

Nuttall Middle School Athletic Code
(Original 8/85 - Revised 8/89-Revised 8/91)
(Began at NMS 1991-92)

This Athletic Code has been adopted by the Board of Education of Robinson Community Unit School District No. 2, and applies to student athletes in grades 6-12. This policy is in addition to other policies concerning student conduct, and imposes additional requirements on student athletes. It is intended to promote the health and safety of students, to encourage the development of self-discipline and self-control in student athletes which are attributes the Board of Education finds to be necessary to make participation in athletics successful and rewarding for individual athletes as well as for the teams in which they participate.

The Board of Education determines that participation in athletics is a privilege. There is no right of students to participate in athletic competition or to participate in particular sports. If the rules and requirements set forth below are not complied with, the privilege to participate in athletics may be lost.

The rules set forth in this policy apply to the first day of practice of the student athlete, and continue to apply to the student athlete until the completion of his/her athletic career. These rules apply both in and out of season of the sport(s) in which each student athlete participates, during summers, holidays, and vacations, on and off campus, and whether or not violation occurs at a school or school sponsored activity.

I. Definitions

A. Student Athlete

A student athlete is a boy or girl in grades 6 through 12 who participates in any interscholastic sport, including all practices thereof.

B. Suspension

Suspension means loss of the privilege to participate in athletic contests. During suspension the student athlete will be expected to practice and travel with the team but shall not be permitted to dress in uniform.

C. Exclusion

Exclusion means loss of privilege to participate in practice, team travel, or participation in athletic contests.

II. Academic Eligibility Requirement - NMS

A. Grades will be checked weekly on all students participating in co-curricular activities.

B. Students must maintain grades of at least 1 C and 3 D's in order to continue participating in a co-curricular activity. (Absolutely no F=s)

C. Students not meeting the minimum grade requirements will not be allowed to participate in meetings, games or performances; however, they will be allowed to attend practices.

D. Students not meeting the minimum grade requirements for 2 consecutive weeks will not be allowed to attend practice or participate in games or performances.

E. Students not meeting the minimum grade requirements for 3 consecutive weeks will be dropped from the co-curricular activity completely.

Note: In figuring grades for eligibility, the cumulative grade in progress is used. In other words, it would be the grade that would be recorded on the report card issued at that time. This grade starts over at the beginning of each quarter.

III. Training Rules

A. The student athlete shall not use tobacco in any form.

B. The student athlete shall not possess, use, deliver, sell, transmit or attempt to possess, use, deliver, sell, or transmit any alcoholic beverage, any non-prescribed or illegal drug, or any substance which the student believes or represents to be any of the foregoing, including, but not necessarily limited to look-a-likes.

C. The student athlete shall not violate any criminal offense of any jurisdiction, except for petty offenses such as speeding, stop and signal light violation, and the like. Conviction of a criminal offense is conclusive evidence that the student committed the offense. Other evidence may also demonstrate that an offense occurred, but mere arrest or charge are insufficient in and of themselves, to show that the student athlete committed the offense.

D. The student athlete shall not attend an illegal party. An illegal party shall be defined as a party where alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances are present and available for minor's use.

E. The head coach of each sport (subject to the approval of the Athletic Director) shall have the authority to specify additional training rules relating to health, safety, conduct, attitude, language use, and the like and may discipline student athletes for violation of those training rules. Such discipline may include exclusion for serious offenses, or when lesser penalties have failed to deter violation.

IV. Consequences of Violations

A. Tobacco Use - one (1) week suspension for each occurrence in-season.

B. Alcohol, Drug, or Criminal Offenses

1) First Offense - Out of Season - Suspension for no less than the equivalent of one-half (2) of the scheduled contests for their next season. The student athlete and his parents will be required to schedule a conference with the coach and athletic director before returning to playing status.

