

New Hope-Solebury School District

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETICS and
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS RELATING TO STUDENT-ATHLETES and EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPANTS:

This Code of Conduct applies to any New Hope-Solebury High School student who participates in extracurricular activities (**school-sponsored athletic competition and club activities**). Membership in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. The privilege of team, club membership and/or activity participation carries with it certain responsibilities and expectations. Student-athletes, club members and/or activity participants who fail to meet these responsibilities or honor these expectations will be subject to appropriate consequences. As publicly recognized representatives of their school, student-athletes, club members and/or activity participants are expected to consistently exhibit and model appropriate behavior, both in and out of uniform, and on or off the school campus. The high school faculty and administration will be steadfast in its effort to uphold this standard.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The academic performance of students is tracked on a cumulative basis each week and grades of record are issued at the end of each nine-week marking period. Students must meet eligibility requirements in order to earn the right to participate in interscholastic athletics, club activities or extracurricular events such as dances, movie nights and athletic contests.

Student-Athletes

- **Weekly Failures:** A student-athlete with two or more weekly failures will be ineligible for scheduled games/contests for the period Sunday through Saturday of the upcoming week. Eligibility will be gathered from teachers at 3:00 PM on Thursdays.
- **Marking Period Failures:** A student-athlete with two or more marking period failures will be ineligible for a period of fifteen school days.

Club Participants

- **Weekly Failures:** A club or extracurricular event participant with two or more weekly failures will be ineligible for all scheduled club/extracurricular events and meetings for the period Sunday through Saturday of the upcoming week. Eligibility will be gathered from teachers at 3:00 PM on Thursdays.
- **Marking Period Failures:** A club or extracurricular event participant with two or more marking period failures will be ineligible for all scheduled club/extracurricular events and meetings for a period of fifteen school days.

***Should a student find themselves ineligible, it is the expectation that he/she would focus on academic improvement during the week of eligibility.

ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) stipulates in its bylaws that a student who has been absent from school during a semester for a total of twenty (20) or more school days, shall not be eligible to participate in an Inter-school Practice, Scrimmage, or Contest until the student has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student's twentieth (20th) day of absence. " This standard will be applied to student-athletes and club participants.

ABSENCE ON DAY OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PRACTICE, PERFORMANCE, OR ATHLETIC CONTEST

Participants must check in to the office before 9:34 a.m. in order to compete or participate in a scheduled athletic contest (game) or extracurricular event (e.g., club activity, concert, theater production) unless other arrangements have been made in advance with the principal or his/her designee.

Student-athletes/participants may not attend a team practice or extracurricular event if not present for four complete class periods on the day of the practice or event.

Participation in Physical Education

Any student who is unable to participate in a regularly scheduled Physical Education class for health reasons may not participate in a scheduled athletic practice or contest on the day or days of his or her nonparticipation.

Sportsmanship

Any student-athlete, coach or fan (student or adult) removed from an event for unsportsmanlike conduct or cited by an event official for inappropriate behavior before, during or after a game/event will be subject to the following progressive discipline. This discipline is cumulative both within a season and across seasons in a given school year in accordance with PIAA rules.

- **First Offense:** Removal from the remainder of the event and immediate disqualification from subsequent event or events in the case of a player or spectator.
- **Second offense:** Same as first offense but will be disqualified from the next two contest days.
- **Third offense:** The student-athlete/ participant is disqualified from athletic competition/activities for the balance of the school year.

The principal, at his or her discretion, may extend the length of a suspension or impose additional penalties, consistent with the school's Discipline Code, for particularly egregious conduct.

Fan Behavior

Students, parents, and community members are encouraged to attend athletic/extracurricular events. Good sportsmanship demands that those in attendance cheer for our athletes/participants and not against the opposition. Opposing athletes/participants, their coaches/advisors, and their

fans are our school guests and they are to be treated accordingly. Students and other attendees are encouraged to be spirited in their support of our students. However, all cheers are to be positive in nature. The judgments of game/event officials are to be honored rather than challenged. Language directed to particular athletes/participants or an official is inappropriate and will be corrected when observed. A single egregious act, or the repetition of inappropriate behavior, will result in removal from the game/event site and possible restriction from future events. This standard applies to students, parents, and community members.

BUS POLICY – AWAY ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Student athletes who do not leave away athletic contests with the team bus (or van) must adhere to the following procedure(s):

- A. A student is permitted to leave with a parent or guardian if the parent has submitted a written request to the athletic department.
- B. A student is permitted to leave with another parent or adult if written permission has been submitted to the athletic department by each student athlete's parent / guardian / adult. In the interest of safety and liability, a student-athlete is not permitted to leave with another student or non-authorized person under any circumstances.

ATHLETIC SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Each student is responsible for all issued uniforms, supplies and equipment. At the conclusion of each season, it is the student-athlete's responsibility to return all items in acceptable condition (minus normal wear and tear).

Any item not returned or returned in an unacceptable condition will be charged "single item" replacement price. The student is ineligible to participate in athletics until the obligation is satisfied.

NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY HIGH SCHOOL Drug and Alcohol Regulations

These regulations have been developed to promote a healthy lifestyle that reduces the risk for dangerous behaviors amongst our students. This procedure is intended to strongly discourage our students from using harmful drugs and alcohol and to foster the good health and welfare of our students. These regulations apply to student participation in all interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities at New Hope-Solebury High School and are consistent with the general policy as listed in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Possession, use, sale or distribution (or any attempt to possess, use, sell or distribute) of alcohol, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia by a student-athlete/participant is a violation of law and is strictly prohibited. Violators will be subject to suspension and criminal proceedings.

Additionally, if a student-athlete/participant finds himself/herself in the presence of one or more individuals in possession of, using, selling or distributing alcohol, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia, he/she is to take immediate steps to remove him or herself from the environment.

