

**NHCS CODE OF ETHICS
FOR
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, EXTRA AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Participation** in any extra or co-curricular activity is an important part of the educational experience in the (NHCS) New Hanover County School System. A primary goal of such activities is to teach students character and self discipline skills that will enable them to develop to their highest potential. As role models for their peers and younger students, students who participate in extra or co-curricular activities ("participating students") are held accountable for their actions at a higher standard than other students. Because of the public nature of the extra and co-curricular programs sponsored by NHCS, participating students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect the high standards and ideals of their school and community. The participating student becomes subject to this Code of Conduct upon the student's signature and date below and continues until graduating from high school. Participating students are subject to this code at all times during the calendar year, including summer months, whether on or off campus. For summer month violations, any discipline or punishment imposed would go into effect at the next scheduled extra or co-curricular activity by the student

The following standards of conduct must be observed:

A. GENERAL RULES

- Students shall perform to the best of their ability both academically and athletically.
- Students shall contribute their best effort to the success of the team.
- Students shall conduct themselves both on and off the field in a way which brings credit to the team, the athletics program, and the system.
- Students shall abide by the letter as well as the spirit of NHCS rules and regulations in accordance with NHCS Student Discipline Policy 8410.
- Students shall at all times respect and be courteous to all members of the community and to visitors to the campus.
- Students shall exhibit dignity in manner and dress when representing the system.
- Students shall neither physically abuse nor threaten another person nor abuse any NHCS owned or controlled property or property associated with any NHCS sponsored functions.
- Students shall not participate in any form of hazing or initiation. Any activity of this nature is strictly prohibited. If it is determined that hazing has occurred, the involved student(s) may be suspended or dismissed from the team.
- Drugs, tobacco and alcohol: The possession, use of illegal or counterfeit drugs/alcohol, including possession of paraphernalia for ingestion of such substance by participating students is not acceptable and prohibited. If school officials receive credible evidence (i.e. a police report or criminal charges related to a drug or alcohol offense) or have reasonable suspicion that a violation under this section has occurred, the school will investigate. If after investigation of charges, the school officials determine that the participating student committed the violation, he/she shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in Section A.

First offense (resulting in an out of school suspension): The participating student will immediately be suspended from all extra and/or co-curricular activities for seven days*. If it is a drug or alcohol related offense, the student must enroll in an approved substance abuse program and complete the program. Reinstatement is contingent upon the participating student complying with recommendations made by the advisor/coach, treatment program, and the administration.

Second Offense (resulting in an out of school suspension): The participating student shall be suspended from all extra and/or co-curricular activities for 21 days*. The student must complete 20 hours of community service as recommended by the principal or designee. Reinstatement is

contingent upon the participating student complying with recommendations made by the advisor/coach and the administration.

Third Offense (resulting in an out of school suspension): The participating student shall be suspended from all extra and/or co-curricular activities for 365 calendar days. Reinstatement is contingent upon the participating student complying with recommendations made by the advisor/coach and the administration.

Fourth Offense (resulting in an out of school suspension): The participating student shall be suspended from all extra and/or co-curricular activities for the remainder of the student's high school or middle school career, which ever is applicable.

B. Drug or Alcohol Sale, Manufacture, or Possession with Intent to Sell and Deliver or Distribution

First offense (resulting in an out of school suspension): The participating student found in violation will be suspended from all extra and/or co-curricular activities for 45 days* or sport season whichever is longest. Reinstatement is contingent upon the participating student complying with recommendations made by the advisor/coach and the administration.

Second Offense (resulting in an out of school suspension): The participating student found in violation will be suspended from all extra and/or co-curricular activities for the remainder of the student's high school or middle school career, which ever is applicable.

C. Criminal and Juvenile Charges

A participating student charged with (or convicted of) a criminal or juvenile offense, misdemeanor or felony, other than a minor traffic offense, shall be suspended immediately from extra and/or co-curricular activities until an investigation has been completed by school personnel. The participating student must inform his or her coach or advisor of any criminal **or juvenile** charges against them as soon as possible, but no later than the student's next participation in any extra curricular event, to include practices, rehearsal, etc. The Principal will review the circumstances surrounding the behavior and determine in conjunction with NHCS Athletic Director or Superintendent's designee what disciplinary action, if any is necessary. A dismissal or other disposition of criminal or juvenile charges shall not prevent the school officials from imposing discipline based on the behavior. **Code of Conduct violations which may affect the school climate or have a direct and immediate effect on the welfare of the school shall carry a suspension of at least 45 days* from all extra and/or co-curricular activities.**

* For the purpose of this document, all days are defined as school days unless otherwise indicated.

**For the purpose of this document, "participation" includes, but is not limited to, practices, rehearsal, games, contests and performances.

Adopted: 04/07/08

New Hanover County Public Schools, Wilmington, North Carolina

NHCS Code of Ethics

Pledge

I have read and understand the Code of Ethics. I pledge as a student-athlete to follow all standards of the Code of Ethics.

I have read and understand the Code of Ethics. I pledge as a parent/custodian of my my child/children to set the example of the standards of the Code of Ethics.

I have read and understand the Code of Ethics. I pledge as the athletic director to be the standard of the Code of Ethics as an example for all students to follow.
