



**STUDENT/PARENT  
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK  
2022-2023**

## NORTH CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

### **PURPOSE**

This athletic handbook is designed to explain and to inform athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations and policies relative to participation in interscholastic athletics at North Clay Middle School.

### **ATHLETIC PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT**

Clay Community Schools is dedicated to provide a comprehensive athletic program emphasizing sportsmanship, moral character, team spirit, self-discipline, individual and team commitment, school loyalty and competitive athletic interaction. The athletic program will be designed to allow for the greatest number of student participants possible while encouraging academic excellence through high academic standards.

### **ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROFILE**

All students with sufficient ability are eligible to participate, provide they meet the established scholastic standards and conduct requirement.

Girls in grades seven and eight are offered a five sport program which includes cross country, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, and track & field. The sixth grade girls are offered a four sport program which includes cross country, basketball, wrestling, and track & field. Boys in grades seven and eight are offered a five sport program which includes cross country, football, basketball, wrestling and track & field. The sixth grade boys are offered a four sport program which includes cross country, basketball, wrestling and track & field.

North Clay is a member of the Western Indiana Conference. Members of the eleven school conference are Brown County, Cloverdale, Edgewood, Greencastle, Indian Creek, North Clay, North Putnam, Owen Valley, South Putnam, Sullivan, and West Vigo.

### **ATHLETE DEFINED**

The North Clay Middle School athlete is defined as all boys and girls who represent a team that engage in interscholastic competition of CCSC sanctioned sports and further includes student managers and cheerleaders.

### **SPORTS SEASON DEFINED**

Each sport season begins with the first day of authorized practice and concludes on the date of the last scheduled contest.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE / STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

North Clay Middle School administrators and coaches are safety conscious and are trained to instruct athletes in the safe and proper techniques of their particular sports; however, due to the nature of athletic activity, injuries do occur. The school provides the opportunity for participation while the parent/guardian retains the right of denial for such participation.

Students who plan to participate in athletics must have adequate insurance through their family insurance to cover the cost of injuries. North Clay does not carry a second level insurance.

Parents/Guardians will be responsible for all medical costs associated with athletic participation. **The insurance section on the IHSA physical / consent release certificate must be completed and the athletic office notified of any changes in status.** North Clay Middle School does not provide accident insurance for its athletes. The athletic department strongly advises that parents purchase insurance to cover athletic injuries and the cost of treatment. All student-athletes are given the opportunity to purchase Student Accident Insurance Plans. This is accident insurance that is purchased by the family and all interested parents should purchase the policy before their athlete's practice season begins. Forms for this accident insurance are available at all Clay Community Schools.

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**PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Every student-athlete is required by North Clay Middle School to have a current physical examination by, or shall provide certification from, a physician holding an unlimited license to practice medicine who shall clear the student for athletic participation using the current IHSA pre-participation evaluation form and a Consent/Release certificate completed and on file with the athletic office prior to the first practice of any sport. North Clay Middle School requires that the student-athlete have this physical on file prior to the first workout/open facility each year. The doctor's signature must be dated after April 1st prior to the beginning of each school year. Physical examinations and submitting the completed forms to the coaching staff and or athletic directors are the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents/guardian.

Current IHSA physical forms are available at the athletic offices at Northview and North Clay, on the Clay Community Schools web site and at all local physician's offices.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS**

When participating in any type of athletic activity, there is always a possibility that an injury can occur. Statistically, an athlete will suffer at least one injury during their athletic career that requires that he/she miss a number of practices and/or games.

There are several types of injuries that can force an athlete to miss practices and/or games. Some of the more common injuries that occur in athletics are strains (stretching or tearing of muscle and tendon tissue), sprains (stretching or tearing of ligaments), and contusions (bruises of soft tissue or muscle tissue). These three types of injuries can vary in their severity. In the case of mild strains, sprains, and contusions, the athlete will feel some discomfort but will be able to continue his or her participation in athletics. In severe cases of strains, sprains and contusions, the athlete may miss a large amount of time participating in his or her sport. Some severe injuries may need to be surgically repaired and require an extended period of physical therapy.

