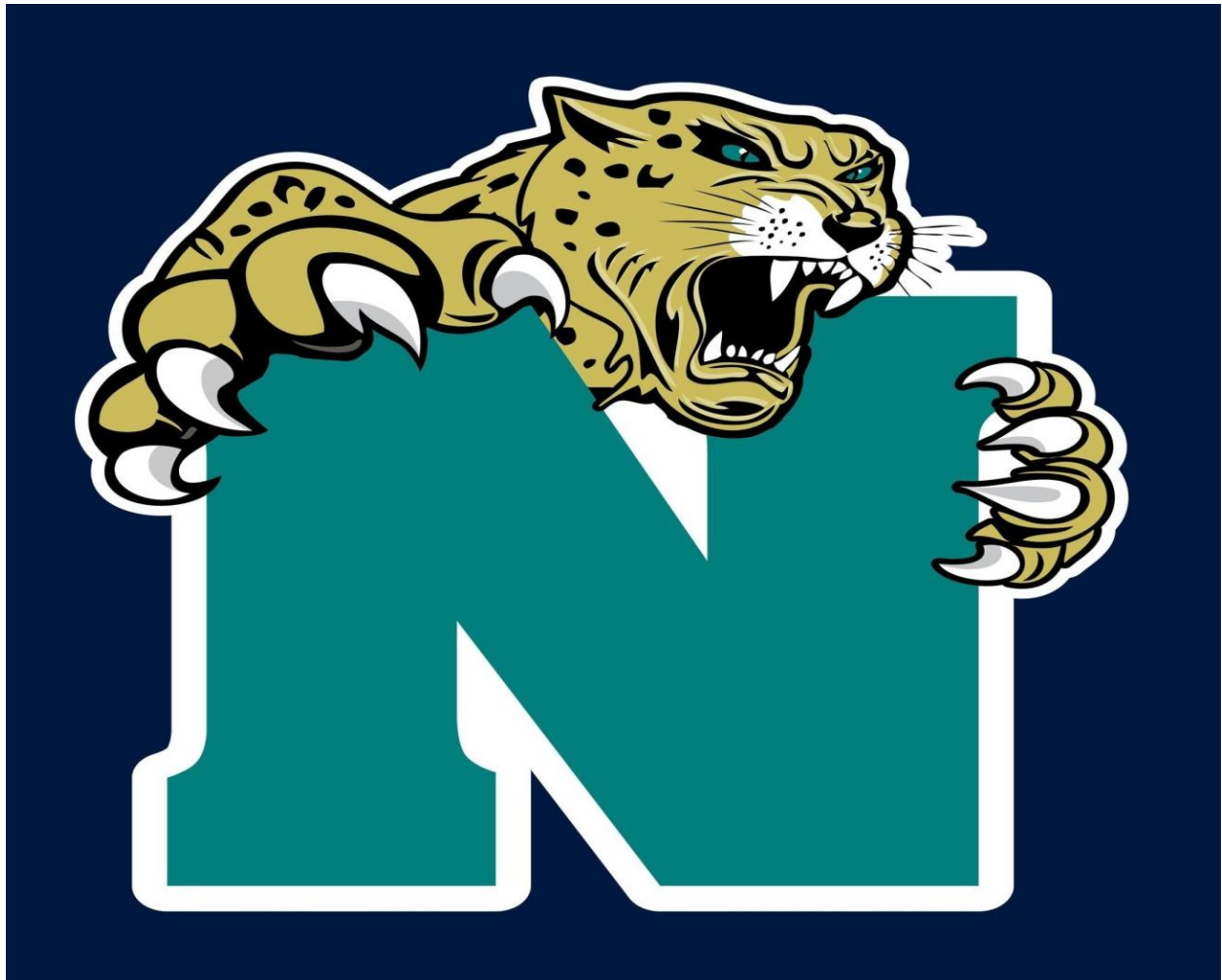


NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Athletic Coaches Handbook

2022-2023



Larry Ferebee, Principal
George Privott, NCHS Athletic Director
Mark Long, District Athletic Director

Northampton County High School 2022-2023
High School Athletic Coaches Handbook

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Introduction and Purpose

It is the purpose of this handbook to set forth some of the pertinent operating procedures for the Northampton County Athletic Program. It is intended to provide a ready reference to coordinate the responsibilities for our athletic program. This handbook will provide information about the administrative rules and regulations and create a framework within which the athletic department can operate smoothly and efficiently and provide optimum opportunities for our student-athletes.

