior which causes embarrassment to the team or Northside ISD may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program. Any member of extracurricular organization **must notify** the head coach, director or sponsoring staff member immediately upon any arrest or citation. Failure to notify the staff member responsible for the program may result in suspension or dismissal from the program.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Social networking websites and electronic communication: Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that Northside ISD's extracurricular participants' personal electronic communication is appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication including, but not limited to, MySpace, Twitter, Facebook, photosharing, inappropriate texting that is published or appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Extracurricular participants are responsible for texting and electronic communications on the internet through their personal websites as well as postings on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd, vulgar or obscene comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Communication on the internet or by electronic means by extracurricular participants that are published and as a result cause disruption or damage to school district property at Northside or another school district are also inappropriate.

Any member of the a Northside ISD extracurricular program who is involved in inappropriate, disruptive, negative, lewd, obscene, or sexual pictures, comments, or statuses on any social networks such as, but not limited to, MySpace, Twitter, or Facebook may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program.

ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Behaviors that are identified by the Texas Education Code, Section 37.007, may also result in suspension or dismissal of a student from the extracurricular program. These behaviors are identified in the Student-Parent Handbook and are listed as Category Offenses I, II, III and IV of the Code of Student Conduct and will apply to students while on or off the campus. Students must remain aware that being a part of an extracurricular activity is considered an honor and a privilege and not a right. Therefore, it requires observance of all discipline policies whether or not a student is at school or school-related activities.

The discipline consequences for violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct may include suspension or dismissal of the student from the extracurricular program. Such actions shall be taken by coaches, directors or sponsors only after consultation with the campus athletic coordinator (where appropriate) and/or school administration.

A behavioral contract may also be used following various infractions. Consequences for some rule violations may be addressed by coaches through discipline within the student's program. Additional disciplinary consequences can also be imposed by the appropriate school officials for conduct or behavior that violates the District's Code of Student Conduct.

Note: If the offense occurs during the summer, the suspension from activities will begin with the first week of competition/activity.

If the offense occurs during the sport season or period of extracurricular activity, the suspension will begin with the next competition or extracurricular activity as determined by the coach, director or sponsor.

CONTRACTS

Upon verification of a first offense of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, the student will be required to attend a conference in which he/she will be presented with a contract detailing future behavioral expectations. The contract will be signed by the student, parent(s) or guardian(s), campus administrator, and his/her coach, director or sponsor (and athletic coordinator where appropriate). The contract will reflect an understanding of the expectations of his/her particular campus and consequences for future rule violations. The contract must be signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) prior to his/her reinstatement to the extracurricular program.

I have read and understand the Northside ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Student (Print)

Parent or Guardian (Print)

Student (Signature)

Parent or Guardian (Signature)

Date

Date

HIGH SCHOOL POLICIES

ELIGIBILITY

1. A student in grades 9-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if:
 - A. beginning the 9th grade...has been promoted from the 8th grade to 9th
 - B. beginning the 10th grade...has earned 5 credits;
 - C. beginning the 11th grade...has earned 10 credits OR has earned 5 credits in the last twelve months;
 - D. beginning the 12th grade...has earned 15 credits OR has earned 5 credits in the last twelve months.
2. In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity for a 3 week period following the first six weeks period of a school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than 70 in any course for that preceding grading period.
3. If a student's six weeks grade average in any course is lower than 70 at the end of a six weeks period, that student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity for the succeeding three weeks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, REFER TO THE UIL CONSTITUTION AND CONTEST RULES BOOK UNDER ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY.

4. A student who has been suspended from school for misconduct shall not participate in practice or competition until such suspension has been lifted.
5. At the end of any three week period in which a student has attained a course grade average of at least 70 in each course taken, any suspension from participation shall be removed.
6. Extracurricular activities shall be limited, from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week, to no more than one contest or performance per activity. Practice outside the school day shall also be limited to a maximum of eight (8) hours per school week, per activity.
7. Students who also assist the coach, such as student managers or student trainers, must meet all academic eligibility requirements even though they do not participate in the actual performance or contest.
8. A student receiving an incomplete in a course is considered ineligible until the incomplete is replaced with a passing grade for that grading period.
9. A student who fails a course becomes ineligible seven (7) days after the last day of the grading period in which the grade was earned.