Athletes can also experience more serious injuries such as fractures, dislocations, concussions, internal injuries, spinal injuries, or death. Fortunately, most of the injuries that occur with athletics are mild strains, sprains and contusions and the athlete misses little or no participation. It is important to remember that statistically, athletes are much safer than those who participate in riskier types of physical activity.

Athletes can decrease their chances to be injured by adhering to the following guidelines.

1. Use the proper athletic techniques that are taught by the coaches.
2. Condition properly during the preseason and work to stay in condition.
3. Get proper rest and nutrition.
4. Refrain from risky behavior on the athletic field or in the locker rooms.
5. Wear proper fitting protective equipment.
6. Keep all protective equipment in working order.
7. Stay alcohol and drug free.

Remember that some serious or severe injuries still occur when the athlete follows the above guidelines. However, those who disregard the above guidelines are at greater risk to sustain a serious or severe injury.

Athletic participation benefits people by teaching self-esteem, team unity, proper health and fellowship. Most people agree that the benefits of participating in athletics outweigh the risks. The coaching staff of North Clay Middle School wants its athletes and parents/guardians to understand that there are risks involved with participating in athletics. The coaching staff will continue to teach and practice only those techniques that promote safe participation, but the staff realizes that some athletic injuries will continue to occur. The staff hopes that the athletes and parents/guardians alike will take the time to learn more about athletic injuries and how to best avoid them. It will take a "team" effort from coaches, athletic trainers, athletes and their

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parents/guardians to continue to provide safe participation for all of those involved. We hope that we can count on your support in this endeavor.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

A student who is a member of a North Clay Middle School athletic team in any capacity (athlete, cheerleader, student manager or statistician) must be willing to assume the responsibilities that go along with being a member of a team and wearing the school colors. The student body, the community and others often judge our school by our student athletes' conduct and attitude on and off the field, in season and out of season. Student athletes and athletic support personnel are role models and therefore, are expected to be positive examples in school citizenship, scholastic effort, leadership, and in personal appearance.

The conduct of participants in athletics at North Clay Middle School, in or out of school, shall be such as not to reflect discredit upon his/her school, nor create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, morale or educational environment in his/her school. Areas of concern, such as, but not all inclusive are: (1) tobacco use in any form, (2) alcohol use in any form, (3) use of drugs, depressants, stimulants, or any controlled substance, (4) use of performance enhancing drugs, (5) verbal harassment, (6) sexual harassment, (7) theft, (8) vandalism, or (9) sexual violations. Acting in a manner that brings embarrassment or shame to yourself and/or your school, or that negatively impacts the reputation of yourself or your school shall be cause for disciplinary action by the school administration. Examples of such conduct include any illegal activity; any non-illegal activity that is lewd, vulgar, obscene, indecent, or that portrays sexual conduct done in a manner whereby the community learns of such activity, or any activity that degrades, demeans, or disparages any coach, activity sponsor, school official or student.

Any student involved in an assault, possession of a weapon, intimidation toward staff or students, arson, theft, vandalism, falsifying school records, drugs, alcohol, fighting, extortion, and other similar serious violations will be subject to immediate suspension pending a hearing of the facts to determine the school's course of action.

It is expected that students will follow common rules of courtesy. Violations of rules of common courtesy include the failure to follow staff members' directions, talking back to a staff member, and the use of abusive or obscene language directed toward a staff member.

Students are prohibited from wearing...messages on clothing, jewelry and personal belongings that relate to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, violence, sex, vulgarity, or that reflect upon persons because of their race or ethnic group.

The school personnel shall enforce all rules and regulations as described in the Code of Conduct for athletes (hereafter the Code). All rules regarding behavior and /or training as outlined in the IHSAA regulations apply. The Code will be reinforced by the coach of each sport during the year. Parents/guardians and athletes are required to sign the acknowledgment, consent, injury awareness and disclosure document stating that they understand the Code and the athlete is subject to disciplinary measure should he/she violate the Code. Evidence of violations of the Code may be determined by but not limited to the following: established charges filed by law enforcement officials or agencies, observation by members of the athletic staff, a faculty or staff member or administrator, or by the admission of the offender.

Any alleged violation of the Code shall be reported to the principal or his/her designee and then is to be followed by an investigation by any or all of the following people...coach, sponsor, athletic directors, principal or his/her designee. The student shall be suspended from their team while the investigation is on going.