The rules and regulations governing our interscholastic athletic program come from the Northampton County Board of Education and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. <http://www.nchsaa.org/>.

Each school will also develop operating procedures for their individual schools and team rules for each sport. It is the coach's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to these rules. Each school maintains an athletic page on their school website for additional information, including but not limited to announcements, team schedules, and forms.

All coaches should familiarize themselves with this handbook and with the rules and regulations found in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and the National Federation of Rules and Regulations pertaining to each individual sport. <http://nfhs.com/>

- Each coach is assigned certain coaching duties and is expected to represent Northampton County Schools to the best of his/her ability. It is a violation of a coach's contract not to fulfill those duties in accordance with the above governing organizations.

North Carolina Coaches Association - <http://www.nccoach.org/>

North Carolina Athletic Director Association - <http://www.ncada.net/>

National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association - <http://www.niaa.org/>

National Collegiate Athletic Association - <http://NCAAEligibility>

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics - <http://NAIAEligibility>

National Junior College Athletic Association - <http://NJCAAEligibility>

Philosophy and Belief

It is the philosophy of Northampton County Schools that a quality athletic program will serve as a supplement to the overall education of our students. It is the belief that a strong interscholastic athletic program will promote high academic achievement, increase the scholarship of students, improve discipline, and help develop character among student-athletes.

Coaches/Volunteers

It is the responsibility of the principal to annually hire and renew coaching contracts for the school's athletic program. This should be done in conjunction with the athletic director and the head coach of a particular sport. These determinations are the responsibility of the principal.

All coaches should successfully complete all pre-employment background checks required by Northampton County School's employees. No coach shall solicit help from a volunteer or hire an assistant coach without the principal's consent. A volunteer or non-faculty coach may not coach his/her child or grandchild.

Coach's Code of Conduct

Coaches employed by the Northampton County Board of Education and all volunteer coaches will conduct themselves with a positive attitude and will promote and display quality sportsmanship at all times. Coaches should understand that their actions are reflective of the school they represent as well as the entire school system. Coaches further agree to:

- Comply with all rules and regulations set forth by the Board of Education and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.
- Be a positive role model that all students will emulate. Coaches will be mindful that they are serving "our local parent" and any relationship with students other than the coach/student-athlete relationship is strictly forbidden.
- Do everything possible to promote a wholesome attitude toward athletics among students, faculty, and the entire school community.
- Do all they can to promote the athletic program as first class and strive to have all parents and students believe in our athletic philosophy.
- Do all they can to make another school's visit to our campus a pleasant experience.

- Do not use or allow athletes to use profane language or other negative behaviors that would be detrimental to the school system.
- Treat game officials as guests and accept their judgment with proper attitude and dignity.
- Require athletes to dress appropriately while representing Northampton County Schools and display a positive attitude at all times.
- Be good losers as well as winners.
- Promote good, positive sportsmanship and behavior from their fans.
- Report contest results to the media; win or lose.
- The coach shall respect and support contest officials by avoiding conduct that would incite players and/or spectators.
- The coach should limit his/her communication with athletes via social media and text to:
 1. Details or schedules about practices and games.
 2. Updates from players about tardies and absences from athletic practices and games.

The coach shall discipline athletes who display unacceptable behavior.

Each head coach is expected to join the North Carolina Coaches Association by attending the clinic in Greensboro each year. Head coaches are required to attend a rules session clinic for their prospective sport before coaching for that year.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRINCIPAL

The principal in a Northampton County School is directly responsible for the school's operation, including any matters pertaining to the athletic program. The appointment of the athletic director, head coaches, and assistant coaches is made upon the recommendation of the principal on a year-to-year basis. The approval of the principal or his designee is to be secured before any member of the athletic staff commits themselves or their school to a contract, be it financial or otherwise.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Under the direct supervision of the principal, the athletic director is charged with the responsibility of administering his school's philosophy of athletics.

