

**NEW HAVEN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CITIZENSHIP GUIDELINES, CODE OF CONDUCT,  
AND ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS  
FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION  
IN MSHSAA ACTIVITIES GRADES 7-12**

**Philosophy**

We believe that extra-curricular activities shall supplement the secondary curricular program and, as such, become a vital part of a student's total educational experience. The experiences provide opportunities for the student to make maximum use of his/her education.

Student participation in any part of our athletic program 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 or herself.

This participation will help to develop the student physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

**Responsibility of Athletes**

Students participating in the New Haven School District activities programs are subject to and governed by the rules, regulations, and by-laws of the Missouri State High School Activities Association, New Haven School District and the Four Rivers Conference. Students are responsible for, and are required to learn these rules and regulations. Students who violate these rules are subject to probation, suspension, or forfeiture of participation in the activities program. Students who have questions regarding eligibility rules should inquire about rules through the athletic director or principal.

As a student you are in school to secure the best secondary education you are capable of achieving. Deciding to take advantage of interscholastic activities plays a significant role in your overall educational development. It is believed that skills beyond those that can be obtained in the regular classroom setting, can be developed. However, with this decision comes certain responsibilities which must be adhered to if the value of athletics 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.
2. Maintaining academic and eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and New Haven School District.

3. Learning the spirit of hard work and sacrifice.
4. Learning to attain physical fitness through good health 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.

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 New Haven student body, and the New Haven community.

**Required Forms to be on File Prior to Extra-Curricular Participation:** Prior to participation in practice or activities, students must:

- a. Complete a **physical examination** as required by MSHSAA. This is only required for those students participating in athletics and cheerleading. The examination must be completed by a physician or a nurse practitioner in collaboration with a physician. A physical is considered to be valid if issued on or after February 1 of the previous school year. Physicals issued prior to February 1 are valid only for one calendar year.
- b. Provide written **proof of valid insurance coverage**. Note that basic student insurance is available through the school district if needed. This also is required only for students participating in athletics and cheerleading.
- c. Return the **Acknowledgement and Agreement Form** of the Citizenship Guidelines, Code of Conduct, and Academic Requirements necessary for participation in MSHSAA activities at New Haven School District. This acknowledgement and agreement form must be signed by both the student and his/her parents. This agreement goes into effect at the beginning of a students 7th grade year and remains in effect until the student graduates from high school.

It should also be noted that this agreement is in effect year round, on or off campus. It is the belief of New Haven School District that creditable citizenship is a year round responsibility that is expected of students who wish to earn the privilege of representing our schools in MSHSAA activities.

### **Citizenship Guidelines**

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege – not an inherent right. Participation is granted if the student meets the eligibility standards as set forth by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and New Haven School District. According to the MSHSAA and New Haven School District eligibility standards, students must be good citizens in their school and community, and be

judged so by the proper school authority certifying the list of students for competition. A student whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves and their school is not considered a creditable citizen. The students conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline and with the established citizenship guidelines.

It is understood that citizenship eligibility cases are handled on an individual basis at the school level by the coach, school administration, student, and parents. However, it is also felt that system wide guidelines will assist in handling such cases.

### **MSHSAA Citizenship Standards**

**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. Moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, accidents, or injuries to others. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties, and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.

**B. Local School:**

1. A student who violates a local school policy is ineligible until completion of the prescribed school penalties.
2. The eligibility of a student who is serving detention or in-school suspension shall be determined by local school authorities.
3. A student shall not be considered eligible while serving an out-of-school suspension.
4. A student who is expelled or who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion and withdrawal.
5. If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes.
6. Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and shall have the authority and responsibility to judge its students under those standards.
7. Each school shall diligently and completely investigate any issue that could affect student eligibility.

**C. Expulsion:** A student who is expelled from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion. An expulsion is prompt removal of a student from school following the conduct for which the student is under discipline, whereby the student is not allowed to return to school until either an appeals process reinstates the student or the duration is fulfilled. However, this period of ineligibility shall not apply to any student expulsion for conduct otherwise protected by law which does not materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of a school.

**D. 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 school's discovery, then the students shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the Board of Directors.