Be it understood that the Code of Conduct policy is in effect twenty-four (24) hours a day, twelve (12) months a year. Furthermore, violations of the Code are cumulative from season to season and year to year throughout the student/athlete's middle school career.

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During grades 6 through 8, students in violation of the code of conduct will be subject to the following penalties:

### 1. **Inappropriate Behaviors that will be addressed:**

#### **DRUG POLICY**

A student athlete shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, caffeine based pill, substance containing phenylpropanolamine (PPS), stimulant, depressant, inhalant, solvent, ephedrine or intoxicant of any kind, whether prescription or sold over the counter. Proper use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a health care provider is not a violation of this rule. Possession of any drug paraphernalia such as but not limited to rolling papers or clips is also a violation of this rule. A student athlete who finds himself/herself at a place where any of the above substances are being used is to leave the area to avoid being associated with that behavior.

#### **ALCOHOL POLICY**

A student athlete should not possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage. A student athlete who finds himself/herself at places where underage drinking is taking place is expected to leave the area to avoid being associated with that behavior.

#### **TOBACCO POLICY**

A student athlete shall not use or possess tobacco in any form (including but not limited to snuff, chewing tobacco, smoking tobacco, e-cigarettes, or vapes on or off the grounds of North Clay Middle School).

#### **THEFT and VANDALISM**

A student athlete shall not vandalize property, have stolen any item or have in their possession any stolen item from any source, including uniforms or equipment from North Clay Middle School, other schools, or communities.

#### **FELONY CONVICTION**

A student athlete who is convicted of a felony will face the consequences listed in section 2 in addition to any sentence that is prescribed by the courts.

#### **MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION**

A student athlete who is convicted of a misdemeanor will face the consequences listed in section 2 in addition to any sentence that is prescribed by the courts.

#### **JUNVENILE DELINQUENCY**

A student athlete who has been found delinquent on a juvenile delinquent act which would be a misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult will face the consequences listed in section 2 in addition to any punishment that is prescribed by the courts.

#### **ARRESTS**

A student-athlete who has been charged with a crime and/or arrested and/or arrested and charged with a crime or delinquent act which would be a crime if committed by an adult will be suspended from the team for at least one contest. The Athletic Department Disciplinary Review Board will hold a hearing within five school days of the suspension. The hearing will decide if the student will be suspended until charged or if charges have been filed until his/her trial is concluded or if the suspension will be lifted before the conclusion of the trial. The Athletic Department Disciplinary Review Board will determine the length of a student athlete's suspension on a case-by-case basis. If the student athlete is found guilty of a misdemeanor; a felony, or a juvenile delinquent act which would be a misdemeanor or felony if committed by an

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adult, then the appropriate penalty will apply at the time of the conviction.

**2. Levels of Consequences for violating the code of conduct**

**Level 1 Equivalent to 10% of the regular season**

First violation of the Tobacco Policy

**Level 2 Equivalent to 25% of the regular season**

First violation of the Alcohol Policy

First conviction of a Misdemeanor

First conviction of criminal delinquency/recklessness

**Level 3 Equivalent to 50% of the regular season**

Second violation of the Tobacco Policy

Second violation of the Alcohol Policy

First violation of the Drug Policy

First violation of the Theft or Vandalism Policy

Second conviction of criminal delinquency/recklessness

**Level 4 One Calendar Year Exclusion from athletics**

Third violation of the Tobacco Policy

Third violation of the Alcohol Policy

Second violation of Use of Drugs Plus Substance Abuse Program

Second conviction of a Misdemeanor

Second violation of the Theft or Vandalism Policy

First conviction of a Felony

Third conviction of criminal delinquency/recklessness

**Level 5 Career Exclusion from athletics at North Clay Middle School**

Third violation of the Drug Policy

Third conviction of a Misdemeanor

Second conviction of a Felony

Fourth conviction of criminal delinquency/recklessness

Coaches shall have the right to impose further rules, as they deem proper for their activities.

