

## **NORTH CEDAR COMMUNITY SCHOOL Extra-Curricular Department Code of Good Conduct/Participation 2024 – 2025**

It is the feeling of those concerned with the development of the youth attending North Cedar Community Schools, that membership and participation in extracurricular activities do have a positive effect on the development of good and constructive attitudes for future citizenship.

North Cedar Schools elects to use the following policies and apply those in extra-curricular activities in grades 7-12. (This applies to 6th-grade students playing summer activities sponsored by the school and goes into effect when the baseball/softball season begins for the 6th grader involved in that activity).

Our policy is written with the best interests, and with the good health and safety of all our students in mind. Co-curricular activities are viewed as an integral part of the educational process and a privilege for all students. Activities are a choice or an option. With this choice comes the responsibility of maintaining high standards of behavior. Students who participate in activities are in the public eye and are viewed as important role models.

These rules are not intended to punish, but rather, act as guidelines to promote dedication, discipline, loyalty, integrity, good conduct, good citizenship, and pride.

Activities and Organizations subject to the Good Conduct Policies include all athletic programs, non-curricular band, and choral activities\*, non-curricular FFA\*, speech, cheerleading, dance/drill team, theater/ drama, FBLA and robotics.

\*A curricular band, choral, or FFA activity is any performance that is required of all band, choir, or FFA students as part of their grade

**Any student will (upon investigation and verification) lose eligibility under the Code of Good Conduct Rule for any of the following behaviors:**

- Possession, use/ consumption, or purchase of tobacco products in any form, regardless of the student's age.
- Possession, use/ consumption, or purchase of alcoholic beverages.
- Possession, use/ consumption, selling, or purchase of illegal drugs or unauthorized possession, use/ consumption, or purchase of otherwise lawful drugs.
- It should be noted that this policy goes beyond the legal definition of possession. It also includes poor judgment; such as knowingly being in the presence of alcohol or controlled substances, without removal of oneself in a timely manner.
- Possession, use/consumption, purchase, or selling of any vaping product or e-cigarette.
- Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation (theft, vandalism, or doing other serious offenses) in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, or convicted for the acts.

- Inappropriate or offensive conduct such as fighting (which involves the throwing of punches, kicks, biting, tackling, choking, or any other act of a fight, whether the action lands or does not land on the attempted victim), insubordination (talking back or refusing to cooperate with authorities) hazing, bullying or harassment of others. Co-curricular participants must conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. Bullying/Harassment violations will be processed under the same policy as school bullying and harassment cases.

- The following electronic communication conveyed by the internet or an electronic device is prohibited: bullying/ cyber-bullying, sexting, coercion, extortion, making threats of violence or harm, or any other computer-related crimes that impact the educational environment.

- Sexting is defined as sending, forwarding, displaying, retaining, storing, or posting sexually explicit, lewd, indecent, or pornographic photographs, images or messages by or on a cell phone, computer, or other electronic device.

\*NCHS Coaching Staff/Instructors/Directors and Administration reserve the right to include other infractions deemed inappropriate that are not in keeping with a "Good Conduct" pledge/agreement. These rules shall be presented in writing to the participants at the beginning of the season.

In the event, an athlete admits or is found in violation of the above, by a hired employee of North Cedar Community School District or law enforcement official, shall immediately be declared ineligible for extra-curricular competition. This policy applies to student behavior in and out of school during the school and summer months. The rules apply in season and out of season, 365 days per year. This policy applies to all students. It does not matter if you are of legal age or not. This code of conduct is in place for 6th-grade students involved in middle school baseball/softball (beginning when baseball/softball practices begin). The code of conduct is broken into two groups (middle school and high school). The code of conduct violations reset at the high school level for all student-athletes (although suspensions not served in middle school will carry over until the student serves the suspension, regardless of whether it is in high school or middle school). If a student has a clean slate for 18 months, they will start back fresh and prior offenses will be wiped clean. This means if a student commits an offense, and then does not commit another infraction for 18 months from the date of the previous incident, if they commit another offense after that, they would be on a first offense again.

