

# School District of Neillsville

## Athletic Training Policy

### A. Training Policies

The term "athlete," from this point shall refer to participants, managers, statisticians, cheerleaders, members of pompon squad, or any student associated with sports.

1. Possession or use of any tobacco product, including but not limited to cigarettes, E-cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, or snuff.
2. Possession or use of any container which contains alcohol. (Alcohol under this section is intended to include beer, malt liquor, wine, intoxicating liquors, and other similar products.)
3. The buying, selling, distribution or possession of any illegal drug, drug paraphernalia, or illegal performance enhancing substances.
4. Athletes are expected to be citizens of good standing in the community. Serious violations of the law may result in the student being declared ineligible. Such violations would include involvement in criminal activities such as theft, assault, vandalism, and/or fighting. Minor traffic violations are excluded from this provision.
5. Athletes are expected to be citizens of good standing within the school community. Students that receive three (3) or more behavioral referrals in any sports season will be subject to loss of contest privileges. Any student-athlete that receives their third (3) behavioral referral during a single sports season will become ineligible for one contest date. Each additional behavioral referral during that sports season will result in one additional ineligible contest date.
6. Any athlete charged with a felony would be immediately ineligible for sports until a determination regarding the charge has been made by the courts. Any athlete convicted of a felony would be ineligible for sports for a minimum of one calendar year from the date the original suspension began. Athletes suspended under this provision (#5) do not have the choice of option "A" or "B" or the honesty clause.

All types of violations are cumulative for the athlete's high school career.

Any athletes violating the above rules will be brought before the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review, and if found responsible must serve a suspension from sports.

Suspensions imposed by the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review must be served immediately. Suspensions will normally be served by remaining out for a sport in all respects except for participation in games, scrimmages or trips. The suspended athlete will not be allowed to miss any class time to travel with the team to "away" contests.

Suspensions are to carry over from one sport to the next. Before serving suspension in a sport, the athlete must have a minimum of 8 different days of practice or attendance at scheduled events with the team in that sport. An athlete may join a sport after the season has begun to serve his/her suspension provided that the athlete finishes the season in good standing. The athlete must participate in 8 different days of practice or attendance at scheduled events before the events will be counted as part of the suspension. An athlete's good standing is to be determined by the coach of that sport and the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review. If the student-athlete does not finish the season in good standing, the amount of time spent participating in the sport will not be counted toward his/her suspension.

An athlete denying violations of the conduct code will be provided an opportunity to be heard by the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review prior to the next interscholastic competition.

A student is required to follow the school's code of conduct on a year-round (12 month) basis. Minimum penalty for violations of the code which occur after a school begins WIAA tournament competition is immediate disqualification of the student for the remainder of the total tournament series in that sport.

### CODE VIOLATIONS

#### FIRST TIME VIOLATION

If an athlete is found responsible for the **first time**, upon approval of the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review, the athlete may have the choice of Option "A" or "B."

Option A:

1. Drug /Alcohol:

Suspension of 25% of the scheduled contests, have a drug/alcohol assessment by licensed assessment provider of the parents' choice or by the school, and participate in drug/alcohol treatment at licensed treatment center of parents' choice or have 6 hours of education provided by the school.

2. Tobacco:

Suspension of 25% of the scheduled contests, have a drug/alcohol assessment by licensed assessment provider of the parents' choice or by the school, and participate in drug/alcohol treatment at licensed treatment center of parents' choice or have 6 hours of education provided by the school.

3. Citizenship:

Suspension of 25% of the scheduled contests.

ALL:

After the 25% of the season suspension, the athlete may or may not be in competition if the treatment program or 6 hours of education are not completed. This will be decided by the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review. If the violation occurs during one sports season, percentages will be used to determine the number of contest dates to be missed in the athlete's next sports season.

Option B:

Suspension of 50% of the scheduled contest dates.

If the athlete elects option "A" and does not complete the option, option "B" will be invoked automatically by the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review. The one-half sport season restriction will include one-fifth events missed.

SECOND TIME VIOLATION

If an athlete is found responsible for a **second time**, upon approval of the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review, the athlete may have the choice of option "A" or "B."

Option A:

1. Drug/Alcohol:

Suspension of 50% of the scheduled contests, have a drug/alcohol assessment at licensed place of the parents' choice or by the school, and participate in a prescribed drug/alcohol treatment at licensed treatment center of parents' choice or have 10 hours of education provided by the school.

2. Tobacco:

Suspension of 50% of the scheduled contests, have a drug/alcohol assessment at licensed place of the parents' choice or by the school, and participate in a prescribed drug/alcohol treatment at licensed treatment center of parents' choice or have 10 hours of education provided by the school.

3. Citizenship:

Suspension of 50% of the scheduled contests.

ALL:

After the 50% of the season suspension, the athlete may or may not be in competition if the treatment program or 10 hours of education are not completed. This will be decided by the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review. If the violation occurs during one sports season, percentages will be used to determine the number of contest dates to be missed in the athlete's next sports season.

Option B:

One full sports season suspension.

If the athlete elects option "A" and does not complete the option, option "B" will be invoked automatically by the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review. The full sport season will include the one-half events missed.

## THIRD TIME VIOLATION

If found responsible for a third time, he/she will be declared ineligible for one calendar year.