An example would be: (Using the average number of contests played by North Clay. This would be modified to meet the NCMS contracted schedule in each sport)

Sport	Typical Season Length	10% of The Season	25% of The Season	50% of The Season
Basketball	20 games	2 games	5 games	10 games
Cross Country	11 meets	1 meet	3 meets	6 meets
Football	7 games	1 game	2 games	4 games
Track & Field	17 meets	2 meets	5 meets	9 meets
Volleyball	15 matches	2 matches	4 matches	8 matches
Wrestling	13 meets	1 meets	3 meets	7 meets
Cheerleading	Same as sports season			

The number of games is rounded up at point five (.5).

**Terms of Suspension:**

- A. A student athlete who has been suspended from a team for one game, 25%, or 50% of the season is expected to continue his/her association with the team in terms of attending practice and following team rules. The student athlete will

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attend the contests but is not allowed to participate in the contest and will not wear the jersey or uniform of the team on the sideline during the period of suspension.

- B. A student athlete who has been excluded from participation for a full calendar year will not associate with that team or other North Clay athletic teams. This includes after school conditioning.
  - C. A student athlete who transfers into North Clay Middle School while serving suspensions at his/her previous school will serve out the remainder of his/her penalty at North Clay. The previous school's penalty will be honored in full and will not be increased or decreased in length.
  - D. Records of violations will be kept on file in the athletic director's office. Violations will be cumulative in grades 6 through 8.
  - E. Season length will be determined by the actual number of contests scheduled in a particular sport during the current school year. Cancellations due to weather, etc. could affect the number of actual contests scheduled.
3. **Carry-over Suspension**

If the violation of the code of conduct occurs in the last part of a sport's season and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her violation in that sport, the suspension will carry-over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes the next sport or the same sport next year. i.e. if the suspension is for 25% of the football season (2 games) and the student athlete misses only one game before the season has ended, then he will serve the remaining % of the suspension in his next athletic season. If that next season is basketball, then he must miss that % of the basketball season. If a one-sport student athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, He/she is expected to participate as an active player of that squad, not as a member of the support staff (ex. manager or statistician). He/she will be required to complete that season in good standing.

4. **Completing a Suspension**

When serving a suspension, the student athlete is expected to be present at all athletic contests and practices involving his/her team or squad. The student athlete is a member of the team and is expected to fulfill this responsibility. The head coach's discretion can excuse the student athlete.

5. **Summer Participation**

Suspended students are allowed to participate in open facilities and summer instruction. Students who have been excluded for one year of participation will not be allowed to participate in the summer instruction. Summer instruction is considered the same as practice.

6. **Self Reporting** - A student athlete may self report one time

**Level 2 Consequence – Alcohol Policy**

The penalty will be reduced to 10% of the current and/or next sport season if 1) the student or the student's parent/s or guardian/s report the violation to the principal and/or athletic directors, or coach prior to their independent confirmation of a violation.

**Level 3 Consequence – Tobacco Policy, Alcohol Policy, Drug Policy**

The penalty will be reduced to 25% of the current and/or next sport season if 1) the student or the student's parents or guardians report the violation to the principal and/or the athletic directors, or coach prior to their independent confirmation of a violation and 2) submits to and receives a certificate of completion from a substance abuse program of assessment, counseling, screening and/or indicated therapy. The program must have been approved by the principal and may include a recommendation for parent or guardian participation. The cost of the program is the responsibility of the student and/or his/her parents.

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**Level 3 Consequence – Theft or Vandalism Policy**

The penalty will be reduced to 25% of the current and/or next sport season if 1) the student or the student's parents or guardians report the violation to the principal and/or athletic directors or coach prior to their independent confirmation of a violation.

**Level 4 and 5 Consequence – All Inclusive**

There will be no reduction of penalty at Level 4 or Level 5

**7. Appeal For Reinstatement**

**Level 4 consequences** will include a provision that the student-athlete may appeal for reinstatement after one sports season.

**Level 5 consequences** will include a provision that the student-athlete may appeal for reinstatement after one calendar year from the date of the declaration of suspension. Only one appeal for reinstatement may be granted during grades 6 through 8.

**8. Parent / Student Notification**

Parents will be notified in writing of each offense. On the second violation of the Drug Policy, the student must attend a substance abuse program at the student's own expense and receive a certificate of completion. The certificate will be approved by the principal and filed in the principal's office.

