

NOKOMIS CUSD #22

STUDENT ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE

2015-2016

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that participation in extracurricular activities should be part of the total experience for all youths that attend Nokomis schools.

We believe that participation in such activities contributes to the development of health and happiness, physical skill, emotional maturity, social competence, and moral values.

We believe that the spirit of cooperation and the will to compete are valuable to the development of a healthy mind.

We believe that extracurricular organizations are a wholesome equalizer because individuals are judged for what they can do, not on the basis of the social, ethnic, or economic group to which their families belong.

We believe that participation in extracurricular organizations is a *privilege and that participants must accept the responsibilities that go with that privilege.*

We expect our program participants to maintain high standards of conduct both in and out of school.

With these thoughts in mind, the Nokomis Board of Education, the administration, athletic coaches, and organizational sponsors have adopted this Extracurricular Code of Conduct for all Nokomis Jr. / Sr. High School extracurricular program participants. This code provides a minimum standard of conduct which must be followed by all participants. Nothing stated herein shall limit organizational coaches or sponsors from issuing specific rules / consequences for their individual sports / activities. The Nokomis Board of Education, in their sole and absolute discretion, may amend and/or modify this code and retains final authority in all matters.

DEFINITIONS

Participant

Participant means any student enrolled in grades 6 through 12 at Nokomis Junior / Senior High School who is participating (or has) participated in any extracurricular activity sponsored by Nokomis Community School District No. 22.

Extracurricular Activity

Extracurricular activity means any school-sponsored activity occurring beyond the scope of the school day for which a grade is not given. This may include, but is not limited to: tryouts, practices, games, contests, speeches, debates, performances, and plays affiliated with any school organization.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities offered at Nokomis Jr. / Sr. High School may include, but not be limited to, the following: football; golf; volleyball; cheerleading; basketball; baseball; softball; Art Club; Scholastic Bowl; school plays; Student Council; Future Farmers of America; Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America; National Honor Society; Foreign Language Clubs; Science Club; Student Advisory Council; and class officers.

CODE COVERAGE & EFFECTIVE DATES

The provisions set forth in this Code of Conduct are in effect throughout the entire school year, twenty four hours a day, including weekends and holidays beginning at the point a student first becomes actively engaged in an extra-curricular activity or athletic program and ends when the school year concludes or the extra-curricular activity or athletic programs ends, whichever is last. The rules apply on and off campus whether misconduct occurs at school, at any school-sponsored activity, or any other location.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

PAPERS ON FILE

All extracurricular participants must have an Extracurricular Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form signed by both the student participant and parent on file in the office prior to participation in any extracurricular activity/s. Additionally, all athletes must have on file with the athletic director proof of personal insurance and a current physical examination (within the past year) before participating in any athletic activity/s.

INJURIES

All injuries must be reported to the coach/sponsor first. All such injuries must be documented on a school 'Injury Report' form by the coach / sponsor within three days and submitted to the building principal for the purpose of insurance and liability.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All junior high school participants in extracurricular activities will follow IESA eligibility requirements for the duration of their participation in such activity/s. Any junior high student receiving a failing grade on a weekly report, while a participant in an activity/s, shall become ineligible for the following week. Upon receiving a second ineligible status report (during the same activity/s), the student will be dropped from the extracurricular activity/s. (Students who are participating in year long activities (e.g. Student Advisory Council), including cheerleading, will be allowed four ineligible reports before being dropped from the activity.) Junior high eligibility reports are based on quarterly academic performance.

All high school students participating in extracurricular activities will follow the eligibility requirements as stipulated in Board Policy # 5164. In order to be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored extracurricular activity, a student must be doing passing work in at least 30 credit hours (6 classes) of high school work per week. High school students failing to meet these criteria will be removed from the activity for one week. If they become ineligible a second time (during the same activity / athletic season), they will be removed from the activity. (Students who are participating in year long activities (i.e. Student Council, FFA, etc.) will be allowed four ineligible reports before being dropped from the activity.) High school eligibility reports are based on a student's cumulative grade for a given semester. All students who fail more than one course the preceding semester will be ineligible for the duration of the following semester.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment or uniforms may not be worn in gym class or elsewhere other than in regular athletic contests or scheduled practices. Uniforms may be worn as a team function upon the day of an event when approved by the coach/sponsor.

