



***Nekoosa Youth Athletics***

***CO-CURRICULAR CODE***

***2018-2019***

## ***I. Philosophy***

The Nekoosa Youth Athletic Board is dedicated to providing an enjoyable and safe co-curricular experience, while recognizing the developmental characteristics and needs of the young adolescent.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

The Nekoosa Youth Athletic Board (Board) is committed to providing equal athletic opportunities for all student-athletes. Therefore, it is the policy of the Board that no person, on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, national ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or handicap may be denied admission to any Board sponsored event or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any recreational or other program or activity.

## ***II. Complete a Sport Specific Registration Packet Prior to the Start of Each Athletic Season and Verify the Following Information:***

Fee and work requirement option chosen by parents

A completed insurance waiver

Medical examination

Physical Examination Card - Proof of a medical examination must be recorded in the Athletic Director's office before the athlete may participate in practice or a contest of any sport. The medical examination form must be signed by a licensed physician and the athlete's parent(s)/guardian(s). The medical examination will be valid for two years.

Alternate Year Card - Since a medical examination is required every two years, an alternate year card must be signed by the parent(s) or guardian(s) and returned in the "off" years.

## ***III. Purpose***

The purpose of the Nekoosa Youth Athletics Co-Curricular Code of Conduct is to establish clear academic and behavioral expectations for students to follow if they choose to participate in co-curricular activities. Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right.

## ***IV. Co-Curricular Activities***

Co-curricular activities are those voluntary activities that are sponsored by Nekoosa Youth Athletics. Activities that are a required part of a course and contribute to a student's grade for the course are not considered co-curricular activities.

### **ACTIVITIES**

The following activities are covered by this code:

- 6-8 Baseball
- 7-8 Basketball (Boys and Girls)
- 6-8 Cross Country
- 7-8 Football
- 5-8 Coed Soccer

- 6-8 Softball
- 6-8 Track and Field
- 7-8 Volleyball
- 6-8 Wrestling

## Other Activities

Any other student activity affiliated with Nekoosa Youth Athletics that has an advisor or coach (selected/approved by administration) may be added to this list.

### ***V. Academics***

Students shall model academic excellence, recognizing achievement in the classroom is essential to achievement in the co-curricular pursuit.

#### **Academic Eligibility:**

1. Eligibility will be determined at four grading periods:
  - First quarter eligibility is determined by fourth quarter grades of the previous school year commencing with the first day of school of the new school year.
  - Second quarter eligibility is determined by the first quarter grades.
  - Third quarter eligibility is determined by the second quarter grades.
  - Fourth quarter eligibility is determined by the third quarter grades.
  - Eligibility concerning online or virtual classes is determined by the semester grade.
  - Routine grade checks will be conducted to determine ongoing eligibility.
2. A student must maintain passing grades (60% D- or above) in all classes to remain eligible to participate in any co-curricular activity.
  - a. A student is not eligible to participate in any co-curricular activity for a period of 15 scheduled school (student contact) days or 21 calendar days whichever period is shorter from the first day of practice of that sport with a minimum of 2 games ineligible.
  - b. A student who receives an Incomplete as a grade will be considered ineligible until it becomes a letter grade. If the grade turns into an F, the days already served for ineligibility will be counted towards the ineligibility period as stated above.
3. To regain academic eligibility following a quarter F a student must earn passing grades in all subjects following the designated ineligibility period stated above, and turn in an academic eligibility check sheet. Eligibility forms can be picked up and turned into the school office. The Program Director shall be the school official that declares a student eligible.
4. A student receiving one or more failures at the time of bi-weekly grade checks is required to provide the Program Director a verification statement from all current teachers indicating acceptable work. If the student can't meet the eligibility requirement, he or she is ineligible from further competition until acceptable work in all classes is verified.

5. The Program Director will notify a student who fails to meet the academic requirements of the NYA Co-Curricular Code.

\* It is highly recommended that each student work with his or her coaches, parents, and school administration during the first signs of academic struggles to avoid becoming academically ineligible.

## ***VI. Attendance***

Students will adhere to the attendance policy to promote best practices on a daily basis.