**9. Appeals/Hearing**

A student athlete and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to hearing on the removal from participation by notifying the appropriate North Clay Middle School athletic director by phone or in writing within two (2) school days after the removal. The right of appeal is forfeited if this is not requested within this two (2) school day limit. The purpose of the appeal hearing is to inquire into the student athlete's alleged violation and allow the student athlete and parents or guardians to present evidence on behalf of the student athlete. The removal from participation will remain in effect during the appeal process.

**10. The Athletic Department Disciplinary Review Board**

The Athletic Department Disciplinary Review Board is a four-member panel made up of the Athletic Directors, the Principal, and the Assistant Principal. The board will conduct the hearing with regard to suspensions due to arrest and appeals to imposed penalties. The student athlete's head coach may act as an advisor for the student athlete and help present the student athlete's case. The head coach may be a part of the decision making process with the board. The board may hear testimony from the student athlete, the coach, and parents(s) or guardian(s) of the student athlete. It is not the Board's job to supersede the decision of the court of law, but to act in the best interest of North Clay Middle School. The Board must be unanimous in its decision on suspensions and appeals.

The student athlete and their parents or guardians will be notified of the Athletic Department Disciplinary Review Board's decision within five (5) days of the hearing.

The parents/guardians will sign the certification of consent, acknowledgement and release and the athlete will sign the code of conduct acknowledgement on page 13 before the athlete will be allowed to participate in interscholastic sports at North Clay Middle School.

**CELL PHONES AND CAMERAS**

Cell phones and cameras may **not** be used inside a locker room for any purpose. This means no texting, no calling and obviously no pictures. The use of cell phones, regardless if it has a built-in camera or not, is not permitted in the locker room at any time. **NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE**



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**RULE.** This rule applies to all players, managers and *coaches (coaches may use a cell phone in their office, not the locker room).*

A violation of this rule will result in immediate penalty, which could include dismissal from the team. If a photograph is taken, that matter may be turned over to legal authorities for possible prosecution.

Should an athlete receive a call or text while (s)he is in the locker room, (s)he should take the phone (still in a backpack, book bag, gym bag, etc.) out to the hall or outside the building before use. **CAMERAS AND PHONES MAY NOT BE IN USE OR OUT IN VIEW IN THE LOCKER ROOM FOR ANY REASON.**

### **SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES**

Student-athletes are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmissions (e.g. email, text) and any information posted on a public domain (e.g. internet, chat room, blogs, Facebook, You Tube, My Space). Inappropriate or embarrassing information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. Student-athletes are not precluded from participation in such online social networks; however, student-athletes should be reminded that they serve as representatives of their team, the athletic program and their community.

Texting, tweeting and used of other social networks to disparage or criticize the team, other students, opponents, coaches or other school personnel is inappropriate behavior and unbecoming of a Northview High School student-athlete. Any individual identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior, due to the Honor Code or other policy, will be considered in violation and subject to athletic discipline or suspension

### **ELIGIBILITY**

#### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

North Clay Middle School standards require that the student must be passing six of seven classes to represent North Clay Middle School in any competition. Incompletes cannot be counted as helping meet these requirements.

Eligibility at North Clay Middle School will be determined by nine weeks grades at the end of the first, second, third and fourth grading periods. Grades will be determined by either the semester grades or the nine weeks grades at the end of the second and fourth grading periods, whichever will benefit the student athlete.

A student-athlete who is academically ineligible may still “try-out”/be chosen for a team; he/she may practice with the team, however, participation in contests is still determined by the North Clay eligibility requirements. The student’s placement on the team will be provisional upon their meeting academic requirements.

North Clay athletes will be declared eligible or ineligible on the dates(s) designated by the Athletic Department. The current dates for certifying eligibility are the last day of the current nine week grading period. A student will become ineligible on the day that report cards are dispersed at the end of each grading period.

#### **DISCIPLINARY ELIGIBILITY**

Any student who is suspended from school for any disciplinary reason shall not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities or even be present in the school building or school grounds.

Any student who is expelled from school for any disciplinary reasons shall not be permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for one nine week grading period following

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his/her return to school. Students returning in the fall from a spring semester expulsion will not be permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for the first nine weeks of the new school year.

Any athlete who has been ejected from a contest for an unsportsmanlike act shall be suspended from the next interschool contest and all other interschool contests until the penalty has been assessed. If the ejection has occurred during the final contest of the season, the penalty shall be enforced on date of the first contest of the next season in which the athlete is scheduled to participate.

None of the above is seen as a forfeiture of the right and responsibility of the school administrators to protect the image of the school by removing a student from participation in any extra-curricular activity at any time that the student's participation is not in the best interest of the school corporation.

None of the above is seen as a forfeiture of the right of coaches to set additional non-academic rules which regulates participation of students in extra-curricular activities.

### **SUSPENSIONS BY DUE PROCESS:**

A school due process suspension (out of school) makes a student-athlete ineligible for competition and practice in any activity for the duration of the due process.

### **COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT FOR EDUCATION (COPE)**

A student who has been placed in the COPE program may not attend before or after school activities until the COPE penalty has been served.

### **ATTENDANCE: School and Game Day**

Student-athletes are expected to be in attendance both the day of and the day after all weekday athletic contests. Student athletes and student staff are expected to be in attendance at school on time the day following all evening weekday contests. Failure to do so may result in suspension of the student athlete from the next event/contest.

**A student must be in attendance for no less than the last half of the regular school day (must be here by noon) he/she plans to participate in the extra-curricular activity.** School approved field trips or school activities constitute attending school. Students are only allowed to participate in practice or an event if their absence is verified by a doctor's note, a note from a parent explaining a family emergency, or a note from another meeting involving a professional.

### **PRACTICE & PARTICIPATION**

A student athlete shall attend and actively participate in regularly scheduled practice sessions to be eligible for interschool athletic competition. A student athlete must participate in 10 separate practices before participation in their first interscholastic contest.

If you are absent 5 or more consecutive days due to illness or injury you must present to the Principal, Athletic Director or Coach written verification from a physician holding an unlimited license to practice medicine that you are physically fit to participate in interschool athletics.

All accidents or injuries home or away, are to be reported to the coach immediately.

### **PRACTICES: Regular, Vacation, and School Closing**

All team members are expected to attend all practices. Practice schedules during school vacations are set by the coach and only the coach can excuse an athlete from practice.

Practices during a school closing time (snow, etc.) are under the Clay Community Schools policy.

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If school is canceled for the safety of the students because of inclement weather, i.e., hazardous road conditions, then all school activities including practices, scheduled contests, and any other activity shall also be canceled. If the school cancellation extends beyond one day, the building principal shall have the discretion to decide if practices, scheduled contests, and other activities will be allowed provided that no student is required to participate in such activities.

Furthermore, there will be no penalty for any student who does not participate on a day school is canceled.

If school is canceled for a Friday, then activities scheduled for Saturday may be conducted.

If school dismisses early for the safety of the students for above conditions, all school activities are also canceled including practices, contests, and other activities.

If an activity is planned by the WIC, which is under no control of our school corporation, our Students' participation will be reviewed to determine if attendance and participation is acceptable.

### **EQUIPMENT**

All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (excepting normal wear and tear) or the athlete is expected to compensate the Athletic Department for the lost or damaged equipment. No athlete may practice or tryout for another sport until all issued equipment has been turned in, all bills paid, and have been cleared by the previous sports coach. The athletic director will release the names of the athletes who have been cleared to all coaches of the next sports season. Remember that stealing or wearing stolen equipment is a violation of the Code of Conduct. Equipment may not be worn during the school day, at home or on the streets without approval of the coach of that sport.

### **CONFLICTS BETWEEN ACTIVITIES**

Activities at North Clay share many students. From time to time there may be conflicts between times of activities and the athlete will have to make a decision as to which one to attend. All conflicts should be reported to the coaches in a timely manner. Interscholastic sports at the middle school level require a substantial time commitment, A commitment to a middle school athletic team indicates that all non-school conflicts (i.e. COA, AAU, etc.) will be resolved in favor of the middle school team. This would not include such things as significant religious holidays, participating in a relative's wedding, a family member's funeral, etc.

