

## **NORTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CODE/CO-EXTRACURRICULAR CODE**

Participation in interscholastic athletics and Co-Extracurricular activities in Northwest Allen County Schools (NACS) is a privilege open to students who maintain the requirements of the NACS Athletic Code/Co-Extracurricular Code, NACS Athletic policies, Student Handbook, the Indiana High School Athletic Association, and specific policies of their sport and/or organization(s). A student in violation of any of these requirements are no longer considered in "good standing" and are not eligible for participation according to the specified sanctions. Any student who becomes a member of a NACS team or activity must hold himself/herself up to standards and live up to expectations that would make the Carroll community proud.

A NACS student must not reflect discredit upon the school nor create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral, or educational environment in the school in order to remain eligible. Any student who has removed themselves from a team either explicitly (i.e. informing a coach or school representative) or implicitly (i.e. ceasing to attend practices or a contest without the coach's/director's permission) is no longer considered a team member in "good standing" and will, therefore, be subject to sanctions specified under the Code Penalties.

The Code of Conduct applies as soon as a student is a member of the team/organization and follows the student for an entire year. If a code violation occurs outside a student's competition season, the code will be applied in the next season the student participates in, providing the student has been out for that activity in the previous year.

Any member of a NACS team during his/her activity season, out of season while school is in session, or during vacation periods which includes the summer months will be subject to the Code. If a student uses or has in his/her possession tobacco, nicotine products, vaping products or paraphernalia (include but are not limited to cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, hookah pens, or vaporizer pens), alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances unless prescribed by a doctor, he/she will be subject to the Code Penalties..

All students under age eighteen with a tobacco offense will be reported to local law enforcement as directed by the Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Indiana Attorney General to comply with Indiana law. Any NACS student who knowingly associates with peers where alcohol and/or drugs are being used or attends peer parties where alcohol and/or drugs are being used will also be subject to Code Penalties.

### **Code Penalties**

The following are punitive results of code violations, which are minimal when the school becomes aware of the violation. If any of the following violations occur within the last two (2) weeks of the regular competition season or during the IHSAA Tournament Series, the student will forfeit participation in any remaining events (ex.: awards, contests, award banquets, etc.). When the parents bring it to the attention of school administration, there may be a reduction of penalty.

#### **A. Drugs or Controlled Substances**

The student who uses or has in his/her possession drugs or controlled substances, unless prescribed by a doctor, will be suspended from participation for 365 days. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or intoxicant of any kind is considered a code violation. Freshmen may be exempt from the previous year's requirement. (School related and off NACS property)

#### **B. Over-the-Counter Prescription/Medications**

The student who either abuses or deals (sells or distributes) over-the-counter prescription/medications will be suspended from participation for 365 days. Abuse is defined as intentionally exceeding the recommended dosage to achieve an altered physical or mental state. Freshmen may be exempt from the previous year's requirement. (School related and off NACS property)

#### **C. Traveling to/ from an event or Participating**

The student who uses or has in his/her possession tobacco (Tobacco = tobacco/nicotine products that includes all smoking/vaping paraphernalia) or alcohol while representing NACS, going to or from the

event, or while participating at an event or practice, will be suspended from participation for 365 days. No practice is allowed with school teams. Freshman may be exempt from the previous year's requirement. (School Related and off NACS property))

**D. In-Season - School-related and off NACS property**

If a student uses or has in his/her possession tobacco (Tobacco = tobacco/nicotine products that includes all smoking/vaping paraphernalia) or alcohol and the occurrence took place during the student's authorized practice season, (\*season defined below) then the student will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Continued participation as a practicing member of the team/organization is up to the discretion of the Coach/Sponsor and Administration. No competition would be allowed.

If it occurs during the last two weeks of the season (determined by the last regular season contest), or after the beginning of the State Tournament the suspension will carry into 30% of the next contest season providing the student has participated in that activity in the previous year. The Co-extracurricular participant will have the suspension carry into the first 4 consecutive performances or contests of the next school year. (Freshman may be exempt from the previous year requirement.)

