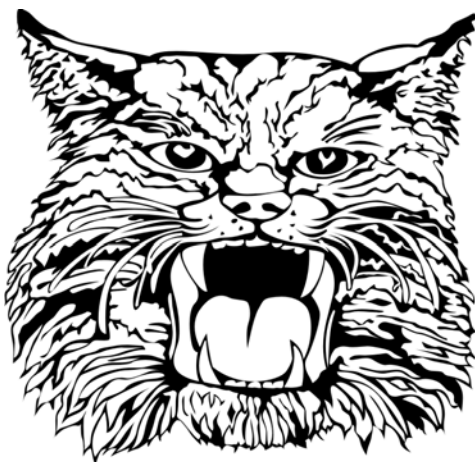


Neosho Wildcat Standards
Junior High
&
Middle School



WILDCAT ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Neosho Middle School/Junior High School activity/athletic program. Hopefully, your decision to take advantage of this portion of our co-curricular program will be educational, rewarding and challenging. This handbook is given to you so that you might be more aware of the programs that are available and their inter-relationships. The Neosho School District encourages you to take advantage of as many programs as your time and talent will permit. **WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE SPECIALIZATION IN ONE SPORT, RATHER WE WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO EXPERINCE A VARIETY OF SPORTS AS WELL AS OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.** Naturally, due to conflicts in seasons, practice times, schedules, etc., some choices will have to be made by you. Good luck to you as you strive to grow emotionally, mentally, socially and physically through activities/athletics.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that interscholastic activities shall supplement the secondary curricular program, and as such become a vital part of a student's total educational experience. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to make maximum use of his/her education.

Student participation in any part of our activities is a privilege which carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community and to the student himself/herself. This participation **privilege** represents a **year round** commitment and will help to develop the student physically, mentally, socially and emotionally.

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Neosho Athletic Program in it's pursuit of **Athletic Excellence** will focus on developing true student athletes who value teamwork, citizenship, and character. Our coaches, staff, and athletes will represent and serve the R-V School District and community in a way that will model hard work, perseverance, and a winning desire, creating an environment that is safe, powerful and positive."

RESPONSIBILITIES

As a student participant, you are in school to secure the best secondary education you are capable of achieving. Deciding to take advantage of **the other half of education** plays a significant role in your total educational development. However, with this decision also come certain responsibilities, if the value of activities is to be achieved, namely:

1. Striving to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability, and respect for others and their abilities.
2. Maintaining academic citizenship and eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and Neosho Schools.
3. Learning the spirit of hard work and sacrifice.
4. Learning to attain physical fitness through good habits.
5. Desiring to excel to the limits of your potential.
6. Showing respect for both authority and property.
7. Be willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the activities program.

Keep in mind that you are in the public eye and your personal conduct always must be above reproach. You have an obligation to create a favorable image and gain the respect of your teammates, the student body and the community.

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. **ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY** – Eligibility: MSHSAA By-Law 213 requires that JH/MS students must pass 80% of the allowed classes or 3 units of credit, whichever is greater, in order to be eligible each QUARTER. **If a student fails 2 or more classes in any QUARTER, the student is not allowed to participate in ANY CONTESTS the ENTIRE following QUARTER.** MSHSAA By-Law 213c allows for summer school classes that are **core requirements** to be taken in summer session and count for 1 credit in making a student eligible for participation in high school, but not in 7th or 8th grade. Correspondence courses are **not allowed either**.
 - Fall eligibility (First Quarter) is determined by the student’s performance on QUARTER grades in the fourth QUARTER of the previous school year.
 - Second Quarter eligibility is determined by the grades in First Quarter.
 - Third Quarter eligibility is determined by the grades in Second Quarter.
 - Fourth Quarter eligibility is determined by the grades in Third Quarter.

