

NEW CANEY

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



2022-2023



Parent Information Handbook

Purpose of the Parent Handbook

This handbook has been developed to establish a foundation for all athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators, and community members to build upon. It is imperative that all involved are of one philosophy and objective to avoid confusion and personal agendas. The expectations for athletes and their coaches within the New Caney Independent School District Athletic Department are high since athletic completion is highly visible within the community. Therefore, this handbook has been developed with full consideration and recognition.

Philosophy of Athletics

Interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the overall education process. A successful athletic program will enable a student-athlete to realize the power of reaching his/her full potential. In most situations, the athletic program's overall success sets the entire school's tone and atmosphere. Athletics create opportunities for developing a positive self-image. Finally, the most crucial aspect of the athletic program is to develop young men and women to become constructive, contributing members of society.

NCISD Athletic Program Objectives

To provide the opportunity of athletic participation to every student who has the ability and desires to do so while creating and implementing a positive environment that encourages both athletic and academic excellence.

Parent/Coach Relationships

Communication Coaches Expect from the Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
- Notification of injury or illness promptly

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- Coach's interaction with your child
- Ways to help your child improve athletic skills
- Concern about your child's interaction with others

Topics Left to the Coaches Discretion

- Playing time
- Play calling
- Team strategy
- Other students/athletes

Parent-Coach Meeting Procedure

- Call the school and ask for the coach's extension
- Request a meeting
- If the coach is unavailable, call the Campus Athletic Coordinator and request a meeting to be arranged
- Do not confront a coach before or after a practice or game. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions. Abuse of this request will result in suspension from attending athletic contests

If the issue cannot be resolved with a parent-coach meeting, the parent should follow the line of communication listed below:

- Call the Campus Athletic Coordinator
- Call the Director of Athletics
- Call the Campus Principal

Behavior Expectations for Spectators

Behavior Expectations of Student Groups

- Always provide positive support for your team. Never ridicule or degrade the opposing team or players.
- Conduct yourself in an exemplary manner. Remember that you represent your school both at home and away.
- Assist cheerleaders with yells, chants, etc. Always be a working part of pep assemblies with preparation, organization, and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups respectfully and enthusiastically. Applaud good performances on both teams. Doing this will show that you understand and can recognize good performance, regardless of team affiliation.
- Always display proper sportsmanship toward officials and value their contributions to the game. Respect the judgments made during a contest. All calls are impartial and should be accepted by all parties.
- Use only positive cheers, signs, and chants during a contest. This will show that you understand proper sportsmanship while giving your organization and school a good reputation.

Behavior Expectations of Spectators

- Always support your team and the efforts of all participants involved.
- Do not intimidate or ridicule a player, coach, or official before, during, or after a contest.
- Always praise athletes for their actions during a game; never degrade a participant for their efforts. Athletics are a learning experience for students, and mistakes will be made.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the game's rules so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations occur.
- Always respect the integrity and judgment of officials. They are present to regulate the flow and enforce the game's rules. An official should never be degraded or ridiculed for a call they make.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as guests to your school.
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from using any controlled substance (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game, on, or near the event's site (i.e., tailgating).
- Be a positive role model at events through your actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

ANY SPECTATOR THAT IS REMOVED FROM A CONTEST FOR BEHAVIOR WILL HAVE A MINIMAL ONE GAME SUPSPENSION FROM NCISD ATHLETIC CONTESTS.

24/7

NCISD athletes represent their school, family, and team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a result, athletes will be held to a higher standard in school and community. This higher standard requires great responsibility; athletes may have to demonstrate restraint when dealing with challenging situations.

Athlete Code of Conduct

There are many advantages of being a member of an athletic team in the New Caney Independent School District. In fact, there are so many that it would be difficult to list them all. Nevertheless, there are some realities each athlete needs to be aware of before accepting the challenge of becoming a student-athlete for his/her school.