**1st Offense** – Three weeks suspension from activities. Middle school students may serve half of a season of activities (if that is a shorter time than three weeks). High School students must serve three weeks. The suspension will start with the first competition (this means game/event, not practices) date after the student has been found in violation of the Good Conduct policies. The student must remain out for the activity and practice while ineligible. If fewer than the required number of weeks remain at the time of the violation, the ineligibility shall carry over into the next athletic season in which the student normally participates, or has participated in the past. If the sport has not started when the infraction occurred, ineligibility begins on the first competition date of that sport. Students must continue to attend all practices. If a student drops out of an activity prior to completion of the ineligibility period or competition of the activity (the student must stay out for the entire season, not just the time of ineligibility), the full penalty will be enforced during the student's next activity. This also includes enrollment in an appropriate program of help as determined by the administration or the legal system. Parent involvement in the program is encouraged. If the enrollment does not occur, then the consequence is one calendar year. All costs/fees for the program of help are the responsibility of the parents or legal guardian of the student. If a student violates the Code of Conduct while ineligible due to an earlier violation, the penalty for the subsequent offense will be added on at the completion of the earlier penalty.

**2nd Offense** – Six weeks suspension from activities. (Three weeks suspension from activities and 20 hours of Community Service may be substituted). The community service must be completed before the student/athlete is allowed to participate again if they are completing their suspension this way. This includes the above-mentioned guidelines.

**3rd Offense** – One calendar year suspension from activities. This includes the above-mentioned guidelines. This also includes enrollment in an appropriate program of help as determined by the administration or the legal system. Parent involvement in the program is encouraged. If the enrollment does not occur, then the consequence is a permanent suspension. All costs/fees for the program of help are the responsibility of the parents or legal guardian of the student.

**Sportsmanship is a vital part of any athletic sport.** Often coaches have certain team rules that cover unsportsmanlike behavior. However, any student, who is ejected from competition for unsportsmanlike behavior, will be ineligible for the next competition date after the ejection at the level he/she is competing as outlined by state guidelines. The student must remain out for the activity while ineligible. If fewer than the required number of competitions remain at the time of the violation, the ineligibility shall carry over into the next athletic season in which the student normally participates, or has participated in the past. Students may also be subject to an offense of the good conduct policy depending on the nature of the ejection.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

The "Scholarship Rule" is a 9-12th grade policy but North Cedar Schools elects to use the following standards and apply those in extra-curricular activities in grades 7-12 (this applies to 6th-grade students playing summer activities sponsored by the school):

A student, at North Cedar, is academically eligible for participation in extracurricular activities providing he/she is passing all classes. Progress reports will be taken at the mid-term and at the end of each Semester. This is a total of four grade checks. In order to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must:

1. Be passing all classes at the mid-term of the 1st and 2nd Semesters. Consequences: Students will be ineligible for 7 calendar days, starting on the day the mid-term grades are posted. In addition, any student that is in an extracurricular activity not considered interscholastic athletic by the IHSAA, is ineligible for 7 calendar days, starting on the day the quarter grades are posted (excluding Winter Break).
2. Be passing all semester classes at the end of the 1st and 2nd Semester. Consequences: If a student is not passing all classes at the end of a final grading period, the student is ineligible for the first period of 20 consecutive calendar days, beginning on the first contest date in that sport/activity or the next contest date if the semester falls during a season, (these days are set and outlined by the IHSAA and IGHSAA on their websites) in the Interscholastic athletic event in which the student is a contestant. There is no requirement that the student competed in the sport previously. Students in baseball or softball have the same penalty as all other students. In addition, any student that is in an extracurricular activity not considered interscholastic athletic by the IHSAA or IGHSAA, is ineligible for two (2) weeks (14 calendar days), starting on the day the semester grades are posted (excluding Winter Break) and 7 calendar days for mid-term grades.

Further information on the "Scholarship Rule" can be found on the state athletics website at [www.iahsaa.org](http://www.iahsaa.org).

- During the period of ineligibility, the student will be able to and is required to continue to practice in order to fulfill their ineligibility period. Failure to participate in all practices/contests without obtaining approval ahead of time from the coach, unless an illness strikes or other serious situation arises that the coach and administration later approve, will result in the penalty being carried over to the next interscholastic activity in which they participate.
- Certain organizations/activities that have curricular obligations are exempt. These include any type of activity in which the student receives an academic grade for a class. (i.e. band/choir performances, FFA). However, the director may determine that an alternative assignment may be used to fulfill that grade for the class.
- It is imperative that students place a high priority on attendance. It is also important that students communicate with instructors if and when concern regarding eligibility arises.
- All students must adhere to all rules and regulations for participation in extracurricular activities.
- Failure to attend school  $\frac{1}{2}$  day will result in the student not being able to practice or participate in extracurricular activities that day. Exceptions are verified doctor appointments, funerals, pre-arranged college visits, and school-sponsored activities. Other exceptions must be approved by the administration ahead of time.
- The Corresponding Rules/Regulations to Applicable Board Policies and the Acknowledgement of Risk for Extra-Curricular Activities form will be required of each student for each activity. The forms are to be read, signed, and on file in the 6-12 school office prior to the student being allowed to compete.