Failing Grades: Any student who fails one class on a progress, quarter or semester grade report must inform their coach/sponsor immediately, and will be restricted from participation for 5 school days. The suspension will take place within two days of the grade reports being delivered to the students in the district. After this time, the student must complete weekly grade checks issued by the coach in order to participate after the five-day suspension has been served. These grade sheets must be picked up from the coach/sponsor and returned to them the Monday of each week to determine eligibility for that week. Grade sheets will **only be filled out once a week!** Once the student has received passing grades in **all** courses, the student will be removed from suspension by the Principal/Athletic Director’s office. If failing grades are still present, the suspension will be renewed until the next grading period.
2. **ATTENDANCE** - MSHSAA By-Law 212 requires that a student that misses class on a day where they will be participating in an activity without **prior** approval from the office be considered ineligible to participate in the activity that day. Furthermore the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any date following the absence until the student attends a full day of classes. Students **must** notify the Principal/Athletic Director that they will be missing classes prior to the morning of absence. If a student **does not** notify the office by this time, the student will be ineligible for the activity that day. Call 417-451-8650 (MS) or 417-451-8660 (JH) at any time to leave a message. Each individual coach/sponsor has the authority to set more **restrictive** attendance requirements.
3. **CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS** – Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper authority. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered “creditible citizens.” Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline. According to MSHSAA By-Law 212:
 - A. Law Enforcement: A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies. Minor moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, accidents or injuries. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties, and has satisfied all special conditions or probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.
 - B. Local School: A student who violates a local school policy is ineligible until completion of the prescribed school penalties.
 - C. Student Responsibility: Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the schools discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the Board of Directors.
 - D. ***These rules and regulations apply 365 days a year, in school and out of school. Any violation of Wildcat Standards or MSHSAA standards during the entire year (365 days) will result in consequences handed down by MSHSAA and/or Neosho R5 School District. If the violation occurs during the “off-season” for the student, then the consequences will carry over to the next season in which the student will participate.***

4. **COMMITMENT** - A student who has gone out for a sport but quits on his own accord, will not be eligible to start practicing for another sport before the end of competition in the sport that was dropped: unless the head coach (of the sport that was dropped) signs a release card and the head coach of the new sport involved accepts the athlete. **EVERY ATHLETE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS POLICY.** Any activity performance group member who quits cheer, dance, or flags before the season is completed will be ineligible for tryouts for another activity group for a period of 365 days.
5. **DISCIPLINE REFERRALS** - According to MSHSAA By-Law 212 a student shall not be considered eligible on any type of suspension. Students may **not** represent the school (practice or games) while they are on either **in school or out of school** suspension. Excessive disciplinary referrals (5) to the office will be reviewed and will result in restriction from the coach/sponsor/office. Any offense, which merits a second out of school suspension in the same school year, will result in restriction for a minimum of 20 school days.
6. **FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS** - Any student participant who is arrested or charged with a misdemeanor (except minor traffic violations) or felony **must** inform the coach or sponsor in person or by phone within **2** days of the incident. If the incident occurs during the summer the student must inform school personnel within **5** days of the incident. If the incident takes place in the “off-season” for the athlete then the penalties will carry over into the next season in which the student will participate. The coach/sponsor/administration will initiate the suspension process. Penalties will include: (Ineligibility is for competition. Coach has right for more restrictive penalty)
 - a. Arrested and/or charged with a misdemeanor **and/or referred to the juvenile office by law enforcement** = 10 school days **beginning with the first game or match following the incident.**
 - b. Failure to inform = additional 20 school days.
 - c. 2nd offense = 180 school days and loss of varsity letter for that season.
 - d. Arrested and/or charged with a felony = 180 school days and loss of varsity letter for that season.
 - e. Arrested and/or charged with a misdemeanor or felony during the summer = Ineligible according to MSHSAA By-Law 212 until all proceedings are concluded and penalties are completed.
7. **SUBSTANCE ABUSE** - Students **will not** use tobacco, alcohol, or any illegal controlled substance, or anything represented to be such. If the violation occurs “out of season” the suspension **will** carry over until the next sport season that the student is involved in. The coach/sponsor with assistance from the office staff will be involved in the suspension. Penalties will include:
 - a. Tobacco products usage = Coaches discretion.
 - b. Possession of alcohol (in or out of school) = suspended for 20 school days beginning with the first game or match following the incident. They athlete may also loose their varsity letter they earned in that season. Second offense = 180 school days and loss of varsity letter for that season.
 - c. Possession of illegal controlled substance outside of school = suspended for 60 school days and loss of varsity letter for that season.
 - d. Distribution of an illegal controlled substance outside of school = 180 school days.
8. **PARTICIPATION** - Students are free to make their own selections as to activities in which they wish to participate. It is the Neosho policy that students facing a conflict between two school sponsored activities will be given a choice of which to attend. Certain school activities (to be determined by the administrators) will have priority. The administration will examine this order of precedence: 1) National events, 2) State events, 3) District substate events, 4) Conference events, 5) Interscholastic events, 6) School performances, 7) Dress rehearsal, and 8) Regular practices. Students are not to be penalized by the activity not attended.

