



Concord Wildcats

2011-2012

Handbook for Interscholastic
Athletics

Athletic Director Address

Dear Student-Athletes and families,

Welcome to Concord Athletics! I would like to start by wishing you all great success for this upcoming year in athletics here at Concord.

Our programs at Concord will only be as successful as we make them. If we have the hard work and determination of everyone involved I know that we can grow immensely not only as an athletic program, but as a school. Participation in sports can be a wonderful addition to your overall experience in your academic years.

This handbook has been prepared for everyone involved in Concord athletics. It will outline what we expect from each and every one of you who participate or cheer for our athletic teams. We appreciate all of your efforts and participation in our sports and we wish you luck on this upcoming season. Thank you, and go Wildcats!

Matt Link
Athletic Director
Concord School

General Expectations for Student-Athletes

1. Student must be enrolled as a full-time student or be registered in an accredited home schooling program within the Essex-Caledonian Supervisory Union District
2. Student must be under the age of 19
3. Student must have private/public health insurance on file with the Athletic Department
4. Student must have a current sports physical on file with the Athletic Department
5. Student must have completed and signed an Athletic Participation Consent form

~Concord athlete's development of skills, knowledge and understanding of the game, and conditioning will be stressed while encouraging a positive winning attitude. Winning is the natural result of a superior work ethic, positive attitude, and a good basic knowledge of the game~

Academic Eligibility Criteria

If a student receives two or more grades between 65 and 69 the student is on academic probation. If a student fails one or more classes the student is ineligible to participate in any co-curricular activity (practice, game) until the next grade reporting period. Grade reporting periods include mid-term progress reports. Eligibility can be regained if the student passes all the courses on the following grade reporting period (mid-term progress reports or quarterly report cards). The final quarter will determine eligibility for the fall co-curricular activities. Transfer, tuition, and home schooled students must meet the Concord School eligibility criteria on their transcript or last report card. If a student athlete is out of school for an extended period of time due to injury or illness during the fourth quarter and has made a strong effort in his/her studies, that student could possibly be eligible to participate the following fall.

When a student-athlete is on academic probation, he/she may practice with the team and participate in games. In order to continue practicing and playing the player must get a weekly progress report from all teachers, not just from the courses that were in the "D" range, showing that the student is currently passing all classes. An unsatisfactory weekly report means that the student is suspended from practice and playing immediately, pending the next weekly report. Once the Athletic Director meets with the student, the procedure is to go into place. The meeting will be followed with a letter sent to the student's parents, coach, and Principal.

The date of determination for a student on academic probation to become eligible is the first school day after report cards or mid-term progress reports are distributed. However, a student may request in writing, a grade search by the Athletic Director as soon as the marking period ends. If the grade search shows the student is passing all subjects attempted, the Athletic Director may reinstate the student's eligibility status immediately.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

No student-athlete shall purchase, use, sell, or possess any alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescription drugs. Prescription drugs may be used as prescribed by a physician with, at a minimum, the school nurse being notified.

All reports of violations shall be presented to the Athletic Director and School Administration. Each report will be investigated in a timely manner until a decision can be reached. Once a decision has been reached the student in question along with his/her guardian will meet with the Athletic Director and Principal to discuss the findings.

Any athlete reported to be in violation of these rules by an employee of Concord School will be immediately suspended from interscholastic contests pending a review of the report. In the meantime, the athlete is expected to participate in all other team related activities unless suspended from the school. If the athlete is found in violation, all penalties enforced during the review period will count towards the fulfillment of any sanctioned penalty.

Penalties:

- First Offense- A student is suspended immediately for the next four games. If necessary the suspension will be carried over to the next season in which the athlete participates.
 - Documentation that shows involvement in a drug/alcohol/tobacco education or counseling program that is conducted by a certified drug/alcohol counselor or student assistance counselor at the expense of the parent. In the event of a drug or alcohol violation, part of this program will involve a drug and alcohol assessment by the counselor.
- Second Offense- An athlete found in violation a second time during an academic year will be declared ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics for a period of one year from the date of incident.

Any cost associated with the policy is the responsibility of the student-athlete or his guardians.

Social Media

What you post on the internet on social media sites such as Facebook, and Myspace can be seen by everyone, including the police, school administrators, and coaches. Anything you post online will never go away, once it is posted it can be saved by anyone else anywhere. You lose immediate control of it. As a member of the Concord Athletic family you represent the school everywhere you go. Anything that you say or do will always have an effect on the public perception of Concord. Therefore:

- Students must refrain from posting negative comments that are detrimental to the school, athletic program, team, or any teammate. Posting media that implicates themselves or others engaging in illegal activity is also prohibited and will cause the parties involved to be subject to the proper disciplinary process.
 - Ex- If you have pictures of yourself with any alcohol around you, whether you are consuming or not, you will be subject to the alcohol policy explained earlier.

