

Noble Central School



Jr./Senior High **Athletics Policy**

(Revised 2016)

THE BLADES

The following are some guidelines used in the development of athletic policy for Noble Central Junior and Senior High Extra–Curricular sports programs:

- These programs are a privilege granted, not a right.
- Student athletes are expected to adhere to specific conduct standards established within the school.
- Student athletes pay player fees.
- Extra-curricular teams are about competition, and striving to be ‘better’ and ‘best’.
It is about establishing standards of excellence, and being the best we can be.
It is about working hard, learning and having fun.
(These programs are not meant to be equated with gym class or intra-murals, where participation is the focus).
- Systems are taught and specialization is practiced.
- Individuals on teams have roles and responsibilities.
- Everyone’s jobs and duties are not the same.
- Everyone on a team is a vital member of the whole and no one is any more a member than anyone else who is on the team.
- Although individuals will be looked after, the programs are about “team”.
- Kids learn that TEAMS win or lose, not individuals on teams.

It may be a generalization, but never the less, when parents watch a game, they tend to see only one player and gauge success through the performance of that player – whom they have seen in game situations only.

The coach has to see performance of all players in practices and games, as well as interact with them on bus rides, watch how they interact with each other, meet with them over problems, follow their school performance, etc. and then make decisions about who should be doing what and when and how often.

Parents may not agree with all of the decisions that a coach may make, but they need to understand that the decisions are made with the best interest of the team in mind. (There is a grievance procedure in place that athletes and parents can follow if they feel an injustice. It is stated in the “Athletic Policy Handbook” that the student/athletes and parents get at the start of the season.

Noble Central Athletic Policy

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

1. Extra-curricular athletics at Noble Central is competitive in nature.
2. We strive for excellence.
3. As a team or as an individual, if we work hard and learn our lessons, we will reap the benefits.

Noble Central School recognizes that extracurricular athletics promotes sportsmanship, team building, good citizenship, high academic standards, and community responsibility. Noble Central Athletics provide an opportunity for students to explore their unique talents outside of the classroom setting. These activities demand a high level of commitment, excellence, and self-motivation, which will help prepare students for the challenges they will meet outside the school community.

It is a privilege for students to participate in extracurricular athletics. Participation is voluntary and is not a requirement, nor an entitlement. Therefore, extra time and effort are required of those who participate. Since the reputation of the school is often judged by its extra-curricular programs, high standards must be maintained. Those who earn the privilege of representing Noble Central School in extracurricular athletics are expected to accept greater responsibilities as school citizens.

Participation in extracurricular athletics is open to all students provided they meet the general requirements as outlined in this handbook, and any requirements specific to the activity of their choice.

Athletic Code

The opportunity to participate in the interscholastic athletic program is afforded to all deserving students enrolled at Noble Central School. **However, like any such opportunity, it must be treated as a privilege. Participants in these voluntary programs are expected to conform to specific conduct standards established by the ECEX and the school administration.** The student-athlete who is found in violation of any rules is subject to removal from the program. Provision is made for the student-athlete, who has allegedly violated one or more of the conduct rules, to appeal any disciplinary action.

Athletic Department

- o **Athletic Director** Mr. Kyle Gibson
- o **School Administrator** Mr. Greg Rollingson

Programs

Noble Central School offers the following sports programs:

Sport	Girls		Boys		Mixed	
	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr
Golf	•	•	•	•		
Cross Country	•	•	•	•		
Volleyball	•	•	•	•		
Basketball	•	•	•	•		
Badminton	•	•	•	•	•	•
Softball		•				
Track & Field	•	•	•	•		

Season of Play

The ASAA sets Seasons of Play to ensure that all schools have a fair and reasonable period to compete in. It should be noted that some seasons of play overlap, i.e. fall sports may overlap into winter sports. We believe it is not desirable for a student athlete to have to try and juggle multiple game and practice schedules in these overlapping periods.

Therefore:

- Each activity may hold practices according to the Alberta Schools Athletic Association (ASAA) seasons of play
- The preceding activity has priority for practice times and games.
- Student athletes participating in preceding programs cannot attend other activity practices until that season is over
- The trailing activity may hold practices according to ASAA seasons of play

Player Fees and Contracts

The student-athlete shall pay the “player fees” as charged by Noble Central School. Player fees are to help cover the cost of transportation, athletic awards night and other expenses such as referee costs, tournament entries and uniform costs incurred by Noble Central Athletics. **By no means does the payment of fees entitle the student-athlete a certain amount of playing time.** Playing time is at the discretion of the coaches and coaching staff.

**** Fees are due before the student-athlete is eligible to play. Arrangements for payment schedules may be made. Student Athletes will not receive a uniform until these needs are met****

2015-2016 Season

Fees:	Golf	(\$55)
	Cross-Country	(\$30)
	Jr. Volleyball	(\$90)
	Volleyball	(\$210)
	Jr. Basketball	(\$100)
	Basketball	(\$230)
	Badminton	(\$35)
	Slo-pitch	(\$65)
	Sr. High Track and Field	(\$30)

Should a team advance to Provincial competition; each student-athlete will be expected to pay for their hotels and accommodations.