This list is not all-inclusive and does not specify additional standards set by coaches, sponsors and organizations. These standards are in effect during the school year, in season and off-season. The penalties for felonies apply for the entire year (365 days).

SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

All players, coaches/advisors, parents and other fans are expected to:

1. Emphasize the proper ideal of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fairness.
2. Eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the activity; hazing and initiations are not acceptable or condoned on or off school grounds.
3. Stress the values derived from participating fairly.
4. Show cordial courtesy to officials, visitors and each other.
5. Establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of coaches/advisors, judges, and officials.
7. Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules and expectations of the activity and the standards of eligibility.
8. Encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the participants in the activity.
9. Recognize that the purpose of activities is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual participants.
10. Promote good school citizenship standards and use them as a barometer for participation.

All school discipline policies and rules apply to Neosho students at school activities whether they are held on school property or away from school. **Non-credible citizenship may result in disciplinary action or removal from participation.**

According to the Missouri State High School Activities Association By-Law 710, "A school may be suspended from membership in the MSHSAA and from participating in interscholastic activities with other member schools for the unsportsmanlike conduct of teams, coaches, students, and fans. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, coaches, students and fans at games both home and away. Please support the players in a positive manner rather than possibly placing them in a position of being penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct."

INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST RULES FOR BEHAVIOR

All players, coaches/sponsors, parents and other fans attending any interscholastic contest are expected to:

1. Cheer for your team rather than against the other team.
2. Treat the opposing team and officials with respect by refraining from taunts, chants, noises, cheers, jeers, songs, profanity, signs or motions.
3. Treat your team with respect by refraining from criticizing the actions and decisions of the players, coaches, and officials.
4. Display positive signs for your team.
5. Refrain from coaching or instructing from the stands or sidelines.
6. Show respect to opposing teams during their introductions.
7. Refrain from using noise makers.
8. Refrain from continuous standing, except in the designated student spirit section.
9. Abide by decisions of officials.
10. Accept victory or defeat graciously.
11. Be a credible citizen at all times.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines could result in disciplinary action.

NEOSHO ANTI-HAZING POLICY

Hazing is defined as, including, but not necessarily limited to, any action or situation created, whether on or off school premises, which might reasonably be expected to result in mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Disciplinary consequences will occur to anyone or any team found to be guilty of hazing. **According to Missouri State statutes "consent" to hazing is not a defense.**

SELECTIONS TO COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

1. Coaches/sponsors are hired by the school district to be responsible for establishing criteria for selection with input from his/her staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Selection and decisions regarding game/performance situations are the responsibility solely of this staff.

2. At times, there are limited opportunities for students due to our large-school size and the competitive nature of high school athletics/activities. While this not our desire, it is a reality. It is extremely difficult for coaches/sponsors to tell young people they will not be placed on the team/performance group for which they want to participate, or that they have not made the team/performance group at all. Every student, regardless of their grade in school, should understand that these are real possibilities.
3. If selected, a student should be prepared to accept placement at any level and complete the season in good standing. Parents should also prepare themselves for this and accept the coach's/sponsor's decisions.
4. Coaches/sponsors are expected to assemble the most competitive team possible, by selecting individuals, filling positions according to need and appropriately placing students on the proper team/performance group, then defining each individual's role, based on certain criteria, including but not limited to, citizenship, sport/activity specific ability, sport/activity specific skills, ability to work together, and willingness to learn.
5. Underclass students have the same opportunity to make a varsity team/performance group as a senior does. In order to make a varsity team/performance group as a senior, a student must be willing to fulfill a role that the team/performance group needs. Our program structure dictates that there will always be more underclass students than upper-class in the total program.
6. There are many non-school teams/performance groups sponsored by different organizations, through which students can gain valuable experiences. However, it is very important that students and parents understand that participation on a non-school team/performance group does not guarantee any player a place on the high school team/performance group.
7. The main goal of any level of competitive athletics/activities is to put the most talented members in competition to win the contests. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to anyone. Each member of a team/performance group is valuable to the groups overall progress. Some members may play a great deal of time in a contest while others may not play what a parent would consider "significant playing time." Regardless of time spent in actual competition, a student can learn many valuable lessons simply by being a part of a team/performance group: sportsmanship, working together to meet group goals, commitment, placing team/performance group above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, and being responsible for one's own actions.