Attendance Eligibility Criteria

A student must be in attendance in school all day in order to participate in any co-curricular activity (practices, team meetings, or games) that day or night. An excused absence by the Principal or Athletic Director may be granted if the absence falls within the guidelines of the attendance policy of the school. In the case of an excused absence the student must be in attendance the day following a game. In the case of a practice or game on a Saturday, attendance is required on the Friday before. An excuse slip, verified by the office, will serve for re-entry into classes and participation in co-curricular activities. Acceptable excuse slips include doctor's notes, appointment card signed by doctor's/dentist's offices, and other official documentation explaining where the student was. A note from the student's parents will NOT necessarily excuse an absence.

Excused absences will include, sickness, injury, school related problem, and or family emergency. The list of priorities that each student should strive to have is:

Family
Religion/School
Athletics

Any major issue with the first 3 will always come before athletics.

Unless excused, all student-athletes must be in attendance at the practice the day before the game. If they are not, that student-athlete will not be allowed to play in the game. If they are not at that practice before the game but they have a legal excuse they are able to participate in the game, but they will NOT start the game.

Behavior/Conduct Expectations

Concord School expects the best out of our students. That is why if a student-athlete has been given a detention, community service, all day or half day in-school detention, or out-of-school suspension, that student may not participate in practice or any game. Suspended students may not travel with the team to home or away games.

If a student has multiple disciplinary referrals during the course of the season, their behavior will be reviewed by the Athletic Director. If it is found that the child is out of line with regards to our expectations, the student and their parents will meet with the Athletic Director and Principal in order to resolve this issue.

Bus Behavior

To ensure the safety of everyone involved Concord School is enforcing these policies by everybody involved on the bus:

1. Proper conduct on the bus is the responsibility of the coach, not the bus driver.
2. Different bus drivers may have different rules.
3. Inform the team members of the standard operating procedures for team travel and the bus rules established by the bus driver.
4. The coach will ride on the bus and will sit where he/she can best control behavior.
5. When boys and girls travel together, boys and girls are not allowed to sit together.
6. CD players and iPods with headphones are allowed on the bus.
7. Any discipline referrals are up to the discretion of the coach.

Gym Behavior and Guidelines

All student-athletes should strive to leave every place better than it was when you first got there. Our fields when participating in sports are our home. The fields and Dickson Gymnasium are your home away from home and you need to respect them.

The guidelines for the gym and fields are as follows:

- Clean up after yourself. A messy and dirty court or field reflects poorly on yourself and the school.
- Only appropriate athletic activities will be allowed at the game sites. Ex- Jumping off the stage during practice is considered inappropriate.
- If using weight equipment in the gym, there needs to be an appropriate administrator or teacher in the area.
- No student-athlete will be allowed to be in the gym without a Concord employee or coach present.
- Always act in a way that lives up to the high standard that Concord School expects of you.

Fan Behavior at Athletic Events

Students, parents, faculty/staff, and alumni are expected to support our athletic teams in a manner that reflects the values that Concord School expects out of each and every one of you. Verbal and/or physical taunting and/or harassment of another school's players, cheerleaders, or coaches, derogatory remarks about another school or the officials either directly or through cheers or chants are not acceptable behavior. Persons who engage in such unacceptable behaviors are subject to removal from the premises with no refund of any admission charge. Students will be subject to disciplinary action as well. Repeat offenders may be banned from attendance at future athletic contests.

Hazing

Hazing means any act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with others, against a student in connection with pledging, being initiated into, affiliated with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization which is affiliated with the District; and which is intended to have the effect of, or should reasonably be expected to have the effect of, humiliating, intimidating or demeaning the student or endangering the mental or physical health of the student. "Hazing" also includes soliciting, directing, aiding, or otherwise participating actively or passively in the above acts. Hazing may occur on and off school grounds.

Examples of hazing include:

- Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electrical shocks, placing harmful substances on or in the body, or other similar activity
- Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, or other activity that creates or results in an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student
- Any activity involving the consumption of food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, drug, or other substances that subjects a student to an unreasonable risk of harm
- Activity that induces, causes, or requires a student to perform a duty or task, which involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing

Disciplinary Action

It is not a defense in a disciplinary proceeding under this policy that the person against whom the hazing was directed to consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

- If the investigation concludes a student committed an act of hazing or otherwise violated this policy, that student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion from co-curricular activities

- from the school. Any disciplinary action against a student shall be subject to the procedures set forth in the code of appropriate behavior
- If the investigation concludes that a staff person committed an act of hazing or otherwise violated this policy, that person shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with applicable law and the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreement or other contract
 - If the investigation concludes that an athletic team or other co or extra-curricular activity or organization knowingly permitted, authorized, or condoned hazing, disciplinary action may be imposed against the team, activity or organization, including cancellation of one or more athletic contests or the entire athletic season, or revocation or suspension of an organization's permission to operate or exist within the District's purview

Letter System

Each varsity athlete will be awarded a letter each year after he/she has fulfilled the requirements for the particular sport. On the first award of the letter in any sport the student will receive the blue chenille "C" and a pin designating the activity. All subsequent letter awards in any sport will be the pin designating the sport. Multiple years in the same sport will be identified by a gold bar.