**E. Out of Season**

If a participant uses or has in his/her possession tobacco (Tobacco = tobacco/nicotine products that includes all smoking/vaping paraphernalia) or alcohol and the occurrence took place outside the authorized practice season; the individual will be suspended for 30% of the next season provided there has been a history of participation in that activity. (Freshman may be exempt from the previous year requirement.) (School related and off NACS property)

**F. Association**

If a student knowingly associates with peers (in or out of season) where alcohol or drugs are being used, or is in attendance at a peer party where alcohol or drugs are being used, then he/she will face suspension based upon the facts of the event and may face suspension of not less than two (2) contests/events or no more than 4 consecutive performances or contests, 30% of the athletic season he/she is participating in or the next sports contest season if the occurrence is out of season, providing they have been out for that activity in the previous year. (Freshman may be exempt from the previous year requirement.) (School related and off NACS property)

**G. Self-Disclosure**

Any student, who self-discloses to an appropriate school official a need for help with personal alcohol or drug/dependency, may not be subject to suspension, expulsion, or co- or extracurricular ineligibility. If school personnel learn of a dependency prior to self-disclosure, suspension, expulsion, or co- or extracurricular ineligibility will not be waived. Self-disclosure is intended for students seeking to get the help they need, not dodging consequences. A Student disclosing after being "caught" does not apply. Violations that occur after self-disclosure will be subject to penalties stated in the Code. Self-disclosure will only be permitted one time during a student's school career.

**H. Felony/Misdemeanor**

Any student who commits a felony, not covered in other sections of the code, at any time shall be excluded from participation for (up to) one (1) full year from the date (of the commission of such act.) Any student who commits a misdemeanor may be subject to suspension for 30% of the contests on the first offense with practice at the discretion of the coach/director. The second and succeeding offenses (felony or misdemeanor) may bring a suspension for one (1) calendar year from the date of the suspension with no practice allowed with any school team. Continuation in a sport or on a team until a determination of whether the commission of the offense occurred is contingent upon the decision of the Principal and Athletic Director. For the purposes of this section, "felony" includes any act which if committed by an adult would be a felony under Indiana law, and "misdemeanor" includes any act which if committed by an adult would be a misdemeanor under Indiana law. This code applies to any committed misdemeanor/felony act where the student is adjudicated, convicted, enters into a deferral

or plea agreement or is otherwise found responsible for the misdemeanor/felony. (Freshman may be exempt from the previous year requirement.)

**I. School Disruptions**

Any student that is in violation of school rules such as truancy, suspension, classroom disruption, or other punishable acts is not in accordance with the Code and will be disciplined by the already established school rules. The participant may further be dealt with within the structure of each coach/director's rules for his/her activity. If a participant is suspended out of school for any reason, they will be ineligible for all contests during the term of the suspension. Participants serving an in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension cannot practice during the suspension time, nor attend any events. (Freshman may be exempt from the previous year requirement.)

**J. Multiple Offenses**

Any student who has multiple (school) offenses or (code) violations (2 or more), may be suspended or excluded from participation for (up to) one (1) full year. (Freshman may be exempt from the previous year requirement.)

**K. Social Media.**

It is critical that students and parents recognize that participating in the NACS programs are a 24-hour endeavor for 365 days a year. Being a student and a member of a competitive group at Carroll High School does not cease when one exits the school building. Students are high-profile representatives of both Carroll High School and Northwest Allen County Schools and thus, their behavior is subject to scrutiny by peers, community members, and media. The actions of a single student can reflect either positively or negatively on the individual student, teams, coaches, Carroll High School, and the entire Northwest Allen County School District. All aspects of social media, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Vine, YouTube, Instagram, Blogspot, Snapchat, and personal email and texts, have made communication very easy, and with that ease comes potential risks. Parents and students need to recognize the inherent risks of "posting" on these sites, and they must acknowledge there may be consequences for doing so in a negative, derogatory, or inflammatory manner. Examples of conduct that may warrant such consequences include, but are not limited to, any legal or illegal activity that is lewd, vulgar, obscene, indecent or portrays sexual conduct. Posts of this nature toward or regarding coaches, directors, students, teammates, or opponents will not be tolerated and will be subject to discipline as established in the Carroll High School student handbook.