PARENT/COACH/STAFF ADVISOR COMMUNICATIONS

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, everyone is better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. As parents, when your student becomes involved in a program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your students program. Coaches and parents are expected to encourage and praise students in their attempt to improve themselves as students, athletes, and citizens. Parents can facilitate this by gaining an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the sport/activity and the expectations placed on your student.

Communication Coaches/Staff Advisor Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach/staff advisor.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's/staff advisor's philosophy and/or expectations.

Parents and coaches should help their students learn that success is oriented in the development of a skill and should make student-athletes feel good about themselves, regardless of the outcome of any contest. As your student becomes involved in the programs of Neosho Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student wishes. **If you, as a parent have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner including proper time and place, being sure to follow the designated chain of command.** At these times discussion with the coach/advisor is encouraged.

Communications You Should Expect From Your Student's Coach/Staff Advisor

1. Philosophy of the coach/staff advisor.
2. Expectations the coach has for your student as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should you student be injured participation.
6. Discipline that result in the denial of your student's participation.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches/Staff Advisors

1. The treatment of your student mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your student improve.
3. Concerns about your students' behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your student not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches/staff advisors are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your student's coach/staff advisor. Other things, such as those listed next must be left to the discretion of the coach/staff advisor.

Issues NOT APPROPRIATE To Discuss With Coaches/Staff Advisors

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

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/staff advisor and the parent, these are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others position. Everyone involved is expected to be respectful, recognize and show appreciation for the other's role, and to reinforce the schools Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct and policies and procedures as outlined in this handbook. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If You Have a Concern to Discuss With A Coach/Staff Advisor, The Following Procedure Should Be Followed:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach/staff advisor. Do **NOT** approach a coach before or after a contest.

What Can A Parent Do If The Meeting With The Coach/Staff Advisor Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Activities Director (Corey Roy, 417-451-8670) to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

PHYSICIAN EXAMS AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

MSHSAA By-Law 309 (a) and (b) states: The school shall require of each student participating in athletics or an activity performance group a physicians certificate stating that he or she is physically able to participate in athletic contests or performance groups. The medical certificate is valid for the purpose of this rule if issued after February 1st of the previous year. This certificate must be on file before the student will be allowed to practice with any of the Neosho School District's athletic teams. A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he or she has basic athletic insurance coverage. (Also on file.)

**Neosho R5 School District
Activity/Athletic Commitment Form**

PARTICIPANT NAME (PRINT) _____ SCHOOL YEAR _____

Prior to participating in any practice or tryout session for any interscholastic sport, each athlete must:

***Successfully pass a physical examination by a registered physician and the copy of such examination must be on file in the office of the building athletic director. Physical exam is valid if issued on or after February 1 of previous year.**

***Return the Activity/Athletic Commitment Form properly signed.**

***Return the Athletic Participation Certificate properly signed.**

As a schools student-athlete participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics I verify that:

- 1. I understand that activities are a privilege not a right. Because of this understanding, students in activities are held to a higher standard in regards to sportsmanship and citizenship.**
2. I have read this booklet and understand what the R-5 School District expects from me in regards to sportsmanship, citizenship, and staying free from drug/alcohol/tobacco use while enrolled in this school. I understand the consequences for breaking school policy **and/or the Wildcat Standards** and will not do so while an R-5 School District student participant. **I understand that this is year-round (365 days a year).**
3. I will be responsible for all equipment issued to me throughout the season, will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season, and will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.
4. I acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned and warned by the administrative and coaching personnel of the school district that I am exposing myself to the risk of injury, including but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in temporary or permanent partial or complete impairment in the use of my limbs, brain damage, paralysis, or even death. Having been cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury.
5. I, along with my parents, certify that I have read, understand and will follow all the school district policies in the activity/athletic handbook. In order to be eligible for participation, I understand I must comply with all requirements listed.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As a parent/guardian of a student participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletic/activities, I have read this handbook, discussed it with my son/daughter, and **will support the high school in its efforts to promote good citizenship.**

Parent Signature _____ Date _____