REPORTS

All high school head coaches are required to submit the following reports:

1. **ROSTERS** - Due in the Athletic Office immediately upon completion of tryouts. Rosters should include a breakdown of sub-varsity & varsity teams with the gender/ethnicity of each athlete identified.
2. **TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY FORMS** - This form will be used for your initial report and for all additional reports submitted after your season begins.
3. **PAPF (PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORMS)** - This form will be used for transfer athletes who participated in either sub-varsity or varsity athletics at another school. Any 9th grade athlete participating on a varsity team will also be required to complete a PAPF form.

Copies of these forms are to be sent to:

- a. UIL Office
 - b. District Chairman
 - c. School File
4. It shall be the responsibility of each head sport coach to keep on file the following forms before any athlete will be allowed to participate or practice in a game.
 - a. PHYSICAL/PARENT PERMISSION FORM
 - b. ACKNOWLEDGE OF RULES
 - c. INSURANCE
 - d. ADMINISTERING OF MEDICATION
 - e. TRANSPORTATION

NO ATHLETE SHALL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL THESE FORMS
ARE ON FILE WITH THE SCHOOL.

TRANSPORTATION

Teams will travel by school bus to all athletic contests unless permission has been obtained to do otherwise. The Athletic Office will schedule buses for all trips. If coaches have concerns regarding transportation, please call the Athletic Office.

DO NOT CALL THE TRANSPORTATION OFFICE. Buses are automatically scheduled as per each sports schedule. A coach should be with the team at all times from departure to arrival back on campus from an athletic contest. Team members should stay with the team at all times.

A CDL LICENSE WITH A SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS ENDORSEMENT IS REQUIRED. PLEASE CONTACT TRANSPORTATION DIRECTLY FOR A SCHEDULE OF CLASSES. ALL COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO BE TRAINED, LICENSED, AND T.E.A. CERTIFIED TO DRIVE A SCHOOL VEHICLE. AN ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN AT A NISD CONTRACTED MEDICAL FACILITY.

Coaches will be paid \$25.00 per trip for driving a school vehicle. All coaches are required to sign for their bus at the respective bus station. If you neglect to sign for your bus, **YOU WILL NOT BE PAID!**

MAINTENANCE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS

The NISD Athletic Department will be responsible for mowing, marking, aeration and fertilizing the athletic fields on each campus. All other maintenance shall be done by the district maintenance department on a regularly scheduled basis or upon request of the principal.

Each campus shall be responsible for the watering of the athletic fields throughout the year.

The NISD Athletic Department shall mark all athletic fields the week prior to their use. Aeration and fertilization shall be done during the winter, spring, and summer months.

HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

The UIL will govern the award to an individual during his/her high school enrollment in the same high school.

The decision concerning the selection of the pupil and presentation of the award must be made during the academic year in which the student qualifies for the award.

Awards are granted to students for exemplary representation of the school and district. Recipients of such awards are subject to the rules and regulations of the school and district.

There are no participation awards given and there will be no awards given for sub-varsity participants.

When suggested letter standards have been met for the athlete, he/she may receive an award.

EQUIPMENT AND INVENTORIES

All athletic equipment will be issued from Paul Taylor Field House prior to each season. Needs will be determined from the most current inventory turned in by the coach of each sport. Be sure to add new equipment received to your existing inventory. All NISD athletic teams are expected to wear the uniform issued by the Athletic Office.

It is the responsibility of all head coaches to keep an inventory of his/her equipment. Forms are furnished by the Athletic Office and are to be completed and returned **ONE WEEK AFTER THE END OF THE SEASON.**

All equipment is to be kept clean and in good repair. If you have equipment in need of repair, contact the Athletic Office. At the end of each season, all equipment should be cleaned and properly stored, ready for next year. In the event of lost or stolen equipment, the player is expected to return or pay for said equipment. Prices may be obtained by calling Kevin Hamilton.

The use of any equipment, such as sweats or warm-up jackets, issued through the athletic office, is restricted to athletic participation only.

OFFICIALS

Officials will be paid through our Accounts Payable Department at Central Office. For all contests on campus, coaches will have officials fill out a form furnished by the Athletic Office. This form **SHOULD BE SENT TO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE, VIA PONY MAIL, THE VERY NEXT DAY**. Failure to send in these forms on time delays payment and is unfair to the official.

