

New Caney HS Softball Policies & Procedures Handbook

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint both players and parents with the expectations that each will play if your child chooses to participate in the NCHS Softball program. Both players and parents are required to read and understand the contents that are stated in this handbook. The following policies were placed in this handbook, so that both players and parents will know what to expect, and what is expected, if your child decides to participate in the program. The purpose of this handbook and these policies are not meant to disrupt the lines of communication, but to encourage it. Participating in the New Caney HS Softball program is a privilege, not a right. Everyone involved is held to a higher standard than a student, parent, or teacher who choose not to participate. All parties involved represent our school, our community, and their family and will adhere to the policies stated. The primary goal of New Caney HS Softball is to instill principles into each player that will help to create a contributing member of society. We as a coaching staff know that softball is just a game, but when taught correctly can be used as a tool to teach each girl valuable lessons about life.

Goals

The Lady Eagle Softball Program will have two long term goals: To be a contender for the State Title and to graduate team members that have the life skills necessary for success. Short term goals will be designed each year by team members. These short term goals may include, but not limited to: Self-Discipline through team sacrifice, community service, measurable acts of leadership and sportsmanship, and a certain winning percentage. Team Goals will be determined after team selection.

New Caney HS Softball will to teach athletes about what it means to be a part of something that is bigger than themselves. This program is about the WE not the ME! Every player, parent, and coach plays an important role. Please respect that.

DISCIPLINE POLICIES FOR PLAYERS

All players, no matter the grade or talent level, will adhere to the following policies:

UNEXCUSED TARDINESS and ABSENCES- All players are required to attend and be on time for all scheduled practices and team meetings except in the case of illness. If a player knows she will miss, or is going to be tardy, she is to inform one of the NCHS Softball coaches prior to the scheduled event. Informing another player to tell a coach is not acceptable. The coaching staff will determine to excuse the absence or count it as an unexcused. All tardiness and absences will be dealt with on an individual basis depending on the factors that are involved. Players will be considered tardy if they are not on the field or in the weight room (Location will be posted in the locker room depending on the day). Failure to do this will result in extra conditioning, suspension from games, or, should this be a continuous problem, possible dismissal from the program. As previously stated, each situation will be dealt with on an individual basis. Athletes who are absent from practice the day before a game will have loss of playing time.

GRADES AND FAILURES

As a coaching staff we realize that the young ladies who participate in the softball program are student/athletes. Student comes before athlete. These young ladies will be held to a very high standard both on and off the field. Periodically throughout the year, we will hand out grade reports that allow the teachers to express any concerns or improvements about our athletes. The coaching staff will also do regular grade checks throughout the year. It is required that every athlete have a minimum grade of a

70 for both core and elective classes. Failure to meet the minimum grade standards of a 70 will result in extra conditioning and/or the athlete will have to miss softball in order to make up work or receive tutoring. The athlete is and will be responsible to make up anything that she missed when this step is taken. Each situation will be dealt with on an individual basis depending on all of the factors involved. Students who are ineligible to participate in games will also be ineligible to participate during practice, and may return to practice when eligibility is regained.

In School Suspension (ISS)

Discipline for players placed in the In School Suspension (ISS) program applies for both off-season and during the season. The discipline outlined below can and will be carried over from year to year. Any student that is placed in ISS will be disciplined according to the following:

1st offense - Extra conditioning + parent phone call

2nd offense- Extra conditioning + suspension + parent/player conference

3rd offense- Suspension from team for 1 year from the date of the 3rd offense

The Learning Center/Detention Alternative Educational Placement (TLC or DAEP):

Cell Phone Use

Cell phone use during the softball athletic period is not permitted unless the player gets permission to use it from a coach. If a player is caught with a phone during the period. Each situation will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Foul Language/Profanity

Any player who is heard by a coach, teacher, or administrator on campus, at practice, game, or in the locker-room will be disciplined by the following:

1st offense- Extra Conditioning + parent phone call 2nd offense

2 game suspension+ Parent/Player/Coach conference

Bullying/Hazing

This can be physical, emotional, and or verbal, and will not be tolerated. Any player who is proven guilty as determined by the coaching staff of bullying, harassment, or hazing will be dismissed from the team immediately. This is a serious offense and any participant in the NCHS Softball program should report any suspicions of bullying/hazing to the coaching staff immediately. Failure to report an incident could result in that person facing disciplinary action as well.

Apparel and Gear

All gear and apparel that is issued to the players is the responsibility of that player. If any player loses any piece of equipment or apparel she will be responsible for replacing it. The player will not allow anyone else to wear/use the gear, apparel, or equipment. All equipment/gear will be blue, white, grey, or black in color. During cold weather, players will be allowed to wear any color if the coaching staff has not issued cold weather gear at that point. During games players will not wear sweaters, hoodies, jackets, or any other type of apparel that will cover their jersey. Players will be allowed to wear long sleeve shirts that will go under uniforms (must all match, per UIL). Also, no player will wear a shirt or

jacket that has any other high school and or mascot on it. If this is the only apparel the player has at that time, arrangements will be made to find the player a new item for practice or games.