If a conflict between school activities arises, the athlete and/or parent should notify the coach and/or sponsors involved. Notification should be made well ahead of the date on which the conflict exists. They in turn will attempt to resolve the conflict as equitably as possible. The general rule is that a contest takes priority over a practice, if two competitions are involved, the higher level of competition will take priority. If the conflict persists, the parties involved may contact the appropriate athletic director.

### **TEAM SELECTION POLICIES**

Coaches of the various sports at North Clay Middle School have their own policy on how they will choose their teams. In some sports, cutting a team down to manageable size is a necessity. Coaches will explain their policy to candidates for their team at their first meeting. An athlete may be removed from a team at anytime during a season.

### **CHEERLEADERS**

North Clay cheerleaders are representatives of and ambassadors for our school. In addition to fostering spirit and good sportsmanship, they serve as positive role models for the youth of our community. All requirements for participation which apply to other athletes (such as physicals, Code of Conduct, etc.) also apply to cheerleaders. Cheerleaders are selected in the spring by the cheerleader coaches and/or certified cheerleader judges. The procedure for selection of

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cheerleaders is established by the coach and/or athletic director.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

North Clay athletes are required to travel to the athletic contest and special events in school approved vehicles under adult supervision provided by the school. The only exception to the rule is in the case of an emergency or special circumstance as determined by the coach. Appropriate behavior and citizenship is expected of all students who ride in school approved vehicles.

Upon approval, only transportation with the parents of the athlete will be considered as an appropriate alternative. Should an athlete request to return home from a contest with their parent/guardian, the proper paper work must be signed and given to the coach.

### **GROOMING AND APPEARANCE**

North Clay athletes act as representatives of the school and community and therefore are required to exhibit a well-groomed and appropriate appearance. The North Clay dress code should be followed at all times. The Principal, Athletic Directors, and coaches will determine Athletic Department guidelines as needed concerning the appropriateness of styles within the context of safety and accepted social norms.

### **TEAM RULES**

A coach may make team-specific rules that are more restrictive than the North Clay Code of Conduct. Such rules must be approved by the athletic director prior to implementation and on file in the athletic office. Once approved, these rules must be provided to team members and parents in writing.

## **PARENT / GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION OF CONSENT, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & RELEASE**

(To be completed by all parents/guardians; where divorce or separation, parent with legal custody must sign)

- A. In accordance with the rules of the IHSAA and North Clay Middle School I hereby give my consent of the above student to participate in all athletics at North Clay Middle School.
- B. I understand that participation may necessitate an early dismissal from classes and I also understand that travel is necessary and accident causing injury is a possibility.
- C. I/we consent to the disclosure, by my son's/daughter's school, to the IHSAA of all requested, detailed financial (athletic or otherwise), scholastic and attendance records of such school concerning my son/daughter.
- D. I/we know of and acknowledge that my son/daughter knows of the risks involved in athletic participation, understands that serious injury, and even death, is possible in such participation, and chooses to accept any and all responsibility for his/her safety and welfare while participating in athletics. With full understanding of the risks involved, I/we release and hold harmless my school, the schools involved, and the IHSAA of any and all responsibility and liability for any injury or claim resulting from such athletic participation, and agree to take no legal action against the IHSAA or my school because of any accident or mishap involving the athletic participation of my son/daughter.
- E. As a parent and/or guardian of the above student-athlete, I have read the Athletic Handbook for Student-Athletes, the North Clay Code of Conduct and discussed it with my son/daughter. I understand the Code and realize that it applies year-round. I also realize that my son/daughter is subject to disciplinary measures should he/she violate the rules of the Code or the coaches.
- F. I/we authorize North Clay Middle School to investigate and obtain information from police agencies, the probation department, or any other source regarding events leading up to an arrest or filing of charges for an act which would be in violation of any of the rules and regulations as stated in North Clay's Athletic Handbook.

## **NORTH CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT ATHLETE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Rules are an integral part of an athletic program. They are necessary to achieve skill development, good health, and self-discipline of the individual student athlete. Rules are also necessary in order to develop pride within the individual, student body, families, and community.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the in the North Clay Middle School Student Code of Conduct and written rules, regulations and information published in the North Clay Student Athletic Handbook.