Guidelines for the award of an athletic letter are as follows:

- Athletes must complete the entire season and fulfill the coach's requirements for that entire season. The only exception for not completing the entire season and earning a letter would be due to an injury. Students that are academically ineligible, quit or are administratively removed from the team will not receive a letter for a sport.

Sportsmanship

The Concord School expects that all athletes, students, coaches, and spectators show good sportsmanship and respect the efforts of all the players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators. Athletes and coaches must set a good example in the matter of sportsmanship and must quickly condemn unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of other students and adults.

To this end, students and coaches from the Concord School are expected to:

- Remember that you represent Concord and your School
- Recognize that the good name of the school is more valuable than any game
- Respond with positive enthusiasm to support the team
- Accept the decision of the officials without questions and exercise self control at all times

- Recognize and applaud an exhibition of fine play
- Insist on courteous treatment for the visiting team and extend its members proper courtesy
- Acquaint others with the ideals of sportsmanship that are acceptable to the school
- Respond to unfortunate situations in an acceptable manner

Physicals

Sports Physicals: Physicals are required each year for every student who will be playing on any Concord School sports team. Sports physicals are good for one calendar year from the date the physical was performed. The athlete has two weeks after the expiration to get a physical form completed and turned in.

A sports physical form must be on file before a student can participate in practices or competitions. A student obtains a physical through his/her own physician and the physician must fill out the school's sports physical form.

Medications: Students needing medications before or during any sporting event or practice must submit a prescription order form or non-prescription order form to the school nurse along with the appropriately labeled medication. The school nurse will instruct the coach on administration procedures and guidelines and will provide the coach with instructions. Examples- Bee sting kits, inhalers, allergy medication, pain relievers, etc.

Practices

- Every athlete is expected to attend every practice, to be in practice attire, and on time.
- Practice attire must conform to the school's dress code.
- If an athlete cannot be at practice, he/she must notify the coach **BEFORE** the practice. Failure to do so will make the absence unexcused.
- Practices will not exceed two hours per day unless the coach has informed the Athletic Director of an extended practice.
- All athletes must comply with the school rules in the Student Handbook during practices and at home or away games.
- Players who are recovering from temporary injuries are expected to attend practices as observers unless they are absent from school or have received permission from the coach to be absent.
- Unexcused absences from practice will result in that player not participating in the next game. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - Examples of unexcused absences:
 - Don't have a ride
 - Spending time with friends or significant others

- An athlete with an excused absence from the practice before a game may play in the game, but may not start. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.
- Practices are “closed door,” and not open to students that are not on the team, the public, or spectators. Students on the field or in the gym will be asked to leave by the coach.
- No fooling around in the locker room.
- Do not bring valuables to practice as the school is not responsible for loss or theft of them.

Guidelines

- The student is responsible for their own uniforms. If it is lost or not turned in the student is responsible for paying for a replacement
- Know your practice and game schedule
- Pass in completed athletic forms to the coach or athletic director before deadlines
- Athletes must have 10 practices per VPA rules before they can participate in a game. Attendance to a game or scrimmage counts as 1 practice. A coach may have an extended practice up to one hour longer and have it count as a second practice.

Student Insurance

No student may participate in any VPA sanctioned activity without providing evidence to the student’s school administration or designee prior to participation in an activity, showing that the participant is covered under some private or public health insurance program for the medical care for injuries suffered as a result of participation in an activity. Member institutions are encouraged to work with their student participants and parents to help make available individual insurance policies at affordable cost to students who wish to participate in VPA sanctioned activities.

Taunting

Taunting is considered any action(s) or comment(s) by coaches, players, or spectators that are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal matters. Many of these behaviors meet the level of harassment and will be prosecuted as such. All others will be handled under the guidelines of bullying and teasing.

Transportation

On Concord School sports trips, ALL students making the trip MUST travel roundtrip on the team bus. Students will be permitted to ride with their parent/guardians ONLY if the transportation form has been completed and approved by the Athletic Director prior to the departure. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a transportation form from their coach or Athletic Director. The student may only ride with their parent/guardian. Student athletes in violation of the transportation policy will receive a one game suspension from the Athletic Director. Spectators are only allowed to ride the bus to and from the games when it is a playoff game and permission forms have been turned into the Athletic Director the day before the game.

Concord School Student Athlete Handbook Contract

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the terms of this handbook and agree to abide by the standards, policies, and procedures defined or referenced in this document.

I have read my child's student athletic handbook. I agree to have my child abide by the standards, policies, and procedures defined or referenced in this document.

The information in this handbook is subject to change. As the district provides updated policy information, I accept responsibility for reading and abiding by the changes.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date