1. You may practice and never get to start.
2. Training rules may cramp your social life. Sacrifices will be necessary.
3. You will have to practice every day after school, Saturdays and possibly on holidays.
4. Less study time will be available, yet you must pass to be eligible to play.
5. Do not expect favors because you are an athlete; expect a challenge.
6. You will be expected to be well-behaved on and off the field. What you do off the field may get you dismissed.
7. You will be expected to follow the NCISD Student Code of Conduct.

Most things listed in the Athletic Code of Conduct should be self-imposed rules. If you lack the maturity or self-discipline to adhere to those rules, it may be necessary for the Athletic Department to instigate disciplinary action, possibly even permanent dismissal.

To be admired as a champion and as an athlete – **ACT RIGHT!**

Conduct of an Athlete

1. No Profanity or trash talk. Remember, people do not see you; they see the school's name across your chest.
2. School attendance is required on game day unless approved by the coach and principal.
3. Truancy and unexcused absences are unacceptable.
4. Any athlete placed in ISS and/or suspended from school is not eligible to practice or play in a game until they have completed their punishment.
5. No jewelry during practice or games.
6. Go to practice. There are very few acceptable excuses to miss a practice.
7. Any athlete that quits a sport will not be allowed to go to another sport until the sport he/she quit has finished or they receive consent from all coaches involved. Also, note that any athlete who quits or is dismissed from a sport forfeits that sports athletic award.
8. If a student becomes academically ineligible for two six weeks in a row, they may be dismissed from athletics. The student can be reinstated when academic stability is demonstrated.
9. **NO HAZING!** (Hazing: any activity intentionally taken for the purpose of initiation in which any student(s) humiliates, degrades, or physically or mentally abuses any other student.)
10. Being in an environment of alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal substance or activity is prohibited. If you are at a party, in a car, etc., where drugs and alcohol are present, **LEAVE!** Do not be found guilty by association.

11. Engaging in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts or sexual conduct in locker rooms or playing fields/courts or while on athletic trips will not be tolerated.
12. Any conduct that results in an arrest and/or citations other than a traffic violation from law enforcement officers will not be tolerated.

Violations of rules may result in but are not limited to the following actions:

1. Punishment deemed appropriate by head coach
2. Discipline contracts
3. Suspension from game/games
4. Suspension from an athletic team
5. Suspension from the athletic program
6. Permanent removal from the athletic program

The Code is in force twelve (12) months a year, grades seven through twelve (7-12).

Equipment

The athletic department will maintain a record of all school-owned equipment issued to athletes. It is the player's responsibility to take care of such equipment. The player will be required to pay for any lost items. If an item of equipment is lost, a replacement fee paid, and the item is subsequently found – it must be returned. A refund will be given with a receipt -- at the coach's discretion. Students who owe for equipment will be placed on the fees and fines list.

Participation in Multiple Sports

Student-athletes have one chance to participate in interscholastic athletics. Athletes are encouraged to participate in as many sports as their interests and abilities permit.

Non-School Sponsored Sports

NCISD Athletic Coaching Staff expects school-sponsored sports to take precedence over non-school-sponsored sports. Therefore, athletes who miss practice or contests due to participating in clubs or leagues without the head coach's permission are subject to disciplinary action. Punishment for missing practices or a UIL contest for outside leagues and clubs includes but is not limited to the following.

- Loss of playing time
- Change in team status (Varsity to J.V.)
- Game suspension
- Removal from team

Dismissal from NCISD athletics

Transportation to and from Games

NCISD Athletic Coaching Staff expects athletes to ride the bus to and from games with the team. However, we also recognize that it may become necessary for a parent to arrange alternate transportation for their son/daughter in certain situations. Should this arise, the parent should contact the sport's head coach as soon as possible and arrange a meeting to discuss the situation. Suppose the sport's head coach permits the athlete to provide alternate transportation. In that case, the parent must have an **Alternate Transportation Form** completed and on file 48 hours before the event.

Off-Campus Travel Consent and Release

NCISD provides daily transportation to and from NCISD campuses and certain NCISD off-site facilities for students participating in school-sponsored activities. However, suppose the parent wishes to arrange alternative transportation for the student to and from NCISD's off-site facilities, other than the transportation provided by NCISD. In that case, the parent must have an **Off-Campus Travel Consent and Release** form completed and on file prior to the event.