The rules and policies outlined above are in accordance with the spirit of placing a priority of scholarship on athletics and activities. As such, the Activities Director reserves the right to alter policies and penalties to ensure that scholarship is of the highest priority.

The Board of Education subscribes to the rules and regulations of the Iowa School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls Athletic Union in their efforts to keep athletics on a high standard of educational values. In order to participate in an evening contest, the student must be in school for at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  (one-half) of that day (4 consecutive periods). This rule may be altered to fit extenuating circumstances, such as a medical appointment, a death in the family, or a funeral.

After reading the Code of Conduct/Participation, keep it in a place where you can be reminded of your commitment.

## **DUE PROCESS**

**STEP I:** The Activities Director and Principal will determine if a violation of the student Good Conduct Code has occurred. The Activities Director will meet with the student. The student abides by the Activities Director's decision.

## **DUE PROCESS**

**STEP II:** A student may appeal the decision of the Activities Director/Principal within three (3) school days or five (5) calendar days, whichever comes first, to the high school Superintendent. The appeal will be presented to a committee that consists of two teachers (chosen by the Superintendent) and the Superintendent. The committee shall hear the facts and render a final decision. The grounds for review by the superintendent are limited to the following; the student did not violate the Code of Conduct; the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; the penalty is in violation of board policy. The penalty will be in effect until reversed.

## **OTHER STIPULATIONS**

- Whenever a student violates the rules, regulations, the disciplinary policy of the school or is involved in fighting or hazing, the Principal/AD may declare him/her ineligible. This ineligibility could include any activity including Prom, dances, etc., at the discretion of the administration.
- The student may be required to perform school or community service as part of this process.
- Students who are suspended from school will be declared ineligible for activities. Students may rejoin the activity at the conclusion of the suspension.
- School equipment/uniforms shall be returned in accordance with the coach/sponsor procedure. Indefinite suspension from activities shall result until the school property is returned in reasonable condition or restitution is made.
- A student may not go out for a sport/activity they normally don't go out for in order to serve a suspension that would result in freeing them up to participate in another sport/activity they prefer unless they have the permission of the AD/Principal and coach of the sport they are participating in. Sometimes the participation in another sport/activity could be deemed helpful to the student and thus, encouraged. Students must complete the activity or season, attend all practices and meet the guidelines of the individual as established by the coach/sponsor/team/group or the suspension would carry over into the next activity that the student participates in.
- Citizenship: Students must respect and obey the law, conducting themselves both in and out of school, during the school year and summer months, in a manner as to not bring discredit upon the North Cedar Community School District. The Principal determines the judgment of action.
- Specific Provisions: School teachers/coaches/sponsors establish rules and procedures for their areas of responsibility. Students must follow these rules and procedures or be subject to disciplinary action.

- **Music** - As per the Iowa High School Music Association- If at the end of any grading period a participant receives a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the participant is ineligible to participate in any competitive event sanctioned by the IHSMA or any IHSMA sponsored event that is nongraded (event doesn't affect course GPA) within a period of 20 consecutive calendar days. The period of ineligibility will begin with the first school day following the day grades are issued by the school district. A student with a disability who has an individualized education program (IEP) shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress, as determined by school officials, towards the goals and objectives of the student's individualized education program.

**CODE OF CONDUCT/PARTICIPATION-** By signing this, my student and I understand the information above, and know that if I participate in any activity, I will be held to the standards above, or will be subject to disciplinary action.

"I have read and understand the attached 'Co-curricular Code of Conduct'. I understand that these are the standards of conduct expected of my student/myself in return for the privilege of representing North Cedar Community School in all forms of activities."

**AWARENESS OF POTENTIAL INJURY:** By signing this, my student and I understand the information below, and know that if I participate in any activity, there are risks of injury and even death.

"I am aware that participation in sports may be a dangerous activity involving many risks of injury and may even result in death."

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**PARENTAL INSURANCE WAIVER-** By signing this, my student and I understand the information below, and know that if I participate in any activity, I may need insurance for potential injuries that may occur.

"I feel we have adequate insurance protection for our son/daughter while practicing or participating in Interscholastic Sports or other School Sponsored Activities."

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