

EXPECTED STANDARDS of CONDUCT for ATHLETES

- > The good of the team is first and foremost. Once a team is eliminated, then the individual becomes the most important priority.
- > No athlete will ever employ illegal tactics to gain an undeserved advantage. All athletes will dedicate themselves to the highest standards of sportsmanship.
- > All athletes will care for all athletic equipment as if it were their own personal property. If equipment is damaged or destroyed through practice and/or competition, it will be repaired or replaced by the school. If equipment is lost or stolen, the athlete will have responsibility for replacement.
- > All athletes will obey the specific training and practice rules for their team as provided by the coaching staff.
- > Athletes should not engage in negative or unlawful activity. Drinking alcohol, taking controlled substances, using tobacco products, using profanity, and being disobedient are activities, which are harmful to athletes and their teams.
- > Athletes, student managers, student trainers, and student statisticians must pass five (5) classes each grading period to remain eligible for athletics.
- > Athletes should exhibit a positive attitude in all they attempt to do. They should work for the betterment of North Decatur and set a good example by doing what is right and what is good.
- > Contest officials deserve courteous respect. They are present for the purpose of assuring a fair contest.
- > Athletes should be mindful and respectful of the fact that coaches, teachers, and school officials have the best interests of all athletes as they equip, schedule, and coordinate the athletic program.
- > Athletes must ride to and from athletic events on the bus or mini bus provided by the Decatur County Community Schools unless they provide prior written permission from their parent/legal guardian.
- > ALL North Decatur athletes must comply with the standards of our athletic code and school rules or be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal from the team, as determined by the rules, coaches, athletic director, and principal.

IMPORTANT: North Decatur is not asking student-athletes to make sacrifices. Sacrifice implies giving up good/positive things. We are asking our athletes to do the opposite. Live clean, think clean, and do those things, which make you a positive team member.

440 ATHLETIC APPEALS BOARD

The Athletic Appeals Board is composed of the athletic director, the coach of the student who is involved with the alleged rules violation, one additional varsity coach, and two non-coaching faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The Appeals Board exists for the purpose of hearing appeals from athletes resulting from imposition of stated rules and regulations. The Board's determination may be to accept, reduce, or revoke the initial decision, but may not invoke a more severe punishment.

450 APPEALS

An athlete has the right to a hearing on an athletic suspension. To appeal a decision, the student/parent must notify the athletic director within five (5) calendar days of the notification of the suspension. The purpose of the appeal is to inquire into the athlete's alleged violation and to allow the athlete and his/her parents to present evidence on the athlete's behalf, which might alter the decision of the athletic director. Once an appeal hearing has been requested, the appeal must be heard by the appeal board within 3 school days. Should the appeal board uphold the athletic director's decision, the student and parents may have 48 hrs. to request a second appeal with the principal. This appeal must be heard within 2 school days. The Superintendent of Schools will hear the case only after these steps have been taken. The final appeal to the Superintendent of Schools should be requested within 48 hours after the principal's decision and this appeal should be heard within 2 school days. *The athlete may participate, while all appeals are in process.*

460 RULES of the CODE of CONDUCT

The following rules are specific examples of violations of the Code of Conduct. Conduct that is not covered by these specific examples, but violate the principles of the Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

RULE #1: Student-athletes shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, stimulant, depressant, anabolic steroid, marijuana, counterfeit caffeine pills, or possess, use or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substance.

CONSEQUENCE: A student knowingly violating the substance rule stated above shall be subject to the following discipline:

FIRST OFFENSE: The student-athlete will be automatically suspended from participation in athletic contests, and from the team/squad to which they currently belong, for 50% of the contests for that team/squad. Practice for an athlete who is under such a suspension shall be at the discretion of the coach/sponsor.

SECOND OFFENSE: The student-athlete will be suspended from participation in all athletics for a period of no less than one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction. No practice will be allowed with any team or squad.

THIRD OFFENSE: A third offense will result in termination of athletic participation for the duration of the student/athlete's career at North Decatur High School. Participation will not be allowed on any team or squad, in any capacity, representing North Decatur.

RULE #2: Student-athletes shall not partake in any degree or be in possession of alcoholic beverages.

CONSEQUENCE: The use/possession of alcohol is a violation of the Code of Conduct and will result in the following disciplinary action:

FIRST OFFENSE: Automatic suspension from participation in athletic events, and from the team/squad in which the student is participating, for 50% of the contests for the team/squad. Practice with the team/squad is at the discretion of the coach.