### **New Haven School District Code of Conduct**

It is understood that citizenship eligibility cases are handled on an individual basis at the school level by the advisor, athletic director (if appropriate), and principal. However, it is also felt that system-wide guidelines will assist in the handling of such cases. Decisions related to penalties will be made jointly by the administration, the athletic director, and the advisor/coach.

1. **Athlete involved in misconduct while at school:** This includes, but is not limited to, truancy, disrespect to teachers, fighting, use of abusive language, etc. After a review by the head coach, athletic director and principal, the athlete and parents will be notified of the results. Penalties will range from a reprimand and placing the athlete on probationary status to temporary or permanent restriction from representing the school in interscholastic activities. The seriousness of the case and attitude of the athlete will determine the penalty. Reoccurrence will require that permanent restriction be considered.
2. **In-School Suspension:** A student will not be allowed to attend practices or contests until the suspension requirement is completed. Example: Should a student be assigned 3 days of I.S.S., he or she would be ineligible from the start of school on day one of the suspension until the end of school on day three.
3. **Out of School Suspension:** Students who receive an out of school suspension will be ineligible to practice or compete for the period of the suspension. The student must be in attendance for a half day before they can practice or compete. Students who receive a major suspension (5-10 days) or students who receive more than one suspension of a lesser nature during one athletic season will be removed from MSHSAA activities for the remainder of the season.

4. **After-School Tutoring Assignment or Detention:** A student who is assigned to stay after school due to a classroom issue, is not allowed to use the excuse of “I have practice, so I can’t stay”. The classroom obligation always comes first. The advisor/coach may administer additional penalties should this assignment cause the student to be late for, or miss a team practice or activity.
5. **Unsportsmanlike acts:** Such acts during a contest resulting in ejection will cause the student to be restricted from representing the school for at least the next contest. A student who commits such an act but is not ejected, may also be subject to at least a one contest restriction from representing the school. Each case of this type is to be reviewed by the advisor/coach, athletic director, and principal before a final decision is reached.
6. **Out-of-town trips:**

Athletes are required to accompany the team on all out-of-town trips using the mode of transportation arranged by the school unless prior arrangements have been made with the principal and/or sponsor for a student to ride with a parent. Students are not to be given permission to ride home with anyone except a parent (mother or father of the student). Any deviation from this policy requires the following:

  - a. the student is released to their parents by the coach or sponsor
  - b. special arrangements are made before hand with the principal. If special arrangements are necessary, a reasonable amount of time must be allowed so that contact can be made with the coach/sponsor.
  - c. Under emergency conditions, the coach in charge of the team will use his/her best judgment in approving any request.
  - d. If there is any doubt about the circumstances surrounding such a case, the athlete is to remain with the team.
7. **Attendance rules for extra-curricular participation:** Students must be in attendance for at least half of the school day (11:20 a.m.) in order to be eligible for any activity scheduled for that day. Exceptions are granted with administrative approval only. Students who take excess liberties with the half day rule may either lose this privilege or lose the opportunity to participate in any manner whenever any school time is missed. If necessary, the half day attendance policy will be reviewed on an individual basis by the advisor/coach, athletic director, and principal.
8. **Practice attendance:** Students must be dependable and prompt about attending practice and games.
  - a. One (1) unexcused absence of game and/or practice results in missing one (1) game and any other penalty the coach deems appropriate.
  - b. Two (2) unexcused absences from games and/or practice results in dismissal from team/squad.

