

**NORTH PIKE
ATHLETIC
DEPARTMENT**

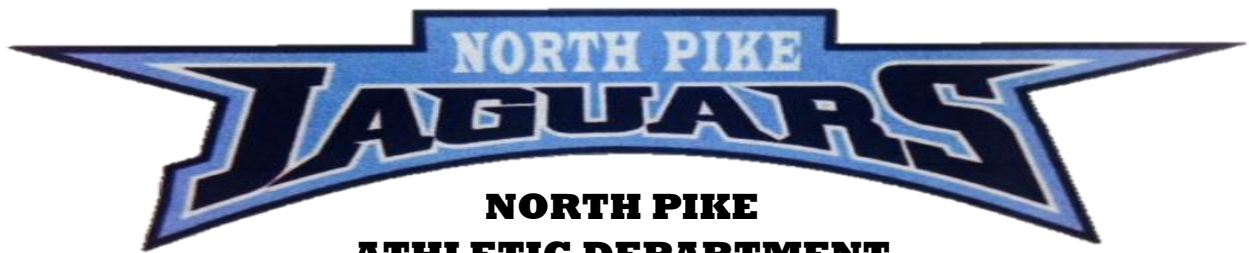


**2016-2017
STUDENT-ATHLETE/
PARENT HANDBOOK**

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**NORTH PIKE
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

1022 Jaguar Trail

Summit, MS 39666

601-276-2175 601-276-3594 601-276-2720 (fax)

Kevin Martin, Director of Athletics

Dear Parents & Student-Athletes:

Welcome to another year of North Pike Jaguar Athletics! We are excited about the upcoming sports seasons and are looking forward to the opportunities presented to our student-athletes.

This handbook has been assembled specifically for the parents and student-athletes who will be competing for one or more of our North Pike High School or North Pike Middle School athletic teams. The contents of this handbook are intended to help you understand the policies, procedures, and expectations for everyone involved in North Pike Athletics. Also included are forms for participation, well-being, and safety. Please join us in making a total commitment to our athletes, coaches, athletic program, and school.

If you ever have any questions regarding our athletic program at North Pike, feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Kevin Martin
Director of Athletics
North Pike School District

The mission of the North Pike Athletic Department is to provide and maintain a safe, competitive playing environment for our athletes, coaches, and fans, while stressing the importance of academics, sportsmanship, and social integrity. Every effort is made to ensure that our student-athletes reach their full potential and become well-rounded, productive citizens.

All student-athletes of the North Pike School District must be in compliance with school board policies, procedures, and regulations found in the North Pike School District Student Handbook. In addition, the athletic programs of the North Pike School District must be in compliance with all rules and regulations established by the Mississippi High School Activities Association and the Mississippi State Board of Education.

Athletics should function as an integral part of the total curriculum at North Pike. Opportunities should be provided for student-athletes to develop positive and responsible habits that will carry over into adulthood.

NORTH PIKE ADMINISTRATION AND ATHLETIC STAFF

Superintendent: Dennis Penton
High School Principal: Scott Hallmark
High School Asst. Principals: Blake Brewer & Ron Fortenberry
Middle School Principal: Allen Barron
Middle School Asst. Principals: James Coney & Angela Benefield
Director of Athletics: Kevin Martin

ATHLETIC STAFF

Abdul-Hadi, Trace	Asst. HS Basketball
Bird, Kristi	Asst. Fast-Pitch
Brock, Steve	JH Football, JH Track
Cooksey, Jason	Asst. HS Football, Head Powerlifting
Eccles, Brooke	Asst. HS Girls Basketball, Head Cross Country
Freeman, AJ	JH Football, Asst. JH Baseball
Gunnell, Will	Head Girls Soccer, JH Football
Holman, Laura Lee	Head HS Girls Basketball
Jenkins, Angela	Head HS Cheer
Johnson, Brinson	Asst. Football, Asst. Track
Lindsey, Trey	Asst. Football, Asst. HS Baseball, Head JH Baseball
Lott, Dusty	Asst. Football, Asst. Baseball
Lott, George	Head HS Baseball
Martin, Tina	Asst. JH Basketball
McCullough, Wes	Asst. HS Football, Head Golf
Mitchell, Claire	Head Tennis
Rousseau, Jill	Head HS Dance, Head JH Dance
Rush, Kim	Head JH Cheer
Russ, Keith	Head HS Basketball
Smith, Chris	Head HS Football
Taylor, Joe	Head HS Track, Head JH Basketball
Terrell, Pig	Asst. Football, Boys Soccer
Terrell, Tressa	Asst. Girls Soccer
Wagner, Kim	Asst. Fast-Pitch, Asst. Slow-Pitch
Wallace, Sonya	Head Fast-Pitch, Head Slow-Pitch
Watkins, Paul	JH Football, Head Bowling
Weaver, Rodney	Head Archery

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be under the same administrative control as all other parts of the educational program. Only students enrolled in grades 7 - 12 shall engage in interscholastic athletic contests. The North Pike School District shall provide qualified personnel for coaching and supervising all individual sports.

All interscholastic athletic events in which the North Pike School District participates shall be conducted under the rules and regulations of the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

All students participating in athletics will be required to have on file: (1) a current year physical, (2) copy of birth certificate, (3) athletic participation consent form which includes proof of medical/health insurance signed by the parent, random drug test consent signed by the parent, medical consent and release signed by the parent, and concussion information acknowledgement signed by the parent. It is the explicit responsibility of the head coach of the athletic activity involved to ensure that all these requirements are completed and documentation is properly on file prior to any practice or events associated with the activity.

The North Pike School District Interscholastic Program shall:

- Open all sports to all eligible students in the district.
- Give every eligible student an opportunity to be a member of a squad; however, membership on a squad does not necessarily guarantee participation in contests.
- Teach the proper fundamentals to each participant.
- Encourage participation by as