Specific Duties

1. Know and supervise the administration of general policies of the school board, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, and the North Carolina Public Schools.
2. Assist the principal in securing competent coaches for all sports.
3. Assist in supervision necessary for crowd control.
4. Provide principals, parents, and coaches with pertinent athletic information.
5. Approve the purchase of all athletic equipment and establish inventory control procedures through the principal.
6. Implement procedures for handling athletic insurance, physical examinations, parental permissions, and athletic eligibility.
7. Instruct all athletic personnel in the responsibility and duties pertaining to their assignment.
8. Establish the eligibility of all athletes.
9. Secure game transportation through the principal.
10. Coordinate personnel needed to host an athletic contest.
11. Secure qualified officials for athletic contests.
12. Perform other duties relative to athletics as assigned by the principal.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACH

The quality of Northampton County School's athletic program will be determined by the professionalism of coaches working within the various activities. Coaching is a personal decision based upon the individual's desire to work with students and to contribute to the overall school program.

The coach should understand his/her sport and be familiar with all rules, courtesies, and procedures of the activity. The coach should know his/her students and be an effective leader. He/she should be concerned with winning gracefully and. When losing, accept the loss with poise and a realization that an educational experience probably has been achieved.

Specific Duties

1. Teach the physical skills needed to play.
2. Know and follow all rules and regulations governing the sport.
3. Provide fair and equal opportunities for all candidates.
4. Plan and supervise practice sessions in keeping with the age and maturity of the players.
5. Meet with the athletic director to prepare a tentative schedule of games.
6. Establish rules for the proper use and care of athletic equipment. Coaches and their staff are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of equipment and facilities of their perspective sports.
7. Prepare and present to the athletic director a list of students desiring to participate so that eligibility can be determined.
8. Check and monitor team members' academic progress.
9. Submit to the athletic director at the end of the season a list of any equipment and/or uniforms needed for the ensuing year.
10. Collect uniforms and equipment at the end of the sports season and account for the same.
11. Perform other duties relative to coaching as assigned by the principal and the athletic director.
12. Each coach will have a set of written rules and regulations for their team. A copy of these rules will be kept on file by the coach. A copy of the rules should be submitted to the school athletic director and principal.

Educational Values and Interscholastic Athletic

1. Build physical fitness;
2. Provide a positive use of leisure time;
3. Teaches how to set and reach individual and team goals;
4. Teaches self-discipline;
5. Develops self-confidence;
6. Provides healthy competition;
7. Develops communication skills;
8. Teaches respect for rules and authority;
9. Develops determination and perseverance;
10. Develops healthy aggression and initiative;
11. Provides for wholesome release of physical energy;
12. Develops emotional control;
13. Teaches realization of personal limitations;

14. Develops social competence;
15. Develops courage;
16. Teaches cooperation and respect for the rights of others;
17. Promotes academic success;
18. Provides opportunities for higher education;
19. Promotes sportsmanship.

Student Participation

Interscholastic athletics are available to any Northampton County student who meets the eligibility requirements set forth by the Northampton County Board of Education and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. It is the responsibility that proper reporting is made. It is strongly encouraged that the athletic directors and school guidance department be involved in this verification process. The following guidelines of eligibility must be met:

1. No student may be approved for any athletic contest if his/her 19th birthday comes on or before August 31, 2022.
2. Student-athletes must meet the school attendance policy. The principal has the right, in some circumstances, to waive this attendance rule. If this is the case, the child receives their earned grade for the semester and is academically eligible for athletic competition as long as he/she is not absent more than 15 school days during the previous semester. Any student who exceeds 15 absences must have an approved attendance waiver. All attendance waiver requests should be sent to the NCS director of athletics for consideration.
3. Students must be enrolled full-time to be eligible to participate in athletics (minimum of 3 courses). In other words, full-time previous and current semesters.
4. There is a 2.0 minimum GPA requirement. A student with less than a 2.0 G P A will be placed on academic probation and may be allowed to continue participating with mandated tutoring.
5. Students must pass the previous semester to meet NCHSAA and NCS requirements. This keeps the student academically eligible for graduation. If a student has the opportunity to take English or other courses in summer school, then the student is considered to be showing academic progress and be in line to graduate. Students must meet residency requirements.(More information can be found under "Transfer Policy,,)
6. Student-athletes are prohibited from participating in bullying and/or hazing of other students as defined in the Northampton County Board of Education's Bullying and Harassment Policy and the Northampton County Board of Education's Code of Student Conduct Policy.