2) First Offense - In Season - Exclusion from participation for the rest of the sports season which shall not be less than the equivalent of one-half (2) of the scheduled contests of the season remaining, the student athlete will be suspended for no less than one-half (2) of the next sport season in which the student participates. The student athlete and his/her parents will be required to schedule a conference with the athletic director and coaches of the sport the student participated in at the time of the violation and the next sport in which the student intends to participate.

3) Second Offense - A second violation within one calendar year will result in exclusion from participation in athletic contests for one (1) calendar year.

C. Rehabilitation Status

1) First Offense - A student athlete who comes forward to address an alcohol or drug problem and has not been in previous violation will be suspended for no less than one-fourth (1/4) of a sport season and must enroll in an approved rehabilitation program. This program must be approved by the principal, athletic director and coach. This program will be monitored and must be satisfactorily completed. This will be considered a first offense.

2) Second Offense - A second violation within one calendar year will result in exclusion from participation in athletic contests for one (1) calendar year.

D. Attendance at illegal parties

1) No less than 25% of the scheduled contests for each occurrence.

V. Authority for Decisions

A. The coach, athletic director, and principal shall be responsible for decisions relative to the violation of training rules. Penalties will be imposed based upon the collective judgment of the head coach, athletic director, and principal (within the scope of these rules) in the overall best interests of the athlete, the sport, the team, and the school.

B. All accusations or allegations of violations will be investigated as thoroughly and as reasonably as possible. However, here say information shall not be the sole basis for establishing a violation. This rule shall not apply to training rules established by coaches except in cases of suspension or exclusion. No suspension or exclusion will be imposed without the concurrence of the athletic director and principal. In all cases of suspension or exclusion, the student will be given the opportunity to respond to allegations or accusations of violations.

VI. Attendance

A. In order to participate in a scheduled contest, on a particular day, the student must have been in attendance at school for at least nine (9) periods that day and have arrived no later than the beginning of the second period (excluding death in the family, doctor's appointment or other good cause).

B. Student athletes must attend all practice sessions prior to a contest unless excused by the coach prior to any absence. If a practice session is missed and is unexcused, then he/she will not participate in the next contest.

C. Student athletes will not participate in a contest on the day of a pre-arranged absence unless there is prior administrative approval.

VII. Miscellaneous

A. Every student athlete must have on file with the athletic director a current physical examination form signed by a physician. No student athlete may participate in any practice or contest unless the physical examination form is filed. "Current" refers to a form provided immediately before the start of each academic year unless the student athlete does not participate in a sport at the beginning of the academic year, in which case the form must be on file before practice in the first sport the student athlete participates.

B. Any time a student athlete is seen by a physician for any injury or illness (whether or not related to or caused by the sport) he/she may not resume activities in a sport until the doctor issues written permission.

C. In order to protect the health of the student athletes and the financial well-being of his/her family, no student will be permitted to participate in student athletics unless he/she provides proof of health insurance coverage either through a policy offered by the district or through a family policy.

VIII. Rights of Review in Case of Exclusion

A. If a student is excluded from participation in athletics, the student athlete and parents shall have the right to request a meeting with the coach, athletic director, and principal within seven (7) days of exclusion.

B. If unsatisfied with the first meeting, a student athlete and parents shall have the right to request a hearing before the superintendent and board of education, or board committee or hearing officer which the board may appoint. The coach, athletic director and/or principal shall present information to the board that violation(s) occurred which justify exclusion. The student and parents may present whatever relevant information they desire concerning the alleged violation(s) or the penalty which should be imposed. At such hearing there shall be no right of cross-examination or other formal procedures. No attorney shall be permitted to attend the hearing. The decision of the board of education shall be final.

I have read and understand the Athletic Code. I realize that this code is effective upon our signing and is in effect throughout my/his/her entire eligibility at Nuttall Middle School. This code is considered to be a pact between the NMS Administration, Athletic Department, parents and student for the betterment of the Community Unit #2 Interscholastic Athletic Programs.

Please sign, date and return to your coach or the Athletic Director.

Parent or Guardian Date

Student Athlete Date