If officials do not show, the coaches will officiate the game, or be responsible for getting someone else to officiate the game. If coaches do officiate their own games - **THEY WILL NOT GET PAID!**

SUPERVISION OF CAMPUS CONTESTS

Coaches will be assigned to monitor games on campus. Admission prices for NISD schools will be \$2.00 for students and \$4.00 for adults.

MIDDLE SCHOOL POLICIES

PURPOSE

A properly administered athletic program can enhance the overall education of middle school students. These programs need to take into consideration the substantial range in individual differences among students of this age, i.e., age, body build, interests, ability, health, experience, stages of physiological, emotional, and social maturity. Primary emphasis should be exploratory rather than specialization, and what is best for the greatest number of participants involved. The purpose of the middle school athletic program is:

1. To conduct the athletic program so that educational objectives shall be achieved; that the highest ideals of sportsmanship are upheld; that no single phase of the athletic program is promoted at the expense of other programs.
2. To equalize competition and administer the program so that mismatching of teams or individuals is not permitted. Individual schools must have final responsibility to enforce this concept.
3. To integrate the athletic program with all other activities essential to middle school youth, avoiding excessive activity load for any student.
4. To require that participants are properly examined, approved, equipped, classified, instructed, and supervised.
5. To administer the program so there will be a minimum loss of school time, proper but minimal publicity, competent officiating, and the program kept in its proper perspective.
6. To foster proper respect for authority and avoidance of all evidences of undesirable athletic mannerisms.
7. To prepare the student for high school athletics by teaching the basics and stressing fundamentals.

NORTHSIDE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (NAC)

The Northside Athletic Conference will consist of twenty Northside middle schools. The principals of each school will make up the executive committee.

NAC will include seventh and eighth grade teams in:

Boys Football and Basketball "A" & "B" team per grade
Girls Volleyball and Basketball "A" & "B" team per grade
Boys Track One team per grade
Girls Track One team per grade
Golf & Tennis Girls & Boys-team per grade

Game/tournament limitations: All sports are limited to no more than one contest per week. Basketball and Volleyball may play a tournament during the week another game is played.

ELIGIBILITY

An individual may participate in League competition or contest as a representative of a member school if he/she meets the following:

1. Has been promoted from the 6th to the 7th grade and is less than 14 years of age on September 1.
2. Has been promoted from the 7th to the 8th grade and is less than 15 years of age on September 1. (Exception: A 7th grader who is 14 years old may participate on the 8th grade team during his 7th grade year, but will be ineligible his 8th grade year.
3. Is a full time student at the school he/she represents.
4. A student who repeats the 7th or 8th grade for athletic purposes could forfeit their senior year of high school eligibility.
5. A student who repeats the 7th and 8th grade for athletic purposes could forfeit their junior and senior years of high school eligibility.
6. If an athlete repeats the 7th grade, he/she should participate again as a 7th grader. If the athlete is too old to participate as a 7th grader, he/she should play as an 8th grader.
7. Did not change schools within the previous year for athletic purposes.
8. Transfer students will be eligible after he/she has been in attendance at that school for five (5) days.
9. In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity for a six weeks period following the first six weeks of school, a student must not have a recorded grade lower than 70 in any course for the preceding six weeks period.
10. A student whose recorded six weeks grade in any course is lower than 70, shall be suspended from participation during the succeeding three week period. For further information, refer to the Constitution and Contest Rules Book under Academic Eligibility.
11. A student who has been suspended from extracurricular activities shall be allowed to practice in such activities until the suspension has been lifted.
12. Once a student's grade has been recorded, it may not be changed, and stands for three weeks.
13. A student who fails a course becomes ineligible seven (7) days after the last day of the six or three week period during which the grade was earned.

REPORTS

All middle school coaches are required to submit the following reports:

1. **ROSTERS - Due** in Rank One immediately upon completion of tryouts. Rosters should include a breakdown of 7th & 8th grade teams with the gender/ethnicity of each athlete identified.
2. **INVENTORY REQUISITIONS - Due** in Rank One at the request of the Athletic Office.
3. **PHYSICAL, INSURANCE WAIVER, & TRANSPORTATION** - Signed insurance forms, physical/parental permission, and transportation forms must be on file at the school before any student can be allowed to participate in a practice or a game.