- c. Excused absences are: death in family, doctor appointments, sickness resulting in missed school time, or other responsibilities/circumstances that are unavoidable.
  - d. The student must contact the coach/sponsor when an absence occurs. Unless a coach/sponsor is notified, an absence is considered unexcused.
  - e. If you attend school, you must attend practice unless excused by the coach.
  - f. Students must participate in 14 practices before they can participate in a game, unless they are coming directly out of another sport. Only one practice per day can count toward this.
9. **Student dropped from squad:** A student who is dropped from one squad for disciplinary reasons may not join another team during that same season. If the student were to be “cut” from a team, he or she would be allowed to join another team in that same season as long as the decision is made in a timely manner.
10. **Quitting a team:** A student who has gone out for a sport but quits on their own accord, will not be eligible to join another team in that same season unless the head coach of the sport that was dropped releases the student and the head coach of the new sport involved accepts him or her.
11. **Individual coach rules:** Each coach/sponsor may establish additional rules and guidelines for their activity that students will be required to adhere to. These rules will be presented and discussed with the students prior to the start of the activity.
12. **Social Networking Sites:**  
 Students are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmissions (e.g. e-mails, texts, tweets, etc.) and any information posted on a public domain (e.g. internet. chat room, blogs, Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, etc.). Inappropriate or embarrassing information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. Students are not precluded from participation in such online social networks; however, students should be reminded that they serve as a representative of their team, the athletic program, and the New Haven School District. Texting, tweeting, and uses of other social networks to disparage or criticize the team, other students, officials, opponents, coaches, or other school personnel is inappropriate behavior and unbecoming of a New Haven student. Any individual identified on a social networking site participating in or displaying illegal or inappropriate behavior, due to the athletic handbook or other policy, will be considered in violation and subject to discipline or suspension per policy guidelines.
13. **Academics:**
- a. Students must be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned. N.H.H.S. students must be enrolled in 7 credit earning classes of 8 possible.

- b. Students shall have earned credit the preceding semester in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled. N.H.H.S. students must earn credit in 7 out of 8 classes to be academically eligible.
- c. Credits earned or completed after the close of the semester will not fulfill this requirement. Summer school courses may count for academic eligibility, provided the course is necessary for graduation or promotion, or is a core subject course (no electives) and is placed on the school transcript. No more than one credit in summer school shall be counted toward eligibility. Correspondence courses do not count.
- d. You must maintain a 4.00 (C-) overall grade point average on an 11.00 scale on your preceding progress or semester grade report. (See note below)
- e. You may not have more than one (1) failing grade on the latest progress or semester grade report. (See note below)

**Note on Academic Policy:** If a student becomes ineligible due to New Haven School District requirements, that student will be placed on academic probation for a period of two weeks. While on probation, the student can continue to practice, but cannot participate in any contest for two weeks. If at the end of the two week period the student is eligible, he/she will be allowed to participate. If however at the end of the probationary period, the student is still failing two classes or is below the required 4.00 (C-) GPA he or she will be ineligible until the next notification of grades (progress or semester). At that time, the student will either regain their eligibility or be dismissed from the activity.

14. **Consequences of Chemical Abuse:** A student will be in violation of this policy if the use, act, possession, or distribution occurs on or off of school property or at a school sponsored event. The policy will be enforced if the violation is reported or confirmed by a law enforcement agency, witnessed by school personnel, or admitted to by the individual. Guidelines will apply during the entire calendar year, on or off campus. These penalties are cumulative over the course of the students career. Example: If the first violation occurs during a students freshman year, the consequences for a first offense will be followed. Should a second violation occur their junior year, the penalties for a second offense will be administered. The student does not start with a clean slate each year. However, each student at New Haven High School will begin their Freshman year with a clean slate (while middle school violations will not carry over to high school, consequences from those offenses could carry over). Furthermore, these consequences can carry over from season to season, or even year to year, until completed. Example: If a student would still have two contests remaining on a suspension when the season ends, the suspension will be completed at the beginning of the next activity the student participates in which could be the next season or even the next school year.

Suspensions will be administered in each MSHSAA activity that they are participating in at the time of the violation. If the infraction occurs out of season, the suspensions will then be administered in all MSHSAA activities during the next season of participation. Example: If the violation occurs during the summer and the student participated in both a sport and marching band during the fall season, he or she will be administered suspensions in both the sport and marching band. Finally, it should be noted that students are subject to both normal school discipline and the extra-curricular code of conduct consequences as outlined below when the infraction takes place on school grounds or while the student is under school supervision.

1st. Offense:

- Tobacco - Suspension from 10% of the activities' regular season scheduled contests. NOTE: A tobacco infraction would include the possession or use of e-cigarettes, vaping, and chewing tobacco.
- Alcohol - Suspension from 20% of the activities' regular season scheduled contests.
- Drugs - Suspension from 20% of the activities' regular season scheduled contests. NOTE: A drug infraction would include the possession or use of drug paraphenalia.

2nd. Offense:

- Suspension from practice and contests for the remainder of that season. This would apply to tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.
- The suspension must cover at least 20% of the season for tobacco and 30% for alcohol and drugs. If the suspension can not be completed during the current season, it will be carried over to the next season.