1. A student must be present for at least one/half of the school day (by the beginning of the period following lunch recess) to participate in practice on that day (unless approved by an administrator).
2. A student must be present for the entire school day to participate in a scheduled contest/event/performance/activity on that day (unless approved by an administrator).
3. Unless there are extenuating circumstances (as determined by an administrator), a student is required to be in class the day after an athletic contest, competition, event, or performance. If he or she is not in school, the student will be ineligible for the next contest.
4. Unexcused Absences:  
An unexcused absence of one or more class periods during a sport season makes a student ineligible for the next contest unless there are extenuating circumstances (as determined by an administrator).

## ***VII. Conduct***

Students shall endeavor to display exceptional conduct, realizing demeanor is reflective of self, school, and community. Students need to know that participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, those representing NYA are held to a higher standard.

At all times, students shall refrain from conduct which violates the ideals, principles, and standards of NYA as set forth in this co-curricular code. Students violating the expectations may lose eligibility in co-curricular activities.

Ethical and behavioral ideals, principles, and standards include but are not limited to negative and/or illegal acts against persons or property and involvement in acts which are viewed as contrary to accepted ethical and legal standards.

### **General Guidelines for Conduct Violations:**

1. Penalties will be cumulative over the duration of your middle school experience. This is for determining second and third violation consequences.
2. Scrimmages are considered practices and will not count as part of a suspension.
3. A student with a code violation will be required to practice with the group during the suspension.

4. When a student misses a competition or performance during a season for a conduct code violation, he or she will be required to complete the season in good standing in order to fulfill the code violation obligation.
5. **If a student fails to provide accurate and truthful information, an additional period of suspension may be imposed.**

**Major Code Violations:**

1. Use, possession, buying, or selling drugs and/or look alike drugs.
2. Use, possession, buying, or selling alcohol.
3. Use, possession, buying, or selling tobacco products and electronic replicas.
4. Attendance at any gathering or party at which there is use of illegal drugs by anyone at the gathering or party or at which there is consumption of alcohol by any persons at the party or gathering that is not of legal age.
5. Criminal act as defined by state criminal laws, including but not limited to General Crime Provisions, Crimes Against Life and Bodily Security, Crimes Against Health and Public Safety, Crimes Against Reputation and Civil Liberties, Crimes Against Property, Crimes Against Sexual Morality, Crimes Against Government and its Administration, Crimes Against Public Peace, Order and other interests, and Crimes Against Children.
6. No student may engage in any form of hazing another student. Hazing is defined as the act of harassment by forcing (physically, morally, and/or mentally) someone to exact unnecessary or disagreeable work, to banter, to ridicule, or to criticize someone, or to initiate someone into an organization.
7. Engaging in or being an accomplice to any other immoral or unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of Nekoosa Youth Athletics or the WIAA, may be considered a major violation.

**Consequences of Major Code Violations for Athletics:**

1. First Violation:
  - The student athlete will be suspended for 50% of a season's contests.
  - If the season's contests have already begun, the remaining percentage will be carried over to the next sport's season.
  - Possible reduction of suspension to 25% of the season, after the completion of 5 hours of school/community service, if the student athlete self-reports and/or is actively participating in the co-curricular code violation process.
  - The student athlete must complete all seasons in good standing. If the student athlete does not complete a season in good standing, the entire penalty will be served in the next sport's season.

2. Second Violation:

Student athlete will be suspended for 100% of the season.

3. Third Violation:

Student athlete will be suspended from athletics for one calendar year.

4. Fourth Violation:

Student athlete will be suspended for the remainder of his/her enrollment at AMS.

### **Minor Code Violations:**

The following is a list of representative minor infractions but is not a comprehensive list of all possible offenses. In each situation, the Nekoosa Youth Athletics retains the right to consider the totality of the circumstances and render a judgment regarding (1) whether a particular action/inaction is an infraction under the code, (2) the degree (major/minor) of the violation, and (3) an appropriate penalty.

1. Failure to attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach or advisor.
2. Failure to maintain practice hours and/or rules designated by the coach or advisor. These rules will be distributed in writing to every participant. The coach or advisor will discuss these rules. Copies of these rule/regulations must be filed with the athletic director and principal prior to the start of the season or activity.
3. Failure to treat coaches or advisors with respect in both word and action at all times.
4. Abuse, loss, and tardy or improper return or possession of equipment out of season.
5. Illegal or inappropriate use of the internet, personal cell phones, or other electronic devices both on and off campus.
6. Profanity or obscene gestures
7. Unsportsmanlike conduct
8. Cheating and/or Plagiarism
9. Failure to treat faculty or staff with respect
10. Inappropriate classroom conduct/disruption

### **Consequences of Minor Code Violations for Athletics:**

1. First Offense:

Minimum of 5 hours of school/community service and suspension from one game

2. Second Offense:

Minimum of 10 hours of school/community service and suspension from one game

3. Third Offense:

Minimum of 15 hours of school/community service and suspension from two games

4. Fourth Offense:

Minimum of 20 hours of school/community service and suspension from 50 percent of the season

### **Guilt by Association:**

1. First Offense:

The student will be placed on probation for one calendar year. If there are no further violations during the one calendar year, the probation will be dropped

2. Second Offense:

The student's suspension shall default to the first offense of the major code violations.