7. Students must attend the day of a game to play (minimum of two periods).

Daily Participation

1. Each coach should encourage all students with athletic interests to participate in athletics. At no time should a coach use undue influence to pressure a student to go out for a sport in lieu of participating in another sport.
2. Students must attend school for at least 2 class periods on the day of a contest to be eligible to participate in that contest or to participate in a practice that day. Except: Absent Students who would not otherwise be required to be at school because of the final exam schedule.
3. All athletes should be encouraged to be involved in year-round conditioning. Coaches may set up off-season programs for their athletes as long as it is strictly volunteer. Coaches should stress to student-athletes participating in off-season conditioning that the student is not guaranteed to make the team or that it is mandatory to make a team. Off-season development must comply with the guidelines set forth by the NCHSAA. Up-to-date physicals shall be required for all students participating in summer workouts.
4. Each coach should promote participation in more than one sport.
5. Any student who quits or is removed from a team after that team's first regular season contest will not be allowed to participate in any activities with any other athletic team until the day after the team has finished the season. This includes any out-of-season or in-season workouts, practices, or conditioning sessions.
6. Any student who receives an ISS or OSS on the day of a contest or practice will not be allowed to participate in the contest. Participation in practice is at the coach's discretion.
7. Each coach will have a set of written rules and regulations for their team, including information regarding the extent of tryouts. A copy of these rules will be signed by the parent and the student-athlete, submitted to the Director of Athletics, and kept on file in the principal's office and by the coach.
8. All student-athletes and their parents must attend a general meeting at the beginning of the year or sports season so that the school can cover team, county, and state guidelines, the drug/alcohol policy, as well as the concussion forms and information. Each coach should distribute team rules at this meeting and have the student and parent sign stating that they have been given and understand the rules. The guidelines should include the consequences for failing to meet required expectations. Students will also sign the agreement between the student, parents, and school prior to participating in the athletic program.

- 9. Gfeller-Waller Concussion Law** In order to compliant with the law, remember the following are required each year:
- All athletes and parents must be given a copy of the concussion signs and symptoms
 - All athletes and parents must sign in on a checklist indicating receipt of the signs and symptoms
 - Any athlete sustaining a concussion CANNOT practice and/or play until presenting a Return to Play (RTP) form signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine
 - An up-to-date Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must be on-file and posted in the specific venue for which it is written. Remember: Annual updates are mandatory by law. (NCHSAA requires a cardiac safety program)
10. Coaches of multi-sports athletes should coordinate off-season workouts so the athlete will have equal time in all sports.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE

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

COMMUNICATION TO EXPECT FROM THE COACHING STAFF

1. Philosophy and expectations the coach has for your child and the players on the team.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Written team rules and regulations will be signed by the parent and student-athlete, and special equipment, strength, and conditioning program.'
4. The procedure should prevent your child from being injured during participation.
5. Team rules, guidelines, and consequences for infractions.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENT

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any school-related scheduling conflicts well in advance.
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.
4. Specific concerns in regard to coaches' philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in the athletic program, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

PROCEDURE TO SETUP A PARENT-COACH CONFERENCE

Some situations may require a conference between the coach and the parent. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or game. These can be emotional times for the parent, child, and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Both parties involved must have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed.

1. Call the next day to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director. The Athletic Director will set up a meeting for you. It is difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you had hoped. Coaches are professionals, and they make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student athletes involved. Certain things can and should be discussed with the coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach.