Students are responsible for all equipment and clothing issued to them or entrusted to them for their use. Damaged or lost articles must be paid for at replacement cost.

SCHEDULED PRACTICES

A student must secure permission for missing any scheduled practice or game from the coach/sponsor immediately involved. Any unexcused absence shall be cause for partial or total suspension from the squad. District policy will be adhered to for practice/activities on Sundays, Snow Days and School Holidays.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

In order to participate in any extracurricular activity, a student must be in attendance at school for all afternoon classes on the day of the activity unless there is an excused absence. Such absences (doctor / dentist appointment, etc.) will require documentation and/or the approval of the principal.

Any unexcused absence on the part of a student will prevent that student from practicing/participating in the activity on the day of the unexcused absence and such absence from the activity shall be considered unexcused.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

All extracurricular participants must ride school transportation to all events / contests. Participants may return from such activities with their parents provided the coach's / sponsors sign-out sheet has been signed and dated by the parent. Additionally, parents may pre-arrange for their child to ride home from away events with a specified adult by completing a Transportation Request form in the school office or in the presence of the coach. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances (i.e. medical appointment) may be approved by the administration.

DRESS

Students will be asked to dress neatly in order to represent Nokomis Schools in the manner they deserve. The coach/sponsor shall determine appropriate dress.

TRAINING RULES

Coaches/Sponsors may initiate training rules for students under their supervision. Rules of conduct for those participants will be defined below.

MISCONDUCT

Extracurricular activities participants should never engage in any act which may cast a negative light or bring disrespect upon the Nokomis School District. All acts of insubordination, noncompliance with school / staff rules and directives, disruptive behavior, vandalism, malicious mischief, misuse of transportation privileges, lawlessness, or breaking the general provisions outlined herein or in the activity rules as stipulated by coaches / sponsors, regardless of where they occur, may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular organization, or other disciplinary action as may be recommended by the coach, sponsor, or administration.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, MARIJUANA OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

We believe that the use of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drug use, and/or substance abuse has no place in our extracurricular programs. Consequently, violations of this provision will accumulate over the course of a student's entire school career. Violations occurring while a participant in any junior high activity will accrue over the course of the participant's junior high years. All high school students will begin their high school careers with a clean record at the beginning of their freshman year.

In all cases where the school district finds sufficient evidence of an extracurricular participant's possession or consumption of alcohol, substance abuse, or illegal / controlled substances, including drug paraphernalia, the student will be banned from all extracurricular activities for a specified period of time. Generally:

1. First time offenders:

ATHLETIC EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPANTS (including cheerleading)

- A. All participants (involved with an athletic program) guilty of a first violation will be suspended for 1/2 of a regularly scheduled IHSA / IESA competitive season. Suspensions will begin with the first scheduled contest following substantiation of a violation and be served in its entirety in contests succession.

If a student is not currently participating in an athletic activity at the time of the violation, the suspension will be served in its entirety during the next athletic season the student participates in. If a season concludes before a suspension has been completely served, the remaining percentage (of suspended games) will be applied to the next IHSA / IESA competitive season which the offending student participates in. For example: a student suspended for half a football season (9

games) would serve a 4.5 game suspension. If the season were to conclude with only three games having been served through suspension (3 divided by 4.5 = 66%, two thirds), the offending student would be suspended for the first one third (33%, one third) of the scheduled contests in the next athletic season in which they participate. If a school year ends before the suspension is served, the remaining suspension will carry over into the next school year.

Any first time offending participant (involved in an athletic activity) may, at the Principal's discretion, have their suspension reduced to 25% of scheduled contests by complying with either section 'B' or 'C' as stipulated below.