3. Third Offense:

The student's suspension shall default to second offense of the major code violations.

4. Fourth Offense:

The student's suspension shall default to the third offense of the major code violations.

**\*Special Note:** All school/community service must be approved by the NYA Program Director.

### **Course of Action:**

If a violation or alleged violation occurs:

- A panel consisting of a coach, advisor, teacher, principal, and athletic director will have a conference with the involved student and his or her parent(s) to determine if there is a co-curricular code violation.
  - If the panel decides there is a co-curricular code violation, it will determine the consequence for the student.
  - If the student is not satisfied with the consequence set forth, he or she may request a hearing before the NYA Board. The Program Coordinator and/or Principal must receive, in writing, a request for such a second hearing before the NYA Board within 14 days of the mailing of the outcome of the original hearing. Present at this second hearing will be Program Coordinator, Principal or appeal committee designee, the student, and the parents.
    - a. The student will be provided with an opportunity to testify and present other evidence on his/her behalf at the hearing.
- b. The NYA Administration will be provided with an opportunity to testify and present other evidence at the hearing.
- c. Proceedings of the hearing, including the decision, will be put in writing, and a copy of these proceedings will be mailed to the student and his/her parent(s) within five days of the hearing.
- d. Confidentiality of student witnesses and/or statements will be retained throughout the hearing.
- e. When determining the length of suspension/penalties, the appeal committee members will be held to the covenants of the NYA Co-Curricular Code.

### ***VIII. General Information***

1. Athletic Eligibility
  - a. WIAA Physical or Alternate Year Document is required for students participating in interscholastic athletics. Exams taken after April 1<sup>st</sup> are good for the following two school years. Exams taken before April 1<sup>st</sup> are good for the remainder of the school year and the following school year. In years when a physical exam is not required, a WIAA approved alternate year athletic permit card must be turned in.
  - b. The student and parent must have “signed” the signature page of the Co-Curricular Code.
  - c. The student must pay the Nekoosa Youth Athletics Fees.
  - d. The student must have a completed *Emergency Form* given to his/her coach and/or advisor.
2. When determining the length of consequences, all suspensions resulting in fractions will be rounded up to the next closest whole number.
3. As a courtesy to parents, students, and school district, the Co-Curricular Code will be signed annually. It is enforceable throughout the entire Middle School experience. If, by chance, the student and/or parent have not signed the code, the student is still bound by the provisions of the Co-Curricular Code. This also applies to students not previously under the Co-Curricular Code.
4. Each participant will be held responsible for cost of any equipment lost or damaged that has been issued to him/her.
5. All injuries must be reported to the supervising coach/advisor IMMEDIATELY. Do not go to a physician or dentist without the coach/advisor’s knowledge unless it is an emergency.

6. All athletes are required to ride to and from contests in school sponsored transportation. Extenuating circumstances are the exception to this with prior approval from the program director.
  - a. All buses leave on time.
  - b. Proper conduct will be required of all participants. The individual responsible will pay any damage done to the bus. If responsibility for damage cannot be determined, the group riding the bus at the time of the incident will make restitution for the damage.
  - c. Each group is expected to clean up its bus upon return from a trip.
  - d. It is important to note that all cell phones need to be turned off and not used (for any reason) while in transport to and from a contest. Coaches will permit, however, the use of cell phones during a designated time so a student can make arrangements with a parent/guardian for pick up at school.
  - e. Parents/guardians who wish to transport their son/daughter home from an athletic event must have a signed Student Transportation Release Form for the 2017-2018 School Year on file in the AMS Office. Parents/Guardians must also sign a form at the specific event which is available from the coach at the event.

Please note: Only Parents/Guardians may sign out their child. It is not an option for siblings, other relatives, or family friends to provide transportation of an athlete from an event. Extenuating circumstances must be prior approved by the program director.