3rd. Offense:

- Suspension from practice and contests for one calendar year from the date of infraction in all MSHSAA activities.

Additional notes:

- The suspension will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number with .5 being rounded up. Examples: 1.2 = a one contest suspension. 2.5 = a three contest suspension.
- A minimum of one contest must be served for a first offense.
- In music, school concerts such as the Christmas concert or Spring concert would not be part of a suspension. Only MSHSAA activities such as marching band and district or state competition would be subject to suspension.
- Regular season contests will be determined from the previous school year in that activity. Only JV and varsity schedules will be used (not freshmen) in determining penalties.
- For the purpose of this policy, district music season will start 30 days prior to the district music competition.
- Scholar Bowl season will begin with their 1st practice.



**15. Appeals Process:** Students will have the opportunity to express their side of any incident in which they may be involved. If the student is dissatisfied with any decisions, he/she has the right to appeal.

The following process will be followed with regard to appeals:

- The appeal must be made within two business days following notification of the discipline action.
- The appeals hearing and ruling will be made by the appeals committee within two more business days.
- The appeals committee will consist of the principal, superintendent, and three randomly selected school board members.
- Only the student and his/her parents will be allowed to attend the appeals hearing.
- The student will remain eligible for both practice and competition throughout the appeals process.
- The student and/or the parents can waive their right to appeal at any time throughout the process and proceed with the established discipline.
- The decision of the appeals committee will be final.

## **MSHSAA Guidelines for Protecting Your Eligibility**

### **Introduction**

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) is comprised of approximately 750 member schools, both public and private, across the state of Missouri. MSHSAA's eligibility requirements have been voted on by the member schools and were adopted by your school when it became a MSHSAA member. Your school will also have local school requirements that you must comply with in order to be eligible.

Information contained on this page will acquaint you with the essential rules and regulations students and schools must follow in order to maintain and protect high school eligibility. No one requirement is more important than another. Any questions you have concerning these essential requirements or eligibility should be discussed with the school principal or athletic director. These administrators have copies of all MSHSAA eligibility requirements.

### **Summary of the Eligibility Requirements**

#### **1. Bona Fide Student**

In order to represent your school, you must be a bona fide student and meet all eligibility requirements. You must be enrolled in and regularly attending classes

at the member school you wish to represent and you must meet the academic requirements in MSHSAA By-Law 2.3 and those of your local school.

## **2. Citizenship**

- You must be a creditable citizen. Creditable citizens are those students whose conduct - both in school and out of school - will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their school.
- NOTE: Conduct involving law enforcement must be reported to your principal or athletic director immediately as your conduct may affect eligibility or contest outcomes.

## **3. Sportsmanship**

- If you commit an unsportsmanlike act while participating in an event, you could become ineligible.
- If your conduct as a spectator is found to be unsportsmanlike, you could be barred from attending any further high school contests.
- The unsportsmanlike conduct of any spectator, regardless of age, could cause that spectator to be barred from attending school contests.

## **4. Academics**

### **Grades 7-12**

- You must have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is GREATER, at your school.
- For your current semester, you must be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned at your school, whichever is GREATER.
- Credits earned or completed after the close of the semester will not fulfill this requirement. Summer high school courses for FALL academic eligibility may count provided the course is necessary for graduation or promotion or is a core subject course, and credit is placed on the school transcript. No more than one unit of credit in summer school shall be counted toward fall eligibility.
- Students promoted for the first time into 9th grade are considered academically eligible for the first semester after promotion.
- Do not drop courses without first consulting with your school principal, athletic director or counselor to determine whether doing so will affect your eligibility.

## **5. Semesters of Participation**

### **Grades 9-12**

- You are eligible to participate in any sport for a maximum of four seasons (an exception is in place for schools sponsoring baseball or softball in both the fall and spring). Any part of a contest played during a season counts as a season of participation.
- Your eligibility to participate in high school activities begins when you first enter the 9th grade and lasts for the next *eight consecutive semesters* (*four consecutive years*).

## **6. Age Limits**

### **Grades 9-12**

- If you reach 19 years of age prior to July 1, you will be ineligible the next school year.
- Over-aged 8th graders should be moved up to the senior high team to have eight semesters of eligibility.

## **7. Entering School**

- You must enter school within the first 11 days of the semester in order to be eligible that semester.