- B. Any participant involved with an athletic program (including cheerleaders) who self reports a controlled substance violation which he / she is guilty of within a 48 hour period of the violation may have their contests' suspension reduced to 25% of regularly scheduled IHSA / IESA contests. All self reports must be made directly to the head coach, athletic director, or principal within the 48 hour period.

Suspensions will begin with the first scheduled contest following substantiation of a violation and be served in its entirety in contests succession. If a student is not currently participating in an athletic activity at the time of the violation, the suspension would be served in its entirety during the next athletic season the student participates in. If a season concludes before a suspension has been completely served, the remaining percentage (of suspended games) will be applied to the next IHSA / IESA competitive season which the offending student participates in. If a school year ends before the suspension is served, the remaining suspension will carry over into the next school year. See example in 'A' above.

- C. Any participant of an athletic activity (including cheerleaders) guilty of a controlled substance violation who voluntarily participates and completes a district approved substance abuse program (i.e. *Substance Abuse Awareness Class @ Montgomery Mental Health Department*) may have their contests' suspension reduced to 25% of regularly scheduled IHSA / IESA contests. Athletes (including cheerleaders) are responsible for all costs incurred through such programs. Documentation of enrollment, continued progress (attendance) and completion in the class must be provided. Failure to complete the program as agreed (between athlete and school) will result in suspension of 50% of scheduled IHSA / IESA contests.

Suspensions will begin with the first scheduled contest following substantiation of a violation and be served in its entirety in contests succession. If a student is not currently participating in an athletic activity at the time of the violation, the suspension would be served in its entirety during the next athletic season the student participates in. If a season concludes before a suspension has been completely served, the remaining percentage (of suspended games) will be applied to the next IHSA / IESA competitive season which the offending student participates in. If a school year ends before the suspension is served, the remaining suspension will carry over into the next school year. See example in 'A' above.

Participation in practices during any athletic/activity suspension period will be at the sole discretion of the head coach.

For the purpose of calculating game suspensions (% of season), all scheduled tournaments will be counted as two games toward the total for the season.

NON-ATHLETIC EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPANTS

- A. All extracurricular participants of non-athletic activities guilty of a first violation of the controlled substance policy will be suspended from all extracurricular (non-athletic) activities for a period of nine weeks. The suspension will begin immediately after substantiation of a violation and continue from that date forward for nine weeks. During a suspension period such participants may not attend (meetings) or in any other way affiliate with extracurricular activities (events, trips, etc.). If

a school year ends before the suspension is served, the remaining suspension will carry over into the next school year.

Any first time offending extracurricular participant (non-athletic activity) may, at the Principal's discretion, have their suspension reduced to four weeks by complying with either section 'B' or 'C' as stipulated below.

- B. Any extracurricular participant (non-athletic activity) who self reports a controlled substance violation which he / she is guilty of within a 48 hour period of the violation may have their suspension reduced to 4 weeks from the date of the violation. All self reports must be made directly to the activity sponsor or principal within the 48 hour period.

The suspension will begin immediately after substantiation of a violation and continue from that date forward for four weeks. During a suspension period a participant may not attend (meetings) or in any other way affiliate with extracurricular activities (events, trips, etc.). If a school year ends before the suspension is served, the remaining suspension will carry over into the next school year.

- C. Any extracurricular participant (involved in a non-athletic activity) guilty of a controlled substance violation who voluntarily participates and completes a district approved substance abuse program (i.e. *Substance Abuse Awareness Class @ Montgomery Mental Health Department*) may have their activities' suspension reduced to four weeks. Extracurricular participants are responsible for all costs incurred through such programs. Documentation of enrollment, continued progress (attendance) and completion in the class must be provided. Failure to complete the program as agreed (between athlete and school) will result in suspension from all non-athletic activities for a duration of nine weeks from the date the violation was substantiated by school personnel. If a school year ends before the suspension is served, the remaining suspension will carry over into the next school year.

Individuals who are both athletic and non-athletic extracurricular activity participants who violate this controlled substance policy will be sanctioned concurrently with both the athletic and non-athletic stipulations as outlined above.