**L. Team Obligations**

Loyalty and commitment are vital to the success of any program. Any student who becomes a team member in "good standing" assumes an obligation to the team and their teammates. Any student who has removed himself/herself from a team either explicitly (i.e. informing a coach/director or school representative) or implicitly (i.e. ceasing to attend practices or a contest without the coach's/director's permission) is no longer considered a team member in "good standing" and will therefore not be eligible for any individual or team post-season awards or participation in any team functions. Any student who has removed himself/herself from a team without the coach's/director's permission may not begin participation on another school team until the preceding team's season has been completed. NACS students who fail to complete all season obligations in a school Extra-Curricular activity including participating in all events in which they are scheduled will face suspension of up to 30% of the next sports season in which they participate providing they complete the season in "good standing" and also providing they have been a member of the team for that sport in the previous year. (Freshman may be exempt from the previous year requirement.)

**M. Travel**

All students must travel to and from contests in transportation provided by NACS unless previous arrangements are made by the student and his/her parents with the coach/director of that sport, for exceptional situations.

Because of state budget changes, alterations in tax laws and rising fuel costs, transportation fees will be assessed for participation in co/extra-curricular activities which require transportation. A \$30 fee will be charged to each athlete for each individual sport season and must be collected before the first contest of that season. This fee in no way guarantees a team member playing time, but merely helps to defray a portion of transportation cost to the district.

#### **N. Attendance**

Students are expected to make school attendance a priority. This includes attendance both the day of and the day after contests. Students and student staff are expected to be in attendance at school on time the day following any and all evening activities. Excessive tardies and/or absences can result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

#### **INTERPRETATIONS:**

Defined Seasons:

- Athletic seasons are defined by the official IHSAA practice date – the final event for that sport.
  - For the Dance season, the season will be defined as the official start date of the first IHSAA winter season date and concludes with the date of the last competition date.
  - Cheerleaders that cheer for the football season and competition season (when/if offered) will be considered one season. Those Cheerleaders that do only competition in the fall (when/if offered) and the basketball season will be considered one season. For the Cheerleader who does all seasons will be defined as the IHSAA official start date in the fall and conclude with the last completion date of the winter basketball season.
  - Marching Band season is defined as July Camp – ISSMA State Finals OR Bands of America Grand Nationals (Whichever is later)
  - Winter Guard season is defined as the first full rehearsal to IHSSGA State Finals or WGI World Finals (whichever is later)
  - Indoor Percussion season is defined as the first full rehearsal to the IPA state finals, or WGI World finals (whichever is later)
  - Jazz Season would be defined as the first rehearsal in January through state jazz finals.
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- The School Administrators are charged with implementing any Code suspensions. The length of a suspension is based upon the number of contests/competitions/performances. Suspensions are calculated according to the events that are known to take place (the official schedule and the first game of the Sectional for example). Example: 9 football games and 1 guaranteed Sectional game equals 10 games to figure suspension. Suspensions will not be refigured with the assumed advancement of a team into the postseason. Scrimmages will not be used in calculating suspensions, but participation will not be allowed in the scrimmage. Suspension calculations will be rounded to the next full game. Athletes serving a Code of Conduct suspension and could regain eligibility during the season must be in attendance for games and practices to be counted towards the serving of the suspension. The athlete serving a Code of Conduct suspension should dress appropriately but not dress for competition and sit with the team for the suspended games/contests.
  - If the violation of the Code does not allow the student to complete the season, then the student will not be considered in “good standing” and therefore will forfeit all letters and awards for that season. If a student has an unexcused (team) absence for the last contest of that season, he/she will forfeit all letters and awards for that season, be suspended from team activities (banquet, etc.) and not be allowed to participate in 30% of the next season in which the individual participates and successfully completes the season in “good standing”.
  - If the violation of the Code occurs in the last part of a season and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her violation in that sport, the suspension does carry over until the suspension is fulfilled (i.e. 30%) providing the student has been out for that sport in the previous year (freshman may be exempt from the previous year requirement).

- If there are two violations to be considered (Code of Conduct and Academic Eligibility), then the Code violation suspension is to begin once grade eligibility is maintained or discipline consequence is completed. The two violations are not to be served simultaneously. In Co-Extracurricular activities where a student can gain/lose eligibility throughout the year, a student serves any Code of Conduct suspension once they become eligible.