MAINTENANCE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS

The NISD Athletic Department shall be responsible for mowing, marking, aerating and fertilizing the athletic fields on each campus. All other maintenance shall be done by the district maintenance department on a regularly scheduled basis or upon request of the principal.

Each campus shall be responsible for the watering of the athletic fields throughout the year.

The NISD Athletic Department shall mark all athletic fields the week prior to their use. Aeration and fertilization shall be done during the winter, spring, and summer months.

TRANSPORTATION

Teams will travel by school bus to all athletic contests unless permission has been obtained to do otherwise. The Coaches will schedule buses for all trips. If coaches have concerns regarding transportation, please call the Athletic Office. **DO NOT CALL THE TRANSPORTATION OFFICE.**

A C.D.L. LICENSE WITH A SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS ENDORSEMENT WILL BE REQUIRED. ALL COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO BE TRAINED, LICENSED, AND T.E.A. CERTIFIED TO DRIVE A SCHOOL VEHICLE. AN ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN AT A NISD CONTRACTED MEDICAL FACILITY.

Coaches will be paid \$25.00 per trip for driving a school bus. All coaches are required to sign for the bus at the respective bus station. If you neglect to sign for the bus, and turn in paperwork at the end of your trip, **YOU WILL NOT BE PAID.**

AWARDS

There will be no awards given for middle school competition. Participation awards may be given by the individual school at their own discretion.

No trophies shall be given or accepted by a school. Ribbons will be awarded to individuals at all track meets except a practice meet.

EQUIPMENT & INVENTORIES

All athletic equipment will be issued from the Athletic Office prior to each sport season. All Northside athletic teams are expected to wear the uniform issued by the NISD Athletic Office. It is the responsibility of all coaches to keep a spread sheet of all equipment issued.

All equipment is to be kept clean and in good repair. At the end of each season, all equipment should be cleaned and properly stored, ready for next year. In the event of lost or stolen equipment, the athlete is expected to pay for said equipment. Prices may be obtained by calling the Athletic Office.

OFFICIALS

Officials will be paid by the Accounts Payable Department at Central Office. Coaches will have officials fill out a form furnished by the Athletic Office. These forms should be sent to the Athletic Office, Via Pony mail the DAY AFTER THE CONTEST! Failure to send in these forms will delay payment and is unfair to the official.

If officials do not show, the coaches will officiate the game themselves, or be responsible for getting someone else to do so.

GENERAL POLICIES

1. No game or contest may begin prior to the end of the academic school day.
2. Practice outside the school day is limited to a maximum of eight (8) hours per week per activity.
3. The Athletic Office shall schedule all games and contests.
4. Home team coaches must report the scores to the Athletic Office, BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS THE NEXT MORNING. Each team must post scores in Rank One before school begins the next morning.
5. Conduct violations by coaches and players will be reviewed by the Athletic Office.
6. Bands, pep squads and cheerleaders will not be allowed at any games. No noisemakers or hand held signs will be allowed at games. No run throughs allowed on/off the field. Support banners only, excluding award banners.
7. Sixth graders are not eligible to compete in this conference.

Length of Quarters:

Football 7th grade - 8 minutes
 8th grade - 8 minutes

Basketball Both grades - 6 minutes

Volleyball Both grades - 2 out of 3 games

Soccer Both grades – 25 minute halves with a running clock

There will be no all-conference teams selected or recognized in any sport. There will be no post season playoffs or contests in any sport.

Admission prices at the middle school campuses will be \$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for adults.

Supervision of each contest shall be provided by the home school.

Security for each contest shall be provided by the home school.

All coaches are subject to extra duty assignments such as; track meets, tournaments, and supervision of activities at the athletic complex, or on their own campus.

The State Executive Committee may suspend the associated high school in the activity in which the middle school violates rules.

Middle schools may conduct a practice on the designated Saturdays of each sport; however, attendance by the athlete is not mandatory.

Report any unusual situation which might have occurred in your game to the athletic office. This should be done the morning following your contest. Example: A technical foul on a coach, fight by spectators or athletes, or officials not showing to call contests.

Please report any injury to the Athletic Office which might be considered severe.