Player Contracts

Student-athletes must sign a contract (developed and approved by School Administration) **thus taking responsibility** for understanding and accepting the contents, with regard to:

1. academic performance
2. athletic performance
3. expectations
4. responsibilities
5. conduct

Parents/guardians must attend a Team Meeting. There the contracts can be passed in, fees can be paid (or arrangements made for a payment schedule).

Fundraising

The Nobleford Sports Council will start an annual school wide fundraising project our NCS Hockey Pool. Money raised through general fundraising allows us to maintain lower participation fees. All student athletes who participate in Golf, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Track and Field, Softball or Baseball are required to participate in this project.

No team/activity shall participate in, or organize any other fundraising event without the consent of the Athletic Department.

Uniforms and Equipment

All uniforms will be provided by Noble Central School.

Uniforms will be distributed by the coach or Athletic Director before each game or tournament. The athlete must hand in his/her jersey at the end of the game or tournament. The coach will be in possession of the uniforms throughout the season.

It is the coach's responsibility to cold water wash and hang dry the uniforms in between games.

Teams may be provided equipment, specific to their activity. This equipment is owned by the school. The care and supervision of this equipment shall be the responsibility of the coach or their designate. This equipment is provided for team use, and not for use by the Physical Education department or public use

Transportation

All transportation will adhere to administrative procedure as outlined below.

Various types of transportation arrangements can maximize the delivery of programs within the limited resources available to schools. Therefore, the division supports the concept of volunteer drivers and vehicles in providing co-curricular/extracurricular transportation, provided that such arrangements conform to the laws and regulations of the province and are in accordance with the following.

Volunteer Owned and Operated Vehicles

- The volunteer driver must be the owner and operator of the motor vehicle and be in possession of a valid Class 5 Alberta driver's license.
- The volunteer driver must notify his/her insurance company of his/her intention to use their automobile and act as a volunteer driver for the Palliser Regional Schools activity. A minimum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) public liability and property damage insurance coverage must be in force on the automobile before the vehicle can be used to transport students.
- The volunteer driver shall complete the Volunteer Automobile Driver Authorization Form available from the school and provide a current driver's abstract and criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector check. No further renewals are required unless the volunteer is aware of a change, in which case the volunteer driver has the obligation to inform the school principal.
- Teachers and staff driving their personal vehicles to transport students to school activities shall complete the Volunteer Automobile Driver Authorization Form.
- The principal shall be the approving authority for this type of transportation arrangement.
- Students are not permitted to transport other students or to act as "trip drivers."

Student-athletes are encouraged to travel with their group whenever possible. If they do not travel by the transportation provided by the school, they may travel to and from the site of the activity with their parents or designated adult, providing prior arrangements have been made. **Student-athletes are not allowed to drive their own vehicles or catch rides until the group has returned to Noble Central.** Once the student-athlete returns to the school, he or she is now the responsibility of parent or guardian.

Practice and Game Times

All gym usage shall be booked through the Athletic Director.

League games and home tournaments have booking priority over practices.

Any activity under way shall have priority over the following season of play (e.g. volleyball over basketball)

There must be a coach or teacher present at all practices and games.

Coaches may request specific practice times. While all efforts will be made to accommodate requests, it shall be the priority of the Athletic Director to provide a practice schedule which is equitable to all teams in accordance with priorities.

The Athletic Director will create a practice schedule on a monthly basis. In some instances where seasons overlap it may be appropriate to develop a schedule on a weekly basis.

Coaches are encouraged to provide players and parents with individual copies of these schedules as they are available, and the Athletic Director shall place copies on his/her office door, as well as the respective locker rooms

Guidelines for Student Athletes

To be eligible to participate, the student-athlete must be in Grade 6 (some may play up) 7, 8, 9 10, 11 and 12. Students must meet eligibility requirements as set out by the ASAA.

Try-outs

Students take a risk when they try out for a team – where necessary, ‘cuts’ will be made. They could happen for a variety of reasons, but they will be made with the best interest of the team, the student-athlete, and the school in mind. The decisions of the coach and/or the athletic department in these matters are final.

Expectations of Student-Athletes

Attitude

A good, positive attitude and a strong commitment to effort and the team goals and philosophies is a must.

Preparation

Student-athletes should **come to a school team prepared to concentrate and work hard**. They are expected to be prompt for all practices and games and to be prepared with all equipment and gear.

It is expected that all players will be on time and ready to go (dressed) for all activities.

- **Present 15 minutes before scheduled practice**
- **45 minutes before Games**

Unexcused absences or being late will result in a loss of playing time.

Attendance

Understanding that sometimes events and occurrences can keep a student-athlete from attending a practice or a game, it is expected that **the student-athlete will notify the coach personally beforehand**, whenever possible, by note or conversation. However, even this prior notification does not ensure the student-athletes’ status regarding playing time.