At the end of a suspension, the athlete must apply to the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review in writing for reinstatement. An athlete remains ineligible until the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review has called a meeting and officially reinstated the athlete.

Coaches may have additional regulations as related to dress, conduct, curfew, etc. All appeals will be routed through to the Athletic Director to the Athletic Council. If not resolved, the appeal goes to the Board of Education.

### **B. Honesty Clause**

A first time offender who readily admits to an athletic code infraction may have their number of suspended games reduced to one contest day by direction of the Athletic Council.

### **C. Academic Policy:**

An athlete must meet School District of Neillsville and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requirements, defining a full-time student, and have received no more than one failing grade in the most recent grade-reporting period. The student who becomes academically ineligible may regain eligibility by meeting the academic standard following a period of 15 scheduled school days and nights of eligibility. The student who is ineligible for a minimum of 15 consecutive school days may not return to competition until the school day following the 15 day ineligibility period. It is the responsibility of administration to let the coach know if a student does not meet the academic requirements.

### **Equipment**

Upon completion of a sports season, athletes have one week to turn in all uniforms and equipment. Students will be charged for school issued items that are not returned. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in a sport unless all uniforms/equipment (or money restitution is made) from the previous sport are returned.

### **Appeal Process**

The decision of the Athletic Committee of Eligibility Review may be appealed to the Athletic Council through the Athletic Director. The decision of the Athletic Council may be appealed to the Board of Education.

### **Concussion**

The Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with the WIAA, has developed guidelines and informational materials for the purpose of educating coaches, athletes, and parents/guardians about the nature and risk of concussion and head injury in youth athletic activities.

The law, Wisconsin Concussion Law Act 172 – Statute 118.293 enacted

April 16, 2012, requires all youth athletic organizations to educate coaches, athletes, and parents/guardians on the risks of concussions and head injuries, and the law prohibits participation in any athletic activities until the athlete and parent/guardian has returned a signed agreement sheet indicating they have reviewed the concussion and head injury informational materials. The law requires immediate removal of an individual from any athletic activity, if symptoms indicate a possible concussion has been sustained. A person who has been removed from an athletic activity because of a determined or suspected concussion or head injury may not participate in any future athletic activity until he/she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives written clearance from the health care provider to return to the activity.

## **Handling of Complaints – Athletics**

If concerns arise regarding an athletic team policy, decision or issue, the following procedure should be observed:

Neither the board as a whole nor any individual member will entertain or consider communications or complaints from parents, staff or patrons until they have first referred to the lowest possible level for initial resolution. The proper chain of command for addressing athletic concerns shall be as follows:

Coach  
Athletic Director  
Building Principal  
District Administrator  
School Board

For any concern to be addressed, the individual or individuals in proper sequential order shall address it.

## ***WARNING TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS***

**SERIOUS, CATASTROPHIC AND PERHAPS FATAL INJURY MAY RESULT FROM ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION.** By its very nature, competitive athletics may put students in situations in which **SERIOUS, CATASTROPHIC** and perhaps, **FATAL ACCIDENTS** may occur.

By granting permission for your student to participate in athletic competition, you, the parent or guardian, acknowledge that such a risk exists where your child could be injured, suffer a permanent disability, or incur death as a result.

By choosing to participate, you, the student acknowledges that such a risk exists.

Students will be instructed in the proper techniques to be used in athletic competition and in the proper utilization of all equipment worn or used in practice and competition. Students must adhere to that instruction and utilization and must refrain from improper uses and techniques.

If any of the foregoing is not completely understood, please contact your school principal for further information.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEILLSVILLE

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614 EAST 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEILLSVILLE, WI 54456

PHONE: 715-743-3323  
FAX: 715-743-8718  
JOHN GAIER, ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parent:

The school is aware that many families have adequate health and accident insurance; however, there are some families whose coverage is not adequate or who have no insurance. Those students participating in interscholastic sports are particularly susceptible to accidents and injuries and although the school is not legally responsible for such injuries except in cases of negligence, we do feel an obligation to see that all athletes have proper insurance protection.

A low cost group insurance plan is being offered through the school for those who feel they do not have adequate coverage or wish to have additional protection. Please visit [www.1stAgency.com](http://www.1stAgency.com) online for more information.

Athletic Department

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**KORY POESCHEL, PRINCIPAL**  
504 EAST 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEILLSVILLE, WI 54456  
PHONE: 715-743-3323 (4)  
FAX: 715-743-8715

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**CRAIG ANDERSON RUSKIN, PRINCIPAL**  
401 CENTER STREET  
NEILLSVILLE, WI 54456  
PHONE: 715-743-3323 (5)  
FAX: 715-743-8714

School District of Neillsville  
**Athletic Training Policy**

Athlete's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sport \_\_\_\_\_

By signing, the parent/guardian and athlete:

1. acknowledge that they have received and will read the training policies and will abide by them
2. acknowledge that they have received and understand the material related to serious, catastrophic and perhaps fatal injuries and understand that risk exists where injury and permanent disability, and even death, can occur by participating voluntarily in athletics

Both the parent/guardian and athlete need to sign, date and return this form to Matthew Diestler, Athletic Director, before taking participating in any athletic practice or contest.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date