- 1) Offenses shall be recorded cumulatively while the student is enrolled.
 - a) An offense shall include a verified incident involving the illegal possession, use, transfer, or sale of **drugs or alcohol on or off school property**. An offense will be verified by investigation by school officials and/or by arrest and conviction.
 - b) An offense shall also include a verified incident of “Constructive Possession” of alcohol and/or drugs. Constructive Possession is defined as a failure to remove oneself from a situation or area within a reasonable amount of time where illegal use of alcohol or other drugs are known to be present.
- 2) A student with a drug or alcohol problem may voluntarily come forward without any consequence if a request is made for assistance. Confidentiality will be maintained. This action must be prior to any reported or known offenses.
- 3) In an effort to assist any student with a drug or alcohol problem any self-referral or violation will be referred to the middle school SAP Team. This team will work with the student, family, and outside agencies to bring about private counseling, drug rehabilitation where appropriate. The student-athlete/club participant will be required to complete an alcohol/drug assessment through The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania.
- 4) A first verified offense will result in:
 - a. Normal disciplinary action through the school disciplinary code when applicable.
 - b. A recorded warning, a call to parents/guardians and written notification to parents/guardians.
 - c. Assignment to the SAP Team.
 - d. Suspension from participation on all interscholastic teams and extracurricular activities, in-season or out-of-season, **through the 20th school day**, practice day and/or game day following the 1st day of suspension. The principal, at his or her discretion, may extend the length of a suspension and/or impose additional penalties, consistent with the school's Discipline Code, for particularly egregious acts.
 - e. Revoking of a team leadership role (i.e. captain).
 - f. Completion of an alcohol/drug assessment through The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania.
- 5) A second verified offense within 12 months of the 1st verified offense will result in:
 - a. A call to parents/guardians. and notification to parents in writing.
 - b. Continued efforts by the SAP Team or use of appropriate outside agencies.
 - c. Removal from participation on all interscholastic teams and extracurricular activities, in-season or out- of-season, for the remainder of the school year. The principal, at his or her discretion, may extend the length of a suspension and/or impose additional penalties, consistent with the school's Discipline Code, for particularly egregious acts.
 - d. Normal disciplinary action through the school disciplinary code when applicable.
 - e. Completion of an alcohol/drug assessment through The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania.

- 6) Chronic offenses, three or more verified offenses while a student is enrolled in the New Hope-Solebury School District will result in:
- a. A call to parents, notification to parents in writing.
 - b. Continued efforts by the SAP Team or use of appropriate outside agencies.
 - c. Permanent removal from all athletic and extracurricular programs
 - d. Normal disciplinary action through the school disciplinary code when applicable.
 - e. Completion of an alcohol/drug assessment through The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania.

7) If a student-athlete/club participant admits his/her involvement in a suspected drug and/or alcohol incident, as stated in 1a, prior to or during the 1st round of questioning by the school's administration, the student-athlete/club participant will receive only a 10-day suspension rather than a 20-day suspension as outlined in #4 above. Furthermore, if a student admits "Constructive Possession" as stated in 1b, he/she will receive a 5-day suspension. These are only valid on a suspected first offense.

PARENTS SECTION

Team Building – "The Coach and Parent"

A. Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.

1. Communication you should expect from your child's coach:
 - a. Philosophy of the coach
 - b. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
 - c. Team requirements; e.g., practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning
 - d. Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation
 - e. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation
 - f. Team commitments and expectations
2. Communication coaches expect from parents:
 - a. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
 - b. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
 - c. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

B. As your children become involved in the programs at New Hope-Solebury High School they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important that they understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Examples:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child's attitude/motivation
3. Academic support

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you would like or where you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgements based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach.

Examples:

1. Team strategy
2. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. They are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Contact the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Director of Athletics. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to call to set up an appointment with the Director of Athletics to discuss the situation.

C. Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after secondary school.

D. UNDERSTANDING THE RISK OF CONCUSSION, HEAD INJURY AND OTHER ATHLETIC RELATED INJURIES

I understand that Concussions, head injuries and other athletic related injuries can occur to my son/daughter when participating in interscholastic athletics. Information relevant to concussions in high school sports is available on the PIAA Web Site at www.piaa.org/piaa-for/sports-med.

Go Lions!

The Parents' Pledge

Cooperation among coaches, athletes, parents, and school personnel is essential if students are to realize the values of athletic participation. Like coaches and athletes, parents must make commitments to the athletic program to assure such cooperation.

As the parent of an athlete in the New Hope-Solebury School District, I promise:

- To accompany my child to as many orientations and informational meetings offered by the athletic department, as my schedule will permit.
- To work closely with all school personnel to assure an appropriate academic as well as athletic experience for my child.
- To assure that my child will attend all scheduled practices and athletic contests. If they cannot be in attendance, I will contact or encourage my son/daughter to contact the coach in advance.
- To require my child to abide by the athletic department's rules.
- To acknowledge the ultimate authority of the coach to determine strategy and player selection.
- To promote mature behavior from students and parents during athletic contests.
- To work cooperatively with other parents and school personnel to assure a wholesome and successful athletic program for our school.
- To work closely with coaches and other school personnel to identify a reasonable and realistic future for my child as a student athlete.
- To not approach coaches at inappropriate times with complaints/issues, but to meet at a mutually agreed upon time.
- I understand the dangers and risks of concussions, head injuries and other athletic related injuries that may occur to my son/daughter while participating in interscholastic athletics.
- Any failure to live up to the New Hope-Solebury High School District Policies, New Hope-Solebury High School Athletic Policies, or the rules and regulations set forth by the PIAA will result in an appropriate consequence deemed necessary.