The communication process: athlete and/or parent, coach [no resolution] & Athletic Director [no resolution] or Principal.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior with the team and on the practice/game field.
4. The future of your child's play at the next level.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student athletes.

THE NEXT STEP

What can a parent do if a meeting with a coach does not provide a satisfactory solution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined if necessary.

COACHES AND PARENTS WORKING TOGETHER WILL:

- Assist each young person in setting realistic goals
- Emphasize improved performance, not just winning
- Provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for training and competition
- Control the emotional level at games and events
- Encourage your child along with all the members of the team
- Demonstrate mutual respect, characterized by communicating in a positive way
- Provide positive role models

In order to provide the very best program possible for our student-athletes, we all need to be sensible and responsible and keep our priorities in order. There is much more at stake than a win/loss record.

Risk Management

Coaches should always place the welfare of student-athletes above the competition. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure a student-athlete has the pre-participation physical examination form and proper insurance coverage. Coaches should never place a student-athlete in a situation that they know is unsafe and that the athlete is unprepared. Coaches should always supervise high-risk activities.

Decisions of the licensed First Responder or Certified Athletic Trainer are final and must be adhered to by the coach. In football, a certified athletic trainer or first responder is required for EACH practice and game.

Equipment

The students will be expected to purchase shoes, socks, and undergarments required for a particular sport. Spirit packs may be offered to student-athletes by may not be a requirement for participation in a sport. Efforts should be made to provide these items for economically disadvantaged students.

Each school shall develop procedures for issuing equipment to coaches. Coaches will be provided instructions for the proper care equipment and should maintain all equipment in proper playing order. Coaches are responsible for keeping inventory of all equipment. All equipment should be returned to the Athletic Director at the end of the season.

Transportation

All student-athletes should travel to and from games and practices on the activity bus with the rest of the team. In some cases, coaches may permit students to ride from away games with parents with the appropriate written documentation/permission. No student will be allowed to ride to or from an athletic event with someone other than their parent/legal guardian/adult for whom permission was given.

All coaches or other individuals who drive an activity bus must have a CDL-P/S license and a valid school bus driver's certificate. The activity bus license and pocket card are no longer valid credentials. Each head coach is responsible for ensuring the activity bus is cleaned after each use.

As a reminder, anytime there is a bus incident of any type, a police report must be filed for our insurance to cover the damages. Any damages that occur as a result of an accident with an activity bus will be the driver's responsibility if the police are not contacted. In addition, drivers who are at fault in an accident will be required to be drug tested if they are cited by the police.

It violates state and federal law to transport students in vans. At no time is it permissible to use vans to transport student-athletes.

Booster Clubs

All functions of the booster club must be approved by the principal of the school. Any items purchased by the booster club become the property of Northampton County Schools.

Audit Requirements

School-related organizations or organizations which engage in public fund-raising activities in the name of the school or to support school programs and extracurricular activities must be properly accountable to the public, which contributes to such efforts and the school.

An audit of the organization's financial records should be conducted annually by a committee from within the membership and may include community business/finance leaders and personnel from the school system.

CHEERLEADING

Cheerleading eligibility will be treated as other sports. Students must meet the same academic and attendance eligibility requirements as other student-athletes.

High school cheerleading coaches and cheerleaders in Northampton County are governed by the rules implemented by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and Northampton County Board of Education.

Positive crowd and student body involvement, directed by the cheerleading squad in support of the school team, should be a major goal, and it is a very important component of an athletic program. The squad is not intended to develop its skills and talents solely for entertainment or competition purposes.

Non-faculty and volunteer cheerleading coaches must be approved by the Human Resources department.

Safety

Cheerleader coaches and student-athletes will be required to adhere to the safety guidelines set forth by the National Federation of High School Associations. These guidelines have been recommended to each local educational agency for implementation and adoption.

NCHSAA requires the "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "Concussion in Sports" online courses to be completed and recommends that all cheerleading coaches take NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Cheerleading.

It is strongly recommended that, before a cheerleading squad uses those safety guidelines, the coach or advisor for the cheerleaders consider their application with the training, experience and athletic ability of the students under supervision.