Social/Electronic Media

Coaches are subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, and the Educator's Code of Ethics related to social/electronic media use. The district permits coaches and other approved employees to communicate with students through the use of electronic media within the scope of the individual's professional responsibilities. For example, a coach may set up a social networking page for his or her team with information about practices and/or games. As a parent, you are welcome to join or become a member of such a page. An employee described above may also contact a student individually through electronic media to communicate about items such as practice times or upcoming game information. [See policy DH (LOCAL)]

If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee, you should contact the athletic director's office for the appropriate paperwork.

UIL Required Forms

All athletic program participants must complete and file all UIL required forms each year to be eligible for athletic participation. These forms must be on file before participating in a practice session, scrimmage, or game (both in-season and out-of-season). All physicals must be completed on the New Caney ISD Physical Form. The campus athletic trainer must be made aware of any existing conditions or limitations that may impact the performance of an athlete

Athletic Injury/Illness

The health of all athletes is very important to all coaches and the athletic training staff. If an athlete becomes ill or injured, they should inform the campus athletic trainer and head coach as soon as possible. If a parent feels their child needs to see a doctor about an injury, they need to make sure and communicate with the campus athletic trainer. If an athlete goes to the doctor, WRITTEN instructions from the doctor relating to the care and treatment of the athlete must be turned into the campus athletic trainer. All athletes under a doctor's care must have a written release to return to activity. **Parent notes for illness will not be accepted as a reason to miss practice for more than two days.** Whenever an athlete is injured or has an illness of a minor nature, the athlete may be required to dress out (but not participate) and stay with their group during the workout. Athletes can learn from each practice session, whether working out or observing. You should contact the campus athletic trainer if you have questions about your child's injury or illness.

Insurance

Student participation in athletics is voluntary. NCISD provides an accidental secondary insurance policy. Questions about this policy should be directed to the high school athletic trainers.

Supplemental Accidental Coverage for parents to purchase is also available. Questions about this policy should be directed to the high school athletic trainers.

Procedures for Handling Claims and Medical Bills:

The campus athletic trainers will initiate a claim form for every athletic-related injury. Claims on injuries will be administered and tracked by the athletic trainers. Questions about insurance claims should be directed to the high school athletic trainers.

NCISD Athletic Department Random Drug Testing Policy

The athletic department conducts random drug testing on all our student-athletes. The program is a "Three Strike Program" aimed at deterring drug use by student-athletes participating in the UIL athletic program. The program is non-punitive. It is designed to create a safe, drug-free environment for students and assist them in getting help when needed. Copies of the drug testing policy can be obtained from the athletic director's office.

The NCISD Athlete's Pledge

Individual and team success in sports results from commitment. The extent to which young athletes can make such commitments reflects their maturity as well as their dedication to family, friends, school, and team. Your coach has already made a similar kind of commitment.

I have read and agree to the following **Pledge**:

As an athlete in NCISD, I promise:

1. To be a worthy representative of my teammates and coaches, abiding by school and community expectations and reflecting my team's values of commitment and hard work.
2. To reflect the knowledge that a commitment to victory is nothing without the commitment to hard work in practice.
3. To attend every practice unless excused by my coach.
4. Understanding my future as a responsible adult relates to how I commit to my academic and athletic activities.
5. To find the time to satisfy my family relationships and responsibilities.
6. To accept the responsibilities of team membership: cooperation, support of my teammates, shared responsibilities, positive interaction, and mutual respect.
7. To reflect my belief that a true winner demonstrates integrity, discipline, and self-respect in all things.

Parents and Athletes Agreement

I certify that I have read and understood the 2022-23 Athletic Handbook, which may be received at the New Caney ISD Athletic Office or viewed online at www.newcaneyisd.org in its entirety, and that I am signing voluntarily and with a complete understanding of the athletic handbook. This form must be signed and on file with the NCISD Athletic Department to be eligible to participate in athletics.

Athlete's Name

Date

Athlete's Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature