

NORTH HURON SCHOOLS STUDENT-PARENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



For Athletic Participation
Grades 7-12

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I. Introduction

A. Note to Parents:

Welcome to the North Huron Schools Athletic Program. This material is presented to you because your son/daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family interest in this important component of our school district's program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assist students in personal adjustments.

We are concerned with the educational development of students through athletics and feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program can meet a student's need for self-expression and social, mental, and physical growth. It is our intent to conduct a program that is educationally sound in purpose and will enhance each student's personal growth.

The North Huron Schools Athletic Program is committed to certain responsibilities and obligations. They are:

1. To provide basic equipment and facilities,
2. To provide capable athletic coaches,
3. To schedule contests with teams of similar skill,
4. To enforce district policies and MHSAA Regulations as written, and
5. To promote academic achievement.

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. It is the role of the athletic department to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the schools. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics. The following information is not meant simply as a list of rules, but is offered as a guide for successful participation in athletics in the North Huron School District.

These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved through communication to the parent. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic publication for students and parents. We believe athletics are an integral part of the school educational experience. We look forward to working with you and to watching your student-athlete participate on the playing field.

B. Note to Athletes:

Being a member of a North Huron School District athletic team is both an honor and a privilege. We hope you will enjoy your time in practice and on the playing fields and that your experiences will serve you well.

The rules outlined in this handbook are intended as a guide to successful participation, not to describe punishment. As a student-athlete, you will be expected to understand and abide by these rules. It is your responsibility to follow them to their fullest.

1. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop your strength of character. You owe it to yourself to benefit from your high school experiences. Your studies and participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as in other sports, help to prepare you for adulthood.
2. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL:** Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. By participating in interscholastic athletics to the best of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage, in the spotlight. The student body, the community and other communities judge your school and our school district by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.
3. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS:** As a team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your family. When you know that you have lived up to all of your commitments and that you have practiced and played the game to the best of your ability, you maintain your self-respect and make your family proud of you.

II. Athletic Philosophy

A. Statement of Philosophy

The North Huron School District interscholastic athletic program is a vital and integral part of the total educational program. Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating student-athletes as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play, and fair competition rather than on winning, particularly at Sub varsity levels.

As an integral part of the educational process, the athletic program should conform to and support the objectives and standards of the school. The educational curriculum takes precedence over the athletic program. Student-athletes should strive for educational excellence, peak performance, and exemplary positive sportsmanship. We must keep one goal in mind: *Athletics must never stress winning at any cost.*

B. Objectives

1. Strive for competitive excellence that will produce winning teams within the bounds of good sportsmanship and the mental well-being of the student-athlete.
2. Provide opportunities for student-athletes to:
 - a. Grow physically, emotionally, and mentally.
 - b. Acquire special athletic skills.
 - c. Develop the traits necessary for the team's success: loyalty, cooperation, fair play, and sportsmanship.
 - d. Achieve the goals of the school's program while attaining individual success.
3. Provide a varied program of athletic activities.
4. Provide opportunities for student-athletes to succeed.
5. Create within each student-athlete the desire to succeed and excel.
6. Practice mature self-discipline while learning to make decisions under pressure.
7. Function within a set of rules, gaining respect for individual rights.

III. Governance

A. Board of Education Responsibilities

The North Huron Board of Education is the agency elected to govern activities of the North Huron Schools. It is responsible for making policy decisions that guide the district.

B. Michigan High School Athletic Association

The North Huron Secondary School is a voluntary member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) by the Board of Education action, and competes exclusively with other member schools. The purpose of the MHSAA is to encourage scholarship, protect the health of student-athletes, promote equality of competition, and regulate amateur interscholastic athletics between member schools. In addition, the mission is to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry, and good sportsmanship among contestants and schools. Individuals responsible for North Huron School District interscholastic athletics are expected to know, understand, and adhere to rules and regulations of the MHSAA and the North Huron School District.

C. League/Conference

North Huron Schools is a member of the North Central Thumb League (NCTL). Other member schools for the 2019-2020 school year are: Carsonville-Port Sanilac, Caseville, Bay City All Saints, Owen-Gage, Akron Fairgrove, Deckerville, Kingston, Mayville, Peck, Dryden, Genesee, and International Academy of Flint. Ashley, Atherton, Morrice, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, New Haven Merritt Academy, and Burton Madison Academy are also in the NCTL for Football only.

IV. North Huron School District Athletic Programs

High School Sports Offerings

Fall	Winter	Spring
8-Player Football *– Var. & JV	Boys’ Basketball – Var. & JV	Track – Boys and Girls Var.
Girls’ Volleyball – Var. & JV	Girls’ Basketball – Var., JV.	Baseball -Varsity
Sideline Cheerleading – Var.	Sideline Cheerleading – Var.	Girls’ Softball –Varsity
Cross Country- Var.	Bowling –Boys and Girls Var.	Golf – Varsity

*Provided the numbers and competition is available.

Middle School Sports Offerings

Fall	Winter	Spring
Volleyball	Boys’ Basketball	Girl’s Track
Football	Girls’ Basketball	Boy’s Track
Sideline Cheerleading	Sideline Cheerleading	

V. Requirements for Participation

The MHSAA, as well as the North Huron School District, requires each student-athlete to meet or exceed the eligibility rules listed in this document. For a complete list or more details of MHSAA eligibility requirements, refer to the MHSAA Handbook (available through the athletic director/principal). Inquiries regarding eligibility should be directed to the athletic director/principal.

A. Physical Examination

Physical Examination — an annual physical exam is required and should be conducted by an MD, DO, NP, or PA, on or after April 15th of the previous school year.

B. Emergency Medical Authorization

Emergency Medical Authorization — Parental/Guardian Permission Form to treat is necessary so emergency events can be met with confidence and to protect the student-athlete by granting the authority to get proper treatment in emergency situations.

C. Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies — Parent/Guardian’s Permission Form must be on file with the school’s athletic director.

D. Insurance

Participation in the North Huron School District adopted secondary insurance program is optional. This is a supplemental coverage and claims will be paid only after the Student athlete’s own insurance has paid its full amount.

E. Scholastic Eligibility

All junior and senior high students:

1. All classes must be a passing grade of 70% or better. *Athletic students must meet MHSAA guidelines for each term in order to participate on Athletic teams. MHSAA states a student must pass 80% of the courses in the previous/current semester to be a member of an athletic team.
2. Eligibility will be checked every two weeks following the beginning of the term. Students who are eligible after the first week may participate provided teachers supply evidence to that fact and the building principal signs off. For athletic teams – a student who is ineligible must serve a one game minimum suspension.
3. Students may be deemed ineligible based on school disciplinary action.
4. Any questions or interpretations regarding eligibility should be directed solely to the high school principal. Appeals may be directed to the superintendent and the appropriate board committee. (*Effective December 13, 2012*)
5. Students that are making legitimate academic effort, on a consistent basis, will be afforded the opportunity for an academic review as determined by the Athletic Director. The final decision rests with the Secondary Principal.
 - a. To qualify for academic review:
 - i. Students will talk with the Athletic Director, no later than 9:00 a.m. on the day of the event.
 - ii. The Athletic Director or Secondary Principal will determine if an academic review is necessary, "lemon test".
 1. Current grade is between 60% and 69%
 2. Students cannot have any failing grades (below 60%)
 3. A student can appeal no more than two classes
 4. The student cannot be in violation of the school attendance policy
 - iii. The Athletic Director will notify the Secondary Principal
 - iv. The Athlete will need to obtain an "Academic Eligibility Review Form" from the Secondary Principal
 - v. The Athlete will complete the form and the Secondary Principal will determine if the appeal will be granted or denied
 - b. Appeals granted will be valid until the next regularly scheduled official eligibility is posted. (*Effective February 13, 2013*)

F. Risk of Participation

It is important that parents and student-athletes recognize that sports participation can be dangerous, possibly resulting in catastrophic injury, including death.

G. Financial Obligations and Equipment

School-issued uniforms, warm-ups and equipment — Student-athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. School-furnished equipment is to be worn only for contests or practice. Equipment shall be returned to the school in good condition at the end of the season; or the student-athlete will be assessed to replace damaged items, up to the purchase price of the item.

Athlete-purchased uniforms — in some cases, student-athletes will be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform, especially items defined as personal items (ex. hats, socks, turtlenecks). Purchased items are the property of the student-athlete except those items purchased through fund-raising, which must remain the property of the school according to MHSAA regulations.

Student-athletes may be required to purchase or provide various pieces of sport-specific equipment. Examples include, but are not limited to, shoes, cleats, various gloves, practice jerseys, etc. All student-athlete supplied equipment will remain the property of the student-athlete. For purchase of any part of the high school issued uniform, at the end of the season, approval must be granted, in writing, by the athletic director of the school.

VI. Communication

A. Introduction

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of each other, providing greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your children. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your children's programs.

B. Communication Expected from the Coach

Written communication a parent should expect from a child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e.: special equipment and permitted optional off-season activities.
5. Injury procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Team rules and guidelines.
7. Discipline and consequences, especially those that result in the denial of your child's participation.

C. Student-athlete Discussions with the Coach

It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way student-athletes want. At these times, discussion with the coach is an opportunity for the student-athlete to gain a better understanding of the coach's philosophy's and expectations.

1. Student-athletes should expect a private opportunity to discuss concerns.
2. Student-athletes should expect the coach to maintain confidentiality.
3. The coach will provide specific information to the athlete.

D. Resolution to Problems or Concerns by Student-athlete

Should a problem or concern arise involving a coach and a student-athlete, the following steps should be taken to resolve the matter:

1. The student-athlete should always meet privately with the coach first.
2. If the student-athlete and coach cannot resolve the issue, the parent/guardian and student-athlete should meet with the coach privately.
3. If the student-athlete, coach, and the student-athlete's parents/guardians cannot resolve the issue, all parties shall meet with the athletic director. The athletic director will arrange this meeting after receiving a written request from a parent/guardian for a conference.

E. Communication Coaches Expect from Parents/Guardians

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Health concerns or conditions of the student-athlete (preferred in writing).

F. Appropriate Concerns for Parents to Discuss

It is very difficult to accept a child's not playing as much as hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student-athletes and the team. The following are appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.
4. Out-of-season demands by the coach.

G. Discretionary Issues Not to Be Discussed with the Coach

While there are certain things that may and should be discussed with your child's coach, there are other topics, which must be left to the discretion of the coach. The following are inappropriate discussion issues.

1. Playing time.
2. Strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes (unless a problem exists between your child and another).

H. Parent Procedure for Discussion with the Coach

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach and a parent-coach conference is necessary, the following procedure should be observed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

1. Contact the coach to arrange an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the athletic director who will schedule the meeting.
3. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for a parent to confront a coach before, during or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

I. Parent Recourse Regarding Unsatisfactory Resolution

What a parent may do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution.

1. Set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. If necessary, an appropriate next step may be determined at this meeting.

V. Athletic Code of Conduct

A. Conduct of Student-athletes

All student-athletes are subject to the North Huron School District Student Handbook and will be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from a team, if they violate the rules. The Handbook shall be reviewed with each team, by the coach, prior to the start of each sport season. A student-athlete who violates the rules must be given notice and has a right to a hearing with the athletic director.

B. Rules, Regulations, and Penalties

Individual coaches may establish an additional set of team rules for participants with prior approval from the school's athletic director/principal. If team rules are established, the rules must be in writing and provided to the participants on the first day of practice. Approved team rules and penalties must be on file in the school's athletic office. A copy of the Parent Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies Form must be on file with the school's athletic department.

If a student-athlete violates the North Huron School District Code of Conduct (see below), any coach, faculty member, or administrator shall report the event to the school's athletic director in writing, listing the date, time, and nature of the possible violation. Violation of the North Huron School District Athletic Code may result in the temporary or permanent suspension of a student-athlete during the season.

C. Respect to Teammates and Coach

Should a student-athlete decide to leave a team, he/she shall notify the coach in person.

North Huron School District

Code of Conduct for Athletics

Statement of Purpose: The North Huron School District feels that athletics has a significant educational value and that athletics should be a learning experience which includes the development of the total individual in the areas of health, discipline and character.

If a student-athlete is found violating these rules by any coach, faculty member or administrator, it should be reported to the athletic director in writing, listing the date, time, and nature of the violation. Any of the following infractions could result in temporary or permanent suspensions as decided by the coach and/or athletic director (during the actual season):

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a. Tardy for practice | f. Profane language |
| b. Tardy for contest | g. Improper conduct |
| c. Absent from practice | h. Disrespect for uniform |
| d. Absent from contest | i. Unauthorized wearing of uniform |
| e. Leaving practice or contest w/o permission | j. Cutting classes |
| | k. Un-sportsman like conduct |

This code shall be reviewed by the coach with each team prior to the start of each sport season. A student-athlete who violates the rules must be given notice and has a right to a hearing with the Athletic Appeals Board comprised of: the athletic director, principal, and two varsity coaches who are selected by the athletic director at the start of the school year. The purpose of the hearing is to ensure due process; not to debate the consequences as outlined in sections 1-6 on page 8.

1. A student-athlete using or being involved in the use of an alcoholic beverage, drugs or tobacco products will face suspension from the sport in which he/she is currently participating or the upcoming sport if out of season. The length of the suspension will be as follows: 1st Offense Tobacco/Vaping = 1 game suspension (football/track, and CC), 2 game suspension (volleyball, basketball, baseball/softball). Cheer will depend on which season. 2nd Offense Suspension for remainder of the season to include Post-Season. 1st Offense Alcohol/Drugs = Suspension for 1/3 of the season. 2nd Offense Suspension for remainder of the season. The above consequences are to serve as a baseline minimum and may be increased in accordance with severity by the Athletic Director and/or Administration. Offense Contract of Reinstatement will be signed by the student-athlete, athletic director and principal. Any violation of the Contract Reinstatement will be cause for immediate suspension from that sport team for the remainder of the season. Future participation in any other sport for that school year will be determined by the athletic director, with guidance from the Athletic Appeals Board.
2. If a student-athlete becomes involved in the community in such a way as to bring adverse publicity to the athletic program in school, or if the athlete engages in conduct that may be considered harmful to himself/herself, the team or school, that student-athlete may be suspended from the sport as determined by the athletic director.
3. If it is reported to the athletic director that a student-athlete has violated any of these rules in the off-season, the case may be reviewed by the Athletic Appeals Board before he/she will be allowed to participate in the athletic program.
4. Team members shall accompany the team to and from all athletic events when school authorized transportation is provided unless the coach or principal is personally contacted by the parent/guardian of the student-athlete prior to departure for the contest.
5. Unless prior written excuse is received, the student-athlete is expected to be in attendance a full day at school on the day of the contest unless such contest shall fall on other than a regular school day.
6. The eligibility requirements established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the North Huron School District must be maintained by every student- athlete in order to participate.

It is understood that participation on a recognized interscholastic squad in the North Huron School District is a privilege, and as such, places special responsibilities upon the athlete and all team members. I have read and understand the above Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

(This is a copy of the code all student-athletes and parents/guardians will be required to sign and return to office)

Parent Code of Conduct:

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or another participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and /or head of league organization
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of the incident(s) to be kept on file by the organizations involved
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Parental season suspension

Parent/Guardian Signature: _

(This is a copy of the code all student-athletes and parents/guardians will be required to sign and return to office)

VIII. Eligibility Requirements

A. Michigan High School Athletic Association and North Huron Schools Requirements:

Age — May not be 19 years old before September 1 of the current school year. Students with a birth date on or after the “Eligible DOB” may be eligible for the school year listed if all other eligibility rules have been satisfied. The MHSAA’s Executive Committee may consider an exception to the maximum age limitation for up to one year only (student not to exceed age 20 prior to September 1) for some students. Refer to MHSAA Handbook, Section 2 (B).

Athletic Participation Form — shall be on file with the athletic director before participation.

Enrollment — shall be enrolled prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day (Fall Semester), fourth Friday in February (Winter Semester).

Semester Records — Athletes are required to pass all classes with a grade of 70% or better.

Limited Team Membership — Athletes may not compete on non-school teams in the same sport during the MHSAA season.

All-Star Competition — Participation in an All-Star Contest will result in the loss of athletic eligibility for at least the next three semesters.

Awards and Amateurism — Student-athletes may not accept awards with a “fair market” value greater than \$25 and may never accept money, negotiable documents, or privileges not available to other students.

IX. Basic Athletic Department Policies

A. Participation

Participation — Suspended student-athletes may not attend or participate in practice, travel, team activities or competition until they have returned to school for one school day.

B. Equipment

Equipment — Student-athletes are expected to care for equipment/uniforms and may expect to pay actual replacement costs for damaged, lost, or stolen items.

C. Missing Practice

Missing Practice — please check team’s rules.

D. Transportation

Transportation — North Huron School District student-athletes are not allowed to drive from the school to an athletic event. Special circumstances, as determined by the athletic director/principal in advance, may allow a designated parent to transport the student-athlete. If a bus is needed for athletic transportation, the North Huron School District will make the necessary arrangements. In specific cases, student-athletes may be directed to report directly to the venue where competition is to be held (Softball/baseball and golf in Port Austin).

E. College Recruitment Policy

College Recruitment Policy — Recruiters must check with the principal/athletic director and have the permission of the student-athlete’s parent/guardian before meeting with a student-athlete.

F. Grooming and Dress Policy

Grooming and Dress Policy — Coaches may define specific requirements as long as the standard is announced at the pre-season meeting. Student athletes are expected to look presentable and in at least “Business Casual” unless dressing in team clothing.

G. Attendance

Student-athletes must be in attendance a half day in order to attend practice and on the day of an event in order to participate. Lone exceptions may be Doctor’s appointments and/or Bereavement

H. Vacation Policy

Vacation Policy — Student-athletes traveling with family may be excused in advance and may expect playing time to be impacted.

I. Squad Reduction Policies

Squad Reduction Policy — if it is necessary for a team to reduce the number of participants for an athletic team, it is the sole responsibility of the coaches of that squad to choose the team members. Prior to tryouts the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

1. Extent of tryout period,
2. Criteria to be used to select the team members,
3. Number of student-athletes to be selected,
4. Practice commitment for those who make the team, and
5. Game commitments,
6. Team selection results will be communicated privately by the coach with each student.

J. Reporting of Injury

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach immediately. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it shall be necessary to have an Injury Report Form completed. If a student-athlete is rendered unconscious or treated by a physician, the athlete must obtain a doctor’s written permission to return to practice or competition.

K. Moving up Underclassmen

In accordance with the mission to develop athletes and foster improvement, as well as, enjoyment, the movement of an under classmen (9th or 10 grader) to a Varsity team should be a very unique situation when there are no alternatives. Possible reasons would be: in order to fill a squad due to injury, ineligibility, or

absence. These would be short term moves allowing the Varsity team to compete. A full season move of an underclassman may only be done in the following circumstance:

1. It is necessary to have that player in order to field a team or are required to fill a certain position in a pivotal role
2. The underclassmen being moved up is “head and shoulders” above the upper classmen on the team in talent.
3. It is believed that they will make an immediate impact on the outcome of games, as well as, the season.
4. The underclassman is both emotionally AND physically ready for a Varsity setting

Underclassmen should NOT be brought up for “experience” or due to “potential”. Junior Varsity athletics are meant to both provide experience and to cultivate potential.

Procedure for moving up an underclassman assuming circumstances are met:

Contact athlete’s parent for approval, get approval from Athletic Director, and get approval from Building Principal.

X. Athletic Awards Policy

A. Varsity Letter Requirements

For more specific information, please check school’s policy.

General Requirements to earn a Varsity Letter from North Huron School:

1. Meet or exceed the requirements set forth by the head coach, in writing and distributed to the parents and student-athletes at the seasonal Parent/Student-athlete Meeting.
2. Complete the season in good standing.
3. Recommendation of the head coach if participation requirements are not fulfilled due to illness or injury.
4. A minimum of ½ season must be played on the squad to earn a letter.

B. Award Criteria That Pertain to All Sports

Student-athletes suspended from school may not qualify to earn the school letter or honors bestowed by non-school groups.

C. Awards

1. Varsity - Letter/Certificate: Each first year varsity letter winner will receive a seven- inch varsity letter, plus a varsity certificate. Second, third, and fourth year varsity letter winners receive certificates. Each varsity letter winner may earn up to four chevrons each time they letter in a particular sport.
2. Junior Varsity - Junior Varsity Certificate
3. Freshman - Freshman Numerals/Certificate

4. Non-letter - Participation Award
5. Senior - Senior Letter/Certificate
6. Championship - MHSAA Championship Letter

XI. Inclement Weather & School Closings

A. Practices & Competition

If classes in the North Huron School District are cancelled for inclement weather, it is up to the athletic director whether practices can be held. **ONLY VARSITY** practices can be scheduled on these days and they will be deemed **VOLUNTARY**. Practice times on these days will be determined by the coach and athletic director as soon as possible. All Junior High activity is cancelled.

Sunday Practice

A mandatory practice may be held on a Sunday providing that there is a scheduled game on the Monday following. If a practice is held on a Sunday it must be in exchange for a practice Tuesday thru Friday (i.e. if you have practice on Sunday there must be a game the next day, Monday, and one day that same week, Tues through Friday, must be practice free). Student athletes must have two days free of an athletic practice during a seven-day week.

Thunder and Lightning

Lightning and/or thunder necessitates that an outdoor contest be suspended. The occurrence of lightning is not a subject of interpretation or discussion — lightning is lightning. When lightning is observed or thunder is heard and the contest is suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes.

Severe Weather Watch/Warning

Severe weather in the form of rain or snow may make the field unplayable or access to facilities hazardous. If a severe weather watch/warning is issued prior to a practice or game, decisions made regarding the activity shall be made by the highest ranking North Huron School District employee available.

Practices — if a severe weather watch occurs during a practice, practice may continue at the discretion of the coach.

Games — if a severe weather watch occurs during a game, play will be governed by the adopted rules of the game, MHSAA regulations and North Huron School District protocols.

Thunderstorm or Tornado Warnings

Practices — if a thunderstorm or tornado warning is issued during a practice, practice will be suspended and/or cancelled. Student-athletes and coaches should move to an appropriately designated facility immediately and remain until the warning is cancelled.

Games — if a thunderstorm or tornado warning is issued during a game, play will be suspended immediately. Steps to ensure the safety of teams and support personnel will be taken and directed by the host facilities management. Play may resume at the point of suspension as soon as permitted; if not, the contest may be rescheduled for the next possible date.

If there is a watch or warning at a competition or tournament site issued at least three

(3) hours prior to the event:

1. The North Huron School District policy is to close the competition/tournament facility and all participating teams must be called and informed of postponement with information pertaining to next playing date and time included in the call.
2. If the host district policy does not close the facility, all participating schools who have not called the host must be called to make sure all who are scheduled to play will be present. (The participating school local policy will prevail)
3. Schools will be allowed to travel to the competition/tournament site to await the all clear.

B. Decisions

The North Huron School Board Policy is that on days when school is cancelled practice and competition will be suspended.

School Closings (Early Dismissal or School Cancellation)

The superintendent has the authority to close and cancel school. The decision made by the superintendent is final. Practice and competitions may be suspended.

Notification

Schools, teams, coaches, and students will be notified of cancellations as soon as possible. Usual methods of notification include radio stations, television stations, and the North Huron School District web site (www.nhuron.org).

Game suspensions

Resuming game play is at the discretion of the officials. Home team administration and visiting school administration will be consulted about the decision.

XII. College Bound Student-Athlete

A. Introduction

The purpose of this section is to give the student-athlete the links to resources of what is required to participate in collegiate athletics. Different schools and associations (i.e. NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NAIA) have different rules that affect the recruitment process and eligibility of prospective student-athletes. Student-athletes, who may compete at the collegiate level, and his/her parents should obtain a copy or view the most recent NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete either online at <http://www.ncaa.org> or by contacting the NCAA office at:

NCAA Membership Services
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
(317)917-6222
800-638-3731

If additional information is needed, please contact the high school counselor, coach, or athletic director.

B. NCAA Clearinghouse

Student-athletes must have eligibility for practice and competition in the freshman year certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Student-athletes may register with the Clearinghouse online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net or for a paper registration call 888-388-9794. The best time for a student-athlete to register with the Clearinghouse is following his or her junior year of high school.

Questions or status of certification should be directed toward the NCAA Clearinghouse at:

NCAA Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 4062
Iowa City, IA 52243-4062
(877)262-1492 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, weekdays)
(877)861-3003 (24-hour voice response system to check status of a file)
800-638-3731 (NCAA's Automated Information Hotline)