## **8. Recruiting of Athletes**

- You will be ineligible for your career at a school if you are influenced by a person to attend that school for athletic or activities purposes. You may, however, return to your original school and be ineligible for no more than 365 days.

## **9. Playing Under A False Name**

- If you compete under an assumed or false name, you immediately become ineligible for up to 365 days.

## **10. Amateur and Awards Standards**

- An athlete must maintain “amateur standing” 365 days a year in the sport concerned in order to participate in interscholastic athletics – the following

restrictions govern the receipt of awards in both interscholastic play AND non-school competition/participation.

- After entering a member school, you will become ineligible *in the sport concerned* if you receive any of the following PROHIBITED awards for participating in an athletic contest or being an athlete:
- An award of cash, a gift-certificate/gift-card or an award that is the equivalent of cash is PROHIBITED for amateurs.
- Merchandise which exceeds a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$250 is PROHIBITED for amateurs. However, there is no value limit in regard to awards which are symbolic in nature, such as medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques, etc.
- Awards should be approved in advance by your school.
- Commemorative jewelry may be presented by the school (i.e. championship ring or necklace) (no value limit).

### **11. Non-School Competition**

- You may not practice for, or participate with, a non-school team or in any organized non-school athletic competition and for your school team *in the same sport* during the school sport season. Contact your school's athletic director for specific details in regard to individual sports (swimming & diving, tennis, golf, cross country, track & field, wrestling).
- You may participate on a school team and a non-school team in *different* sports during the same season; however, you may not practice for the non-school team or participate in organized non-school athletic competition *on the same day* that you practice with or participate for the school team *without prior approval of your school administrator*.
- You must receive approval in advance from your school principal or athletic director in order to miss school time to practice for, travel to or compete in organized non-school athletic competition.
- You will become ineligible in any sport in which you play as a member of a junior college, college or university team.
- Before you join a non-school team or enter any non-school competitive athletic event, your school principal or athletic director should be consulted to make certain these standards are met.

### **12. Contact with Coaches –**

#### ***No-Contact Periods***

- All Sports: The seven days prior to the first allowable practice date each season is a no-contact period in which no "contact" takes place between

school coaches and students enrolled in the member school, or who will be enrolled in the member school during the upcoming school year.

### ***Camps and Clinics and Group Instruction***

- During the school year outside of the school sport season, you may attend a non-school sponsored specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction, provided: it does not result in any loss of school time, it is not a team camp, no competition occurs other than limited scrimmaging, and no member of the coaching staff of the school you attend (or will attend) is involved in any way.
- During the school sport season, you may attend a school or non-school sponsored specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction under certain conditions. You may attend only ONE without being accompanied by a school coach; attendance may not result in any loss of school time, there may be NO competition other than limited scrimmaging, and a school administrator must approve your participation.
- You or your parents must pay all camp/clinic fees, tuition and other related expenses. A scholarship or waiver of fees shall result in the loss of your eligibility. The school may provide transportation at no cost during the summertime or during the school sport season.
- NOTE: Before attending any specialized athletic camp(s)/clinic(s) or group sport instruction, you should consult with your school principal or athletic director to make sure it meets the criteria published in the MSHSAA Official Handbook.

### **13. College Auditions and Tryouts**

- You may participate in a college tryout, audition or evaluation event for a specific sport outside the school season of the sport concerned.
- You may not miss school time to travel to or participate in the event unless your absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.
- You may not miss a MSHSAA-sponsored postseason athletic event to participate in or travel to and from the event.
- You may only attend one evaluation event **by invitation** per sport during the school year. You may attend any number of "open" evaluations outside of your school sport season.
- NOTE: See your administrator before signing up and agreeing to attend any such events.

### **14. All-Star Games**

- An all-star event is one in which an individual is invited to participate due to his or her high school achievements.
- You may not compete in an all-star game or contest before you complete your eligibility in the sport concerned. Participation in an all-star game or

contest before ending your high school eligibility will result in you becoming ineligible to participate in any high school sport.

- A senior with no high school eligibility remaining for a specific sport may participate in no more than two All-Star games for that sport prior to summer. *Discuss the event with your administrator before agreeing to play.*

## 15. Residence Requirements

- A student may be eligible at the public or nonpublic school located in the district in which the student's parents reside. In the case of a public multiple-school district, a student may be eligible at the school designated for the student to attend, based on parents' residence, by the board of education.