Tryouts/Cuts

There will be two rounds of tryouts held, after the prior to the first and second 9 week mark, and all athletes must be present at for tryouts if trying out for the team. There are a few exceptions (previous NCHS commitment, emergencies); these exceptions must be communicated to the coach prior to the tryout date.

The primary reasons for cuts are to keep the best players on the roster, and to keep each team to a manageable number of players. The coaching staff throughout the year will evaluate all players and this information will be used in consideration with any and all cuts being made. Cuts are the decision of the coaching staff and are final.

Teams: The Head Coach has the final say on what team each girl makes (JV/Varsity). At any time a player may be moved up or down from each respective team. This is determined by each team's needs, skill level of each individual player, work ethic and attitude of each individual player.

Player Practice Rules and Expectations

1. Players must be on time and ready to work at the desired start time- It's a sign of respect
2. Any player that is late for practice will have extra conditioning (Unless excused by the Head Coach)
3. No player is allowed to leave practice early unless the coach is informed before practice and the reason is excusable
4. Any player that misses 3 practices (unless excused by the Head Coach) will be dismissed from the team
5. Any player that misses the practice before a game will not be allowed to start and or play in that game unless the excuse is valid, as determined by the coaching staff.
6. Proper attire/equipment must be brought and worn. No jewelry should be worn, and anyone participating will have hair of natural colors. (ex: blue/purple/pink is not permitted.)
7. Athletic T-Shirts, Long Sleeves, and Jackets are permitted. Athletic shorts, sweat bottoms, and wind paints are permitted. Proper foot wear will be worn, players will be responsible for have tennis shoes and cleats at all times. NO flip flops or open toe shoes.

Player Game Rules and Expectations

1. Home Games- Players will be at the field at the designated time. If the player is late and fails to notify a coach/coaches, she will not start and is subject to not play in the game in which she was late too. JV is required to stay and watch the Varsity game. Varsity will sit together to watch the JV until it is time for warm up
2. Away Games- If the player is late to the bus for any out of town game, she will be left behind if she does not notify a coach with a valid excuse. If the player shows up to the game site, she will not be allowed to play in that game.
3. All players are expected to ride to and from games on the team bus. Players are allowed 1 exception to this rule. (exclusions: family emergencies, other NCHS activities) When a student

does not plan to ride the bus, coach must be notified 24-hours in advanced, and have the appropriate paperwork on file.

4. All needed apparel and gear will be brought on the bus before the departure time. If a player forgets something, the bus will NOT turn around to retrieve it.
5. No player is allowed to carry on a conversation with parents/fans during the game. Coaches are aware that you will hear what is being said, and we do not care if you listen. Just please do not respond, either verbally or physically! If there is an emergency the player will inform one of the coaches and we will address the problem or concern.
6. No player is allowed to throw or slam down any piece of equipment at any time.
7. At no time is a player allowed to argue or question any umpires calls during the game. That is the coaches' job!
8. No player will be allowed to use their phones 30 min prior to any game unless approved by the coach/coaches.
9. No outside food or drink will be permitted in the dugout unless approved by the coach/coaches.
10. Bus rules- Players will be seated in the bus seats and are not allowed to stand if the bus is in motion. The bus is not a moving block party and these rules are in place for your safety.
11. Every player must be in the game mentally, even if you are not playing. This is a team sport, we win together, and we lose together.
12. All players are expected to hustle on/off the field for the entirety of the game.

Parent Information

If for any reason a parent wants to meet with a coach, they are asked to either call the coach at the school or email the Head Coach at awhiddon@newcaneyisd.org to set up a time that will work for the coaches. There will be a 24-hour rule in place, which means after any game the coaches will not meet with any parent 24 hours after any game. The parent will express the reason for the conference at the time of the phone call or email. If the reason is playing time, team placement, or to compare kids, the coaches will not meet.

Playing time and team placement is the decision of the coaching staff and will not be discussed with any parent during or after the season.

PLAYERS DECIDE WHO PLAYS BASED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE EACH DAY IN PRACTICE!!! Playing time, as well as starting positions, may vary due to recent practice performance.

Parents are not allowed to enter the field of play at any time. During games and practice the players must be focused on the task at hand and the coaching staff must have their full attention.

NCHS Softball Coaches

Head Coach- Anna Whiddon awhiddon@newcaneyisd.org

Varsity Assistant- April Dixon adixon2@newcaneyisd.org

Junior Varsity Coach- Sara Sheppard ssheppard@newcaneyisd.org

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SOFTBALL RULES

The NCHS Softball handbook is to be kept and this form must be signed by the player and parent/guardian and be returned and on file with the softball coach before the player may participate in any practices, scrimmages, games, or tryouts.

I have read the NCHS Softball handbook and I agree to abide by the rules that have been developed for the NCHS Softball program.

Player's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the Central Softball handbook and I agree to abide by the rules that have been developed for the NCHS Softball program.

Parents/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____