Northampton County Board of Education reserves the right to implement more restrictive guidelines and regulations. The following Nation Federation rules will apply:

- All cheerleading squads shall adopt a comprehensive conditioning program. Target areas include leg flexibility, upper arm strength, able and wrist strength, etc.
- Basic warm-ups of cheerleading gymnastics will precede all practice sessions and performances.
- All cheers, dances, and spirit activities shall be well planned, practiced, and organized to promote the safety of students participating in cheerleading activities.
- Practices should be performed in an atmosphere that provides maximum concentration with minimum noise and distractions.
- Coaches must coach only within his/her level of expertise and the abilities of their squads. It is recommended that cheerleading coaches/sponsors should regularly attend cheerleading camps and state and local cheerleading clinics to be more knowledgeable of current cheerleading techniques and safety procedures.
- Coaches/sponsors must know their squad's ability level and must limit the squad's activities accordingly. Squad members must not be pressed to perform stunts, routines, pyramids, or gymnastics until they can be performed safely.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is conduct that imposes a type of self-control involving honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of results. School spirit is a reflection of these attitudes and behaviors. All of the Northampton County Schools cheerleading squads are expected to adhere to the following sportsmanship concepts:

- Spirit squads should always cheer in a positive manner. It is inappropriate to cheer against the opposing team or to cheer in response to an opposing player's mistake.
- Cheers and chants with suggestive words and motions shall not be used because, in many situations, they bring about an inappropriate response.

- Spirit leaders should discourage their followers from yelling or cheering while an opponent is shooting free throws or creating any form of intimidation.

Cheerleading is not considered a sport in Northampton County. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has left the establishment of guidelines governing cheerleading to the local LEA. As with many athletic programs, rules have been established to deal with the selection process, participation, and competitions. Failure to abide by the rules will result in a fine to the school.

1. The primary function of cheerleading is to support interscholastic athletics. Therefore, cheerleading squads are prohibited from participating in competition when other athletic teams, which normally have cheerleading at their event in their prospective school, are competing.
2. A cheerleader's first responsibility is to his/her academic program.
3. All cheerleader advisors will adhere to the attached coaches' educational safety program.
4. Any volunteer or non-district employees who assist with training cheerleaders in any manner is subject to a background check.
5. Advisors and coaches should make every effort to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to try out for the cheerleading squad.
6. Tryouts and selection of the cheerleading squad will be in the spring.
7. Cheerleaders must have a medical examination prior to tryouts, practice, or participation in a squad. Any known medical condition that might interfere with active participation should be recorded with the athletic director.
8. All students are eligible if they meet the academic requirements set forth by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.
9. Official tryouts and/or practice occur when a coach and cheerleaders meet together, including warm-ups, conditioning, instructional time, and videos. Players are not allowed to be active without a coach present. Practice may not exceed two hours daily, start to finish. Saturday practice may not exceed three hours. There will be no practice on Sunday.
10. Varsity cheerleading squads should cheer for varsity teams, and JV cheerleading squads should cheer for JV teams.
11. Cheerleading squads may not opt to practice rather than cheer at an athletic event.
12. Cheerleaders will be allowed to participate at a maximum of three games per week plus one competition.

13. In the fall sports season, cheerleading squads cheer for football. In the winter sports season, cheerleading squads cheer for boys' and girls' basketball. Cheerleaders are required to use transportation provided by the school system.
14. The athletic director and principal of the school must approve all competitions.
15. Cheerleader stunts may not be performed on asphalt. Stunts (mounts, pyramids, tosses and tumbling) shall be modified to be appropriate to the performing surface/area.

Fund Raising

All school-sponsored fundraising must be approved by the principal, athletic director, and the superintendent's designee. Fundraising must be done in compliance with NCS Board Policy.

Athletic Eligibility Rosters

It is the responsibility of the head coach to verify that all student-athletes meet the requirements set forth by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and the Northampton County Schools' local promotion standards.

No student shall practice in an athletic event without being added to the eligibility roster. The revised roster must be submitted to the county athletic director's office prior to his/her game.