## 16. Transferring Schools

- If you transfer schools, you will be ineligible for 365 days, unless your circumstances meet one of the exceptions listed in the MSHSAA Residence and Transfer Rules (By-Law 3.10). Make an appointment with the school's athletic director to review these exceptions. Several, but not all, are described below.
- Exception 1: If you move with your entire family to your new school district, you will be eligible at your new school provided you were eligible in all other respects at your former school and provided there are no other issues with the transfer. You and your entire family must move to the new residence at the same time prior to attending classes.
- Always check with your school principal or athletic director before you transfer to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.
- Discipline follows a student to a new school. Being expelled from a school also causes 365 days of ineligibility for a student.
- Exception 2: A student may be eligible immediately at the school of his or her choice upon first being promoted from the 8th grade into the 9th grade, provided the student is eligible in all other respects.
- Exception 10: Foreign Exchange Students are eligible for varsity competition for one year only and only if they are seniors (semester 7 or 8), provided they are participating in an exchange program listed by CSIET. However, no member of the school's coaching staff for the sport concerned may serve as a host family.
- You shall become ineligible for 365 days if you transfer to another school for athletic reasons.

## 17. Graduated Students

- You will be ineligible to participate after graduation from a senior high school. Students who are granted an early release after their junior year

are ineligible for further participation. *(NOTE: You are eligible to participate in state-series events which extend beyond the date of your school's graduation at the end of the spring semester of your senior year.)*

### **Sportsmanship**

As an athlete representing New Haven School District, you have the responsibility for exhibiting good sportsmanship at all times. The moment you put on that school uniform, you become a representative of your student body, your school, and your community. You will receive the ingredients of good sportsmanship through the teaching, coaching, and examples of the coaching staff. So be sure to exhibit what you learn.

A very important lesson we learn through interscholastic athletics is that by hard work and dedication we can improve. In America we recognize we can take the ability that God has given us and through hard work and dedication become anything we want to be. No one can tell you what you must be. If you are willing to recognize the ability you possess and work hard, you can achieve success in athletics.

Attitude is one of the principle prerequisites in becoming a champion in any sport and, of course, that is best defined by how you act, how you feel and think in showing your disposition. The desire to excel, to win, to pay the price, are all positive attributes of an attitude that contributes to a winning philosophy.

Yes, a winning philosophy is important. But likewise, realize the importance of how the game is played as well as viewed. Simple acts or gestures of respect such as – displaying good conduct, cooperating with officials, shaking hands with opponents before and after the contest, showing self control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them, accepting both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, never being boastful or bitter – will aid you, the individual, and your team as well, to portray the standards of sportsmanship expected of athletes at New Haven School District.

Actually, interscholastic athletics are much like everyday life. America thrives on competition which has made the country as great as it is today. You might say it is the backbone of our great nation. Regardless of your plans in later life, whether to be in labor, management, sales, professions or whatever, you must realize there will be competition. There are and will be disappointments in athletics, but there will be disappointments in all of life's activities. It is how you react to these disappointments that will measure what values you have learned on the athletic courts, fields, and mats during your high school days.

## Player Responsibilities

1. Players should adhere to the guidelines set up by the school and by the coach:
  - a. Do not question the authority of the game officials.
  - b. Know and adhere to the rules of the sport.
  - c. The atmosphere of the games should be competitive with respect shown to your opponents and coaches.
  - d. Players must respect the property and facilities of their hosts.
  - e. Players must realize that their behavior, language and appearance not only reflects upon the team and school, but also directly influences the mood of the crowd.
  - f. Walk away from trouble (do it in practice). Players should go to their bench and stay there; those on the bench should remain there.



**STUDENT ACTIVITIES  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT FORM**

We acknowledge receipt of and have studied, understand, and agree to adhere to the Guidelines for Citizenship, Conduct, and Academic requirements for participation in all MSHSAA activities while attending New Haven Schools.

We understand this is a year round commitment. We also understand that this acknowledgement and agreement form will be in affect for all MSHSAA activitles and extend throughout the student's entire high school career.

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Signature of student

Date

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Print student name

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Signature of parent/guardian

Date