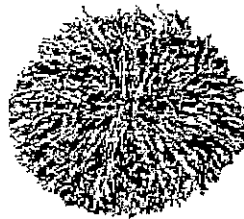
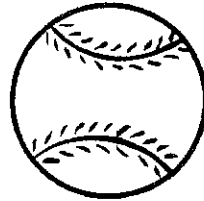


Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School



Athletic Handbook

73 Clark Gates Road

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Statement of Athletics

It is important for the students and parents to realize that participation in the East Haddam interscholastic athletic program is not a right, but rather a privilege which is afforded to those selected individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition cooperative spirit and desire to represent the student body, the school district, and the East Haddam community in a manner which reflects favorably upon the school. Athletics are completely voluntary and no student is obligated to take part. There are some special standards and expectations in the areas of academics, citizenship, training rules and sportsmanship with which participants must comply. It is essential that student athletes and parents must be familiar with all rules and regulations governing athletic participation in the East Haddam schools. It is important to remember that the school reserves the right to revoke the privilege of participation if a team member does not conduct himself or herself in an acceptable manner.

We take a great pride in our athletic programs and invite all students willing to accept the East Haddam philosophy to be candidates for our athletic teams.

Philosophy

The goal of the athletic department is to conduct a wholesome and worthwhile program which is consistent with the philosophy of the East Haddam School System. As a part of the total education process, our athletic program makes a significant contribution to the personal growth and development of the participants. We strive to increase the students' knowledge as well as contribute to their maturity, teach ethical and moral values, and motivate them in the pursuit of excellence so we can produce individuals who realize their self-worth and reach their full potential.

Prerequisite for Team Candidates

1. A yearly physical examination is required. The school form or like form must be submitted to the school nurse. The school nurse will keep an updated list of physicals and dates for coaches and the director of athletics. The physical covers all sports within 13 months of the date of the exam. This form will be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.
2. Each candidate will return the player form to the coach stating that they have read and understand all the rules and regulations set forth by the East Haddam School System.

Objectives

1. To develop good citizenship and respect for rules and authority.
2. To develop an opportunity to exemplify and observe good sportsmanship.
3. To encourage academic success and keep athletics in proper perspective.
4. To teach fundamental skills of the various sports as an ingredient in achieving individual and team success for lifetime skills.
5. To emphasize a maximum effort for a desirable outcome of competition.
6. To stress the importance of fitness, conditioning, health habits, and safety in athletics.
7. To develop a rapport with teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents that will relate to lifetime skills.

Eligibility Rules

It is a privilege for students to participate in extracurricular activities (athletics) at Nathan Hale Ray Middle School. Eligibility to participate in athletics will depend on academic achievement, positive attitude, and appropriate conduct in school and at school functions.

To be eligible for athletics, students in grades 6, 7, & 8 may not have any D's or F's on progress reports or report cards. Students may also have no discipline referrals that are acted upon by the administration.

Any student receiving a D or F will immediately be placed on probation for two weeks and be required to create an action plan to improve his or her grades. Action plans can be obtained from coaches or pick up at the main office. During this time the student is eligible to play and practice as he or she follows the action plan to improve his or her grade. If there is no improvement at the end of the two-week probationary period, the student will then be suspended from all extracurricular activities for two weeks. At the end of the two weeks of ineligibility, the student's academic progress will be reviewed to determine if he or she has met the criteria for eligibility.

If a student receives a disciplinary referral that is acted upon by the administration, he or she must create an action plan to address the inappropriate behavior. At the end of the two week probationary period, the student must have the adult who wrote the referral and an administrator sign off that the student successfully followed the action plan and made an appropriate change of behavior. As with the academic issues, if there is no improvement at the end of the two-week probationary period, the student will then be ineligible form all extracurricular activities for at least two weeks until the next review.



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Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

It is a privilege for students to participate in extracurricular activities at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School. Eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities will depend on academic achievement, positive attitude, and appropriate conduct both in school and at school functions.

Extracurricular activities include (but are not limited to) athletics, academic clubs, school plays and other extracurricular school activities.

To be eligible for extracurricular activities, students in grades 6, 7, & 8 may not have any D's or F's on progress or report cards. Students in grades 4 & 5 must not have any D's or F's on report cards, but since there are no progress reports, the classroom teacher may ask for a student's eligibility to be reviewed at any time. Students must also have no discipline referrals that are acted upon by the administration.

