

## **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT 2020 - 2021**

The Norwell High School athletic program is an integral part of the school's program offering students the means to develop self-discipline, accept responsibility and make decisions to prepare for the adult world. Athletes can also develop social conscience as well as intellectual faculties. We believe that learning is a never-ending process and that athletic participation helps to develop a positive set of values to help young people through life. It is a privilege to participate in the Norwell Athletic Program. This privilege is extended to all Norwell students who are willing to accept the responsibility. The responsibilities of a student-athlete involved in education-based athletics at Norwell High School include:

- A. Being a good student academically, socially, and display good citizenship.
- B. Displaying good sportsmanship.
- C. Respecting other athletes, cheerleaders, officials, spectators, and those in authority.
- D. Using language that reflects well on family, school, and self.
- E. Being a positive leader by example, words, and/or actions.
- F. Developing athletic skills to a competitive level.
- G. Having respect for one's own body, including the discipline to maintain excellent physical and mental condition, and to refrain from any form of self-abuse.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Norwell is a member of the IHSAA and follows all by-laws and rules of the IHSAA. Norwell athletes must:

- A. Have a completed IHSAA physical and consent form on file prior with the athletic office prior to the first scheduled tryout of the season. Physical must have been administered after April 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous school year.
- B. Have proof of health insurance coverage on file in the athletic office.
- C. Have amateur standing and have not accepted unauthorized awards, gifts, or prizes (including money).
- D. Have no unsanctioned participation.
- E. Have NOT reached their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday by the State Finals in the sport in which they are participating.
- F. Be in good standing with the school per the Norwell High School Parent-Student Handbook.
- G. Have a signed Random Drug Testing form on file with the main office.
- H. Have a signed athletic code of conduct form on file in the athletic office acknowledging that they are aware of the athletic guidelines set forth and that these guidelines apply year-round.
- I. Be enrolled and passing in five (5) full credit subjects offered in a Norwell High School program with only one (1) dual credit or other approved course offering that may be used toward determining athletic eligibility. Athletic eligibility will be determined every nine weeks. Freshman entering Norwell High School will be automatically eligible to participate the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks.

In our role of promoting education-based athletics and protecting the health of our athletes, the Norwell athletic department and coaching staffs recognize the rights of all athletes, including the right to enjoy a safe and supportive environment. It is our expectation that our student-athletes respect each other and that they don't discriminate against, harass, bully, intimidate or treat others physically and emotionally in an inappropriate manner. Student-athletes are asked be respectful of other student's physical boundaries and be aware that any physical contact must include consent from both parties and be appropriate for a school environment. Student-athletes who feel they have been treated in an inappropriate manner need to report that conduct to a coach or administrator immediately. Students who witness or have been made aware of inappropriate and/or nonconsensual actions should make a report to a coach, supervising adult or administrator immediately.

## **ATHLETIC RULES**

1. No use or possession of tobacco in any form at any time. This would include the use or possession of items connected with smoking, chewing, look alike substances, etc. Items (tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, hookah pens, water vapor pens, lighters, matches, tobacco free and/or nicotine free dups, JUULs, JUUL pods, CBD/hemp cigarettes and cigars, etc...
2. No use or possession of illegal drugs at any time. This would include the use and/or possession of any prescription or non-prescription drug including but not limited to marijuana, a stimulant, an intoxicant, a narcotic, a depressant, or a hallucinogen, whether prescription or sold over the counter (without a prescription) or any substance represented by the provider to be any of the above listed substances is prohibited. The use and/or possession of drug paraphernalia is also prohibited.
3. No drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages at any time.
4. Athletes shall not knowingly use, transmit, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, stimulant, depressant, marijuana or substance represented as a controlled substance, or possess, use or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substance. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician shall not constitute a violation of this rule).
5. Any individual identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior will be considered in violation of the code of conduct and subject to suspension per guidelines. Inappropriate behavior will be defined as any illegal or legal action considered, obscene, indecent or that portrays sexual conduct. It also covers images that demonstrate or insinuate the use of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, or illegal drugs. Images recovered prior to the discovery will be considered to be part of the initial offense. Images that are discovered to have occurred after the initial discovery will be considered to be an additional offense.
6. Athletes shall not take part in any type of hazing activities. Hazing shall be defined for purposes of this policy as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
7. Participants should not commit acts of sexual harassment as defined as such in the Norwell High School Parent-Student Handbook.
8. Athletes shall not be convicted of a felony, misdemeanor, or commit any act which is punishable as a felony or misdemeanor if committed by an adult. The privilege of continued participation in interscholastic athletics during the pendency of any formal charge, whether in adult or juvenile court, shall be at the discretion of the athletic director, principal, and coach.
9. Athletes should not commit acts of vandalism or theft of property, whether charged as an offense in any court.
10. An athlete should not contribute to poor team morale at any time, or in any way disrupt team harmony.
11. Athletes should not participate in unsportsmanlike conduct at any time.
12. No attendance at parties or gatherings where alcoholic beverages or drugs are being used. If this situation arises unexpectedly, the individual should leave immediately. Athletes should be accompanied by their parents at adult functions where alcohol is being served.
13. Athletes, as students of Norwell High School, are expected to follow the rules of the school. Their general conduct in and out of school shall be such as to bring no discredit to themselves, their school their teammates. If a student-athlete violates conditions in the student handbook that are not specifically mentioned in the athletic code of conduct, the violation can be treated as a code of conduct violation. Disciplinary action will be determined by the high school administration.