SECOND OFFENSE: The student-athlete will be suspended from participation in all athletics for a period of no less than one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction. No practice will be allowed with any team or squad.

THIRD OFFENSE: A third offense will result in termination of athletic participation for the duration of the student/athlete's career at North Decatur High School. Participation will not be allowed on any team or squad, in any capacity, representing North Decatur.

RULE #3: Student-athletes shall not partake in any degree or be in possession of tobacco products. This includes the possession or use of "electronic cigarettes".

CONSEQUENCE: The use/possession of tobacco products is a violation of the Code of Conduct and will result in the following disciplinary action:

FIRST OFFENSE: Automatic suspension from the team/squad in which the student is participating and 25% of the athletic contests. Participation is at the discretion of the coach.

SECOND OFFENSE: Suspension from 50% of athletic contests in that sport with practice at the discretion of the coach.

THIRD OFFENSE: Suspension from participation in all athletics for one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction. Participation in practices will not be allowed.

FOURTH OFFENSE: A fourth offense will result in termination of athletic participation for the duration of the student/athlete's career at North Decatur High School. Participation will not be allowed on any team or squad, in any capacity, representing North Decatur.

RULE #4: Felonies, misdemeanors, or acts of delinquency.

CONSEQUENCE: Any student-athlete arrested or detained or whose behavior could result in arrest or detention as a juvenile or an adult on such a charge will be suspended from participation pending investigation of the incident by police or school officials. Conviction of a felony at any time shall exclude the student-athlete from athletic participation for one (1) calendar year from the date the violation is confirmed. Conviction of a misdemeanor shall be subject to athletic suspension for 25% of the contests on the first offense, with practice at the discretion of the coach. The second offense, either a misdemeanor or felony, will bring an athletic suspension for a minimum of one (1) calendar year. A third offense will result in termination of athletic participation for the duration of the student/athlete's career at North Decatur High School. Participation will not be allowed on any team or squad, in any capacity, representing North Decatur. Determination by school officials based on an investigation by school officials that the conduct, which was the subject of the felony, misdemeanor, or juvenile charge, did occur will result in imposition of a penalty as if a felony or misdemeanor conviction were entered.

RULE #5: Athletes shall not commit acts of disrespect, vandalism, or theft.

CONSEQUENCE: The first offense will result in automatic suspension from participation in athletics and from the team/squad for 25% of the contests for such team/squad. Practice is at the discretion of the coach. A second offense will result in athletic suspension for a minimum of one (1) calendar year from the day the violation is confirmed.

RULE #6: Any athlete, who is in violation of school rules such as truancy, suspension for disciplinary reasons, disrupting class, or other punishable acts, will be disciplined under the established school rules as explained in the school's student handbook. The athlete may be further disciplined within the structure of each coach's rules for their respective sport. If an athlete is suspended out-of-school for any reason, he/she becomes ineligible for participation in all practices and contests during the term of the suspension.

RULE #7: The coach of each sport may set specific team rules. These rules and the penalties for breaking them will be given to the student-athletes by the coach at the first practice or meeting of that sport. These specific team rules will be on file with the athletic director.

470 CARRY-OVER SUSPENSION

If the violation of the CODE of CONDUCT occurs during the last portion of a sports season and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her punishment in that sport, the suspension will

carry-over until the punishment is fulfilled. This would include their next sport or the same sport the following year; i.e. if the suspension is for two football games with one game remaining in the season, the athlete may not participate in the first contest of the next sport in which they choose to participate. If a typically one-sport athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, they will be required to complete that sport season in good standing. When an athlete is serving a suspension at the end of a sports season, that athlete may not begin practice for the next sports season until the current sports season has ended.

480 COMPLETING A SUSPENSION

When serving a suspension, the athlete is expected to be present at all athletic contests and practices involving their team or squad. The athlete is a member of the team/squad and is expected to fulfill this responsibility. If the athlete does not attend the contest, credit will not be given towards fulfilling the requirements of the suspension.

490 ATHLETIC SEASON

The athletic season is defined as commencing with the first practice and ending with the final contest for that sport. Penalties for violations take effect immediately upon verification of the violation and will include contests in succession, i.e. season schedule, tournaments, and state series.

495 FORFEITURE of AWARDS

If the violation of the CODE of CONDUCT occurs during the last one-third (1/3) of the sport season, the student-athlete will not be considered in good standing and, therefore, will forfeit all letters and awards for that sport season.