Playing Time

It is expected that student-athletes at Noble Central learn to **develop an understanding of the TEAM concept**.

Decisions that are made are done so primarily with the best interests of the team in mind. If athletes or parents come into a team situation expecting that there will be “equal” playing time for everyone, then it is suggested that a competitive team is not the best place for them to be spending their time as they will likely be disappointed. Coaches alone get the opportunity to make the decisions.

It is our goal at Noble Central to operate “programs” as opposed to “teams”. The difference here is that a program is on-going and serves the student-athletes over the course of their years in the program. A team, on the other hand, functions for only a season. Very often decisions made regarding playing time are made with more in mind than the present desires of everyone involved. Quite often past and future considerations are also part of the overall picture.

24 Hour Rule- the 24 hour rule is in place in the event that a player or parent has a question regarding playing time or any other issue. The premise behind the 24 hour rule is that all questions directed at the coach regarding playing time, etc. should be asked 24 hours after the game. If a player or parent has a question regarding this on a weekend, they may direct questions to the coach the following school day.

Basic Premise

The basic premise is that practiced players play, but also that all game time is to be determined by the coach.

Academic Performance

The student-athlete is expected to keep up with their studies and assignments. A teacher-student-coach meeting shall be held if necessary to solve problems which occur. The student-athlete will be given a probationary period to get his or her marks and assignments to an acceptable level. If a student is not completing assignments, not maintaining a passing mark or teacher established standards and unable to reach agreed upon levels, the student-athlete will be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities until improvement is made and the student-athlete is reinstated. **Doing as well as possible is always expected.**

School Attendance

Attendance at school is the responsibility of the students and parents. Student-athletes must meet school attendance requirements. **Student-athletes must be present game days and practice days or they will be in ineligible to participate in games or practices.** Excused exceptions would be for medical/dental appointments, funerals, etc. Sickness or shopping trips are cases in which the athlete may be ineligible to play. Ineligibility will be treated on a case by case basis by administration.

Substance Use

Student-athletes must abstain from possessing, buying, consuming, using, selling or giving away any illegal or non-prescription substance including e-cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, recreational drugs or anabolic steroids.

Dress Code

Student-athletes are expected to **dress appropriately** when representing their teams and Noble Central School. Specific dress code may be determined by the coach and/or administration.

Sportsmanlike Conduct

Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which would befit a good ambassador or representative of our school. Also, student-athletes are expected to treat officials, opponents, fans, teammates, coaches and all facilities with the utmost respect. If a student-athlete is ejected from play he or she may not be eligible to participate in the next competition according to the Athletic Director and School Administrator's discretion.

Hazing

Hazing or negative initiation activities are prohibited by Noble Central School. The planning, initiation of, or participation in such activities shall be dealt with under the behavioral expectation of NCS Athletics, and may lead to suspension or removal from a team and or school. Disciplinary action will be administered on a case by case basis by administration.

Social Networking

Social Networking programs (ie: Facebook) are wonderful when used appropriately. They can also be a serious source for concern. Problems that occur in this regard will be dealt with according to school policy. It needs to be clear that there will be consequences for inappropriate actions.

Guidelines for Parents

Role of the Parents

Parents

Parents and families will play a vital role in the "team" concept. They are a major support system, and their assistance will help the program to operate better.

In order to gain maximum enjoyment, and be a supportive influence, **parents should learn the game as best they can.** Knowing the systems and "why" things happen the way they do will add to the enjoyment.

Parents need to **cheer for the team** – not just their own child. The kids learn that it is all about team, not the individuals on it, and the parents need to grasp this concept for the team to operate properly.

Much work goes into the planning, organizing, practicing, and competition components of a sport season. The coach and school will deal with the majority of the load, but there are areas that parents and family can help out. Fundraising, transportation, scorekeeping, clean-up, taking admission etc. are all areas where parents and family can get involved. A parent-information meeting will be held near the beginning of each sport season. It is necessary that parents attend these meetings as it is a prime opportunity to sign up for duties, voice concerns and present ideas. A parent rep for each team will be identified at this meeting. It is also here that player contracts, fees, and uniforms are dealt with.

Spectator Conduct

The conduct of student-athletes, coaches, fans and anyone else involved in an activity who has ties to the school, reflects back on the school. **It is expected that all involved will act in a reasonable and responsible manner** or be held accountable for their actions.

Student-Athletes / Parents Grievance Procedures

The student-athlete and the coach should try to make every effort to resolve disputes when they arise.

Meetings with coach/ player or coach/player/parent can often times be enough to settle an issue. This avenue should be taken whenever necessary.

1. When a student-athlete or parent has a grievance, an appointment with the coach can be requested to discuss it.
2. If the problem has not been resolved, then the Athletic Director can be approached with the matter.
3. If there has still not been a resolution, then the Principal may be approached.

Noble Central School
Blades
Athletics Policy
Agreement 2016-17

**We have read and understand the contents
of this policy and agree to accept its terms.**

Date

Student Athlete

Print

Signature

Parent

Print

Signature