DISCIPLINE FOR VIOLATIONS - The consequences listed are to be used as a guideline for corrective actions. The severity of a violation and the circumstances surrounding a violation could result in a lesser or greater consequence.

Violation of rules 1 through 7 will be as follows:

A. FIRST VIOLATION:

If a violation occurs, the athlete shall not participate in any contests for 50 % of his/her current/next sport season. The athlete may practice at the discretion of the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal. If the entire 50% cannot be served within the season the violation occurred, the remaining percentage will be served during the next contest season.

B. SECOND VIOLATION:

If a second violation occurs, the result shall be suspension from participation in all athletic events for 365 days from the date of the second violation. If the athlete indicates a desire to continue participation in athletics after the suspension, a conference must be initiated by the athlete and parents that will include the athlete, the parent(s), the athletic director and the principal for the purpose of reinstating the athlete at the conclusion of the suspension. Results of the conference will be submitted to all the parties involved.

C. THIRD VIOLATION:

If a third violation occurs, athletic participation in all sports shall be terminated from the time the violation occurs. The Athletic Director will notify parents of the violation in writing.

Violation of rule 8 will be as follows:

A. FIRST VIOLATION:

If a violation occurs, the athlete shall not participate in any contests for his/her current/next sport season. The athlete may practice at the discretion of the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal. If a violation occurs during the second half of a current sport season, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in any remaining contests for that season and will not complete the season in good standing with the team.

B. SECOND VIOLATION:

If a second violation occurs, the result shall be suspension from participation in all athletic events for 365 days from the date of the second violation. If the athlete indicates a desire to continue participation in athletics after the suspension, a conference must be initiated by the athlete and parents that will include the athlete, the parents, the athletic director and the principal for the purpose of reinstating the athlete at the conclusion of the suspension. Results of the conference will be submitted to all the parties involved.

C. THIRD VIOLATION:

If a third violation occurs, the athletic career in all sports is terminated from the time the violation occurs. The Athletic Director will notify parents of the violation in writing.

Violation of Rules 9 through 11:

A. FIRST VIOLATION:

If a violation occurs, the athlete shall not participate in any contests for 25% of the current/next sport season.

B. SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS:

If a second or subsequent violation occurs, the result shall be suspension for 50% of the current/next sport season. If the suspension cannot be served prior to the end of the current sport season, the athlete will not complete the season in good standing.

C. PROBATION: Probation shall be a time during the suspension for a first violation that—upon agreement of the Athletic Director, Principal, and Coach—the suspension may be reduced. However, if a second violation of Rules 6 through 8 of the Athletic Code occurs, the remaining suspension for the first violation and the entire suspension for a second violation must be served beginning with the date of the second violation.

#### Violation of rule 12:

A. FIRST VIOLATION:

If a violation occurs, the athlete shall not participate in any contests for 33% of the current/next sport season. The athlete may practice at the discretion of the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

B. SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS:

If a second or subsequent violation occurs, the result shall be suspension for 50% of the current/next sport season. If the suspension cannot be served prior to the end of the current sport season, the athlete will not complete the season in good standing

#### Violation of rule 13:

Violations of rule 13 will be dealt with according to the Norwell High School discipline policy. If an athlete is placed in ISS or out-of-school suspension, including being recommended for expulsion, he/she will NOT practice or participate in a contest until he/she has fulfilled his/her suspension.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE**

Each participant shall receive a copy of the Athletic Code that is included in the Student/Parent Handbook. An alleged violation of the Athletic Code shall be reported to the Athletic Director. The notice of violation should include the name of the participant, the rule violated, the specific details of the violation, the date of the violation and the names of any witnesses to said violation.

1. Upon receipt of the notice of violation, the Athletic Director shall notify the participant and the participant's parent/guardian of the alleged violation and the procedure available for the determination of the violation, as set out herein.
2. Any participant who has been determined to be in violation of the Athletic Code shall be subject to the discipline contained in this policy. The Athletic Director shall send written notification of the discipline to parent/guardian.
3. Upon receipt of the notice of violation of the Athletic Code, the student or his parent/guardian may deliver a written request of the Principal, in person or by mail, within five (5) business days after receipt of the notice, to initiate a hearing on the determination of the discipline. If a hearing is not requested within the time specified, all rights administratively and judicially, to contest and appeal the determination will be waived. If a hearing is requested, the Principal and the Athletic Director shall set a time, date, and place for a hearing on the determination of whether or not a violation has been committed. A Review Committee that will consist of the Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Head Coach, Principal, and a coach to be selected by the Athletic Director shall conduct said hearing. After acceptance of all evidence at the hearing, the Review Committee shall make a determination as to whether or not an Athletic Code rule has been violated. The Review Committee shall prescribe the discipline to be imposed for the violation if they should determine that the violation has occurred.