Athletic eligibility sheets should be typed, completed in full, and submitted to the Superintendent of Student Services after all of the appropriate personnel have checked the eligibility status of the athletes, including an academic counselor. Head coaches who negligently fail to comply with the eligibility standards will receive a written reprimand and will assume responsibility for paying fines which might be levied by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Student/Athlete Code of Conduct

Northampton County High School

(This signed agreement is to be kept on file at the school during the entire school year.)

That the parties recognize that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a vested educational right, and recognizing that student/athletes are a group of students who represent their school and community and should be held to a certain degree of responsibility for their actions, and further recognizing that Northampton County High School offers the students the opportunity to participate in sports, the parties hereby agree to the following terms and conditions to playing sports at the above and below named school.

That this agreement shall commence on the date it is signed and shall continue for as long as the student is a member of the athletic team at Northampton County High School, which shall run until the end of the school year if appropriate. The terms and conditions shall apply to activities on the property of the Northampton County School Board or any other place where the student participates in athletics, within or outside of the county. Further, it is understood that the actions of the student/athlete could apply outside of school hours and outside of the educational or sports setting, and the student can be disciplined, suspended, or removed from a team for actions away from school if the action falls within the terms of this agreement.

It is understood that any student who is convicted of, or pleads guilty or no contest to a felony will not be allowed to participate in any sport per NCHSAA policy for the remainder of their career.

Team Discipline

It is understood that the coach of any team that the student is a member of has the right to formulate rules and regulations for that team, and the coach has the right to enforce such rules. The rules shall be put in writing and a copy shall be given to every member of the team. These rules shall include, but not be limited to, inattention to or refusal to follow directions, horseplay, tardiness or unexcused absences from practice or games, or bad conduct. These rules shall be approved by the principal and athletic director. The coach may impose reasonable discipline short of removal in these cases.

Suspension

It is understood that the coach and principal can suspend a member of the team for certain misconduct of the student. The coach, athletic director, and principal will confer and agree on the suspension before the action is taken. The length of the suspension from the team shall be at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and principal. Causes for temporary suspension from a team may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Insufficient grades for passing courses
2. Personal misconduct during the school day or after school while on school grounds;
3. Unexcused absences from team meetings, practices, or game;

4. Violation(s) of Northampton County Board Policy 2745(School Rules)
5. Unsportsmanlike conduct while participating in an athletic event;
6. Misdemeanor citations from law enforcement outside of minor traffic tickets;
7. Being charged with a felony under the laws of the State of North Carolina, or if a juvenile petition is filed, it would be a felony if the student was an adult.

Removal From a Team

It is understood that a student may be removed permanently from a team. The removal from the team shall be made by the coach of the team, the principal, or the athletic director who will meet to confer before the action is taken. Causes for removal from a team may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Illegal use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs not prescribed for the student by a doctor. These will be handled on a case by case basis;
2. Any major violations of Northampton County Board Policy 2745(School Rules).
3. Repeated violations of team or school athletic policies;
4. Misconduct by the student that involves law enforcement and results in a conviction, guilty plea, or no contest plea by the student, said conduct being on or off campus. Said violations shall not include infractions or minor traffic offenses;
5. Verbal abuse or communication (including vulgarity or obscene language) toward any opponent, teammate, coach, referee, or any other person;
6. Any physical assault on an opponent, teammate, referee, or other person of a serious nature
7. Continued or repeated acts of unsportsmanlike conduct after being warned by a coach, athletic director, or principal.

The parties understand the terms of this agreement and agree to be bound by it. The parties understand that if there is a part of this agreement that they do not understand, they can ask a school administrator to explain it to them. Therefore, the parties agree that they signed the agreement understanding what they are signing. The parties further understand that any action involving suspension or removal from a team can only be disputed under Northampton County Board of Education Policy 1740/4010.

It is understood that the principal has the right to remove a student from all sports for the remainder of the school year for substantial violation(s) of this agreement. That decision also can only be disputed under Northampton County Board of Education Policy 1740/4010.

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Coach Signature: _____ Date _____

Athletic Director's Signature _____ Date _____

Administrator's Signature _____ Date _____

