

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEILLSVILLE

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

PHONE: 715-743-3323  
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Dear Parents:

Please read the following rules for middle school athletic participation, and sign the last page and return to the coach of the sport in which your child wants to participate.

Sincerely,

Kory Poeschel, Middle School Principal

No person may be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

## NEILLSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC RULES

The Neillsville Middle School:

1. Will not practice on Wednesday evenings.
2. Will not practice on weekends or non-school nights unless approved by the principal.
3. Will have a coach or school employee at each practice or event.
4. Will abide by all equipment, field, and floor rules set by the WIAA.
5. Will use the same athletic code as the high school.
6. Will use the same serious injury form as the high school.
7. Will have all athletes hand in properly signed physical cards and other forms prior to their first practice.
8. Will have all athletes attend school for at least ½ of the day unless excused by the principal; this will be for practice as well as event days.
9. Will schedule its sport season within the high school season unless approved by the principal.
10. Will allow athletes to play in one sport at a time; however, when one sport is completed an athlete may enter another sport (For example boys basketball to wrestling.)
11. Will allow non-public school students who are the proper age to participate in athletics.
12. Will allow middle school athletes to participate in non-school sponsored events during the sport season. The school and coaches will not be responsible. **Parents Please Note\*** The number of events, recommended by the W.I.A.A. is based on research of middle age students. Student safety and student "burnout" should be considered if your child participates in more than a few additional outside events during the season.
13. Will follow the following academic rules:
  - a. All athletes in grades 6, 7 and 8, may not receive more than one failing grade in the most recent grade-reporting period. Should a student receive more than one failing grade, he/she will be considered academically ineligible.
  - b. The athlete may become academically eligible by having no more than one failing grades at the end of 15 scheduled school days.
  - c. Incompletes can be made up at anytime.
  - d. Seventh grade athletes entering fall sports will not use sixth grade, second semester grades for eligibility.
14. Will have the following number of practices before the first event:
  - Football-9 days
  - Cross Country-7 days
  - Golf-3 days
  - Volleyball-7 days
  - Wrestling-10 days
  - Basketball (Boys & Girls)-7 days
  - Track (Boys & Girls)-7 days
  - Softball-7 days

15. The athletic director will attempt to schedule the maximum events in each sport. Coaches may ask to have less than the maximum.
  - Football-7
  - Cross Country-8
  - Golf-12
  - Volleyball-13
  - Wrestling-12
  - Basketball (Boys & Girls)-17
  - Track (Boys & Girls)-12
  - Softball-12
16. Will not issue uniforms or equipment to be used by athletes outside of the sports season or at non-school sponsored events.
17. Will not practice in any form of training camp or similar program.
18. Will allow only middle school age children to compete. A student shall not compete if he/she reaches his/her 15th birthday before August 1 of any given school year.
19. Will view athletes as amateurs. A student shall be an amateur in all recognized sports in order to compete in any sports, and he/she shall become ineligible for all further participation in the school's interscholastic program if he/she:
  1. Accepts reimbursement, in any form; salary, cash, merchandise of any kind or amount, or share of game or season proceeds for achievement in athletics.
    - a. Actual and necessary reimbursement for transportation, food, and lodging paid in connection with playing a contest shall not be regarded as a violation.
    - b. A student may receive an award which is symbolic (non-merchandise) in nature such as trophies, medals, ribbons, event T-shirts, etc., but may not receive such merchandise items as jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, equipment, balls, watches, rings, billfolds, etc., regardless of their value.
    - c. A school may allow a student to retain items of practice any playing uniforms, which, for reason of hygiene, obsolescence, deterioration, etc., will not be passed on to another student.
  2. Signs a contract or agreement for services as a participating athlete.
    - a. A student may be employed (but not self-employed) on a part-time basis as an instructor on the playgrounds, game official, lifeguard, etc.
20. Will not enforce the athletic code on athletes until they have once signed the training agreement.
21. May declare athletes ineligible to participate in, or for participation in, any event or activity conducted other than the school, which may be regarded as contrary to the best interest of the participants or detrimental to the school athletic program.
22. Athletic director and the high school athletic director, with input of the coach or coaches of a sport, may have to make decisions as deemed necessary. (The W.I.A.A. rules may serve as guidelines.)
23. Will use the "Due Process" procedure used in the high school for athletes.
24. Coaches will not practice out of season with their athletes, unless hired to coach recreation athletes open to the public and/or their own child.

25. Any athlete absent from practice or event, three times, for detention or other unexcused absences will receive the following consequences:
- First time: Warning from coach (Parent called-by coach)
  - Second time: One missed event (Parent called-by coach)
  - Third time: Athlete removed for the rest of the season (Parent called-by coach)
- \*A note from the parent is required to excuse an absence.
26. Playing time may be limited, due to missed practices whether excused or unexcused.
27. Students attending St. John's School in Neillsville may participate in middle level sports.
28. Sixth grade students may participate in the following middle level sports:
- a. Cross Country
  - b. Football-only if they do not meet the size requirements stipulated for the local youth football program
  - c. Golf
  - d. Track
  - e. Wrestling – Fifth graders will be allowed to practice, but not allowed to participate in any competition with the middle school program. They also will not be in uniform for home matches nor travel to away matches with the team. They are required to fill out all required policy paperwork.

### **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:

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Building Principal
4. District Administrator
5. School Board

For any concern that need to be addressed; shall first be addressed by the individual, or individuals in proper sequential order.

## 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**

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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**  
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