### **OTHER ATHLETIC REGULATIONS**

1. Once a non-cut sport team begins their regular season contests, athletes must have administrative approval to participate.
2. In order to try out for an athletic team, a student-athlete must participate in tryouts prior to the selection of the team and must be:
  - a. In good standing per NWCS Board Policy and NHS Code of Conduct
  - b. Enrolled and attending classes during tryouts
  - c. Meet all IHSAA requirements
  - d. Meet all NHS Athletic Department requirements
3. An athlete may make a written request to the Athletic Director asking to participate in multiple sports during the same season. In all cases, one sport must be deemed first choice in case of conflicts. The NHS administration will approve or deny submitted requests. If the request is initially approved, the corresponding coaches and athlete will develop a calendar that is acceptable to corresponding coaches and the athlete. If the corresponding coaches and athlete are unable to create an acceptable schedule, the athlete will need to choose one sport in which to participate.
4. Changing sports in one season will eliminate points in the first sport. To change sports during one season requires permission of both coaches and approval of the Athletic Director.

5. All student-athlete athletic records, including participation points, varsity letters received and discipline issues will be kept on file in the athletic office.
6. Athletes must realize the risks involved in participation, understand that serious injury, and even death, is possible in such participation, and choose to accept such risks.
7. Testing of athletes for illegal substances may be required, through the school's random testing policy.
8. Athletes in grades 10 through 12 who are on suspension cannot join an athletic team for the first time to spend their suspension. Their suspension will be served in the next sport season in which they have previously participated. Athletic suspensions cannot be served as a manager unless the athlete serves the athletic department only in the capacity of a manager.
9. When a suspension for a percentage of the season is required, the athlete must complete the sport season in good standing in order to consider the suspension served. In addition, any pre-season contest or scrimmage will not be counted as part of the regular season or factored into the equation when figuring percentages for sanctions. Lastly, if an athlete is suspended for the first contest of a season, they will not be allowed to participate in any pre-season contest or scrimmage.
10. The Athletic Code of Conduct is in force for all athletes from the first day of IHSAA sanctioned practice for fall sports their freshman year until the final competition of their senior year including summer months and sport seasons when they are not participating in a sport.
11. The coach will make the final determination on team selection.
12. The parent/guardian must sign the "Knight Contract" and "Authorization for Release of Information" for students to participate in athletics.
13. School Administration reserves the right to make the final judgment regarding all disciplinary actions.

### **Self-Report Clause**

It is the intent of Norwell High School to assist students with developing responsibility for their actions and to encourage honesty. Therefore, any student who voluntarily reports on himself/herself as to a violation of the Code of Conduct may be permitted leniency. This report must be student-initiated and without school officials being able to learn about the incident by any other means. This means that once the student is caught by legal authorities or reported by other sources, it is too late to use the self-report clause to lessen the penalty. The student may pay a lesser penalty for the infraction that stated; he/she will not be permitted to participate in less than a number of contests equal to 25% of scheduled contests or at least one contest of the sport season he/she is in or will be in. In cases of substance abuse, the self-reporting students must participate in a substance abuse awareness session with a qualified professional. The Self-Report clause can be used only once during the student's four-year career and may be used only for the first offense.

### **Award Point System**

- A member of a varsity team - 2 points
- A member of a freshman, reserve or other team - 1 point
- Managers - 1 or 2 points
- Coaches award points earned by athletes and managers.

### **Qualifications for Awards**

- Jacket Award – Is earned when an athlete has accumulated 5 points - 2 of which must be varsity points and the student-athlete must be a sophomore, junior, or senior. Student athletes will be presented with the N for the jacket and will be given information on purchasing it.
- Senior Letter Blanket Award –Is earned when an athlete accumulates a total of 15 points – including 4 varsity points earned during their senior year. The Athletic Department will purchase the varsity blanket.
- Jackets will be approved at the close of the sports season, (fall, winter, spring) in which the athlete completes his/her point requirements. Senior letter blankets will be presented at the spring award presentations.
- If a student-athlete does not finish a sport season in good standing, they shall not earn awards or points in that sport.

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Sports: \_\_\_\_\_

### KNIGHT CONTRACT

Since I have been selected as a member of a Norwell High School athletic team, I have read and hereby agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Norwell High School Athletic Department. I also understand that I must abide by the team rules established by my coach.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Athlete*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Since my son/daughter has been selected as a member of a Norwell High School athletic team(s), I/we agree that I/we have read the rules and regulations and that I/we will do all that I/we can to help enforce the Knight Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

### AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

I request and authorize: Wells County Probation Department, Wells County Law Enforcement Agencies, Wells County Family Centered Services, and Wells County Teen Court to release the following designated information to: Norwell High School Athletic Department, 1100E US 224, Ossian, IN 46777.

I authorize the above parties to exchange information verbally or in writing concerning probation or supervision rules or activities or information concerning the commission of any offense that may be in violation of the Norwell High School Athletic Code of Conduct.

Regarding: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Print Athlete's Name)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(City) (State) (ZIP)*

This information is for the purpose of continuity of goals between the student, student's parents, School Corporation, and the above listed Wells Count Agencies.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_