2. Second time offenders:

All participants (athletic and non-athletic activities) who violate the provisions of this controlled substance policy a second time will be banned from all extracurricular participation for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction.

3. Third time offenders:

Any participant (athletic and non-athletic activities) guilty of a third violation of the provisions set forth in this controlled substance policy would nullify their participation in extracurricular activities for the remainder of their school career.

FELONIES, THEFTS, ASSAULTS, BATTERY

Any participant who represents the district, and who has been charged by legal authorities with a felony, theft, assault or battery, shall be suspended from the activity pending disposition of the case. If found innocent, or the charges are dropped, the individual shall be reinstated. If found guilty, the participant shall be removed from the activity for the remainder of the season or for thirty (30) school days, whichever is for the greater time period.

SUSPENSION POLICY

Students who are suspended from school for one or more days due to a violation of school rules shall be unable to participate in extracurricular activities on the day/s they are suspended. Student participation in extracurricular

activities may also be limited or denied due to violation of the provisions herein or the individual activity rules / bylaws as prescribed by the coach / sponsor. Total suspension shall cause forfeiture of athletic awards, letter, and acknowledgements for the activity during which suspension occurred.

DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES

(Except concerning alcohol, marijuana, or controlled substance)

When a rule's infraction (Code, Activity, or School) occurs, the issuance of a discipline consequence may be determined at the discretion of the coach / sponsor and may involve consultation with the athletic director and/or principal. Multiple consequences (e.g. from the principal and from the sponsor / coach) are permissible. Coaches and sponsors are to report all rules infractions and consequences promptly to either the athletic director and/or principal.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES & DUE PROCESS

All activity sponsors and coaches will monitor their individual programs and implement stated policies with regard to this code and their specific rules and/or bylaws. Investigation of possible code / rules violations will necessitate communication and cooperation between sponsors, coaches, the athletic director, and/or principal. For violations involving athletic activities (including cheerleading), the athletic director should be apprized and/or involved in any investigation. With all violations involving non-athletic extracurricular activities, the principal should be contacted and/or involved during the investigative process. In all investigative matters, the student participant whom is alleged to have committed a violation must be made aware of the offense against them and given the opportunity to explain before any disciplinary consequences may ensue. Whenever a violation will result in a participant's disciplinary suspension from an activity, parents must be notified expeditiously and written documentation provided within three school days, such documentation will detail the violation, length of the suspension, and the appeal process.

DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

In all matters relating to the disciplining of a student / participant, parents have the right to a review of disciplinary action against their child before the Nokomis Board of Education. Such requests should be made within five days upon receipt of official documentation of disciplinary consequences to the Office of the Superintendent, 511 Oberle, Nokomis, IL 62075, 563-7311.

SUPPLEMENTAL RULES / AWARDS

Individual activity coaches and sponsors will devise specific rules or bylaws for their respective programs. Such rules / bylaws will explicitly detail program (participant) expectations with regard to behavior, attendance, awards / lettering criteria, and disciplinary consequences for violations. Written copies of all extracurricular activity rules and/or bylaws will be submitted to the principal and athletic director before organizational activities may begin. All coaches and sponsors will disseminate written copies of their respective rules / bylaws to all program participants at their activity's first organizational meeting. Nothing will prohibit coaches / sponsors from creating additional rules as needed during the course of their activity/s. However, such additional rules will not be enforceable until written dissemination to all participants, athletic director, and administration has occurred.

Parent/Guardian Student Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code Acknowledgement

I have received a copy of the Student Athletic/Extra-Curricular Policy. I have read and understand the rules and expectations. I agree to be responsible for all of the rules and expectations of the school and understand the consequences for failing to follow the requirements.

I understand that each team/organization may have additional rules and expectations that will be discussed at the beginning of the organization's season. I agree to follow by all of the guidelines and expectations outlined in this handbook , and in the organizations supplemental rules.

Student Name (Please Print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date