Any student receiving a D or F will immediately be placed on probation for two weeks and be required to create an action plan to improve his/her grades. During this time the student is eligible to play and practice as he/she follows the action plan to improve his/her grade. If there is no improvement at the end of the two-week probationary period, the student will then be suspended from all extracurricular activities for two weeks. At the end of the two week of ineligibility, the student's academic progress will be reviewed to determine if he/she has met the criteria for eligibility.

If a student receives a discipline referral that is acted upon by the administration, he/she must create an action plan to address the inappropriate behavior. At the end of a two week probationary period, the student must have the adult who wrote the referral and an administrator sign off that the student successfully followed the action plan and made an appropriate change in behavior. As with academic issues, if there is no improvement at the end of the two-week probationary period, the student will then be ineligible from all extracurricular activities for at least two weeks until the next review.



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Action Plan to Regain Eligibility for Extra-Curricular Activities

Name:	Grade:	Date:
Extracurricular Activity Involvement:		
Reason for Loss of Eligibility:		

Target Academic/Behavioral Goal:	Subject/Area:
Action Step #1	
Action Step #2	
Action Step #3	
I know I am successful when:	

Signatures to indicate support of the action plan:

Student:	Parent/Guardian:
School Counselor:	Teacher:
Administrator:	Coach/Advisor:

Review Date:	Eligibility Status:
Comments:	

Player Rules

The following rules apply to the students in grades 6-8 participating in any interscholastic team or individual sports as a team member or player. The following rules are a supplement to all school rules and rules in the school handbook.

1. Practice requirements: The student is expected to attend all practices unless excused by the coach. An excused absence must be allowed for a) medical reason, b) legal reason, or c) family emergency.
2. Attendance: Tardiness to school will not be tolerated. Team members must be in school before 9:00 a.m. in order to participate in practice or in a game on that day. The only exception will be medical or personal appointments approved by the coach or principal.

Players who are habitually late to school will be subject to disciplinary action or suspension from the team at the discretion of the A.D. and with recommendation of the coach.
3. Drinking of alcoholic beverages and the use of drugs are prohibited. The possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs is also a violation of these rules and will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
4. Smoking and chewing tobacco are prohibited. The possession of smoking material and chewing tobacco is a violation of these rules and will result in an immediate two game suspension. A second violation will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
5. Language: Abusive and profane language will not be tolerated at any time. Players will be subject to strict disciplinary action.
6. Stealing: Any team member caught stealing during practice time or during the course of the athletic contest will be dismissed immediately from the team.
7. Suspension: A student suspended from a team shall not play or practice through the duration of their suspension. Other conditions of the suspension will be determined by the coach involved. Players may also be suspended by their coaches for disciplinary reasons: absences, behavior, and other team rules.
8. Players coming to or going from games not on the team bus: Players must travel to and from games only on the team bus. Players may be released by the head coach to their parents. If a parent / guardian wants to take

home a player - a written note must be filled out in advance by a parent and approved by an Administrator or AD. In emergency cases, a note may be given to the coach directly. Any exceptions to these rules must be cleared through a building administrator.

9. Uniforms and Equipment: All school equipment must be cared for by the athlete. Athletes are responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to them and will be financially responsible for any equipment or uniforms damaged or not returned. Athletes who do not return their uniforms and/or fulfill other obligations are not eligible for awards or letters and will not receive any other uniform until restitution is made. Within one week of the conclusion of the athletic season, all athletes will return uniforms and equipment to their coach. Violation of this rule will result in school's detention policy and the possibility of school documents being withheld.
10. Discipline: General discipline and behavior problems will be handled by the coach, and team rules apply. Consequences will be determined by the coach. All players should be aware of the School Player Rules and individual team rules prior to each session.
11. Dress: Must be clean, neat, and presentable. The coach may establish more exacting standards of dress for games at home or away. Also, athletes should dress appropriately for athletic banquets.
12. School Suspensions: Any team member suspended from school twice in that season will be dismissed from that team for the remainder of the season.
13. Individual coaches may institute additional team rules.

Injury Policy and Insurance

All injuries which occur while participating in athletics must be reported to the coach. If any injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, the athlete must secure a written note indicating that he may return to the activity.

All East Haddam athletes are covered by an EXCESS INSURANCE policy provided by the Board of Education. This means that the student will be billed and the family's personal insurance will apply first. Bills not covered are to be submitted to the school nurse's office. The nurse will fill out the school's portion of the form and give the form to the parent/guardian for completion. It is the responsibility of the athlete and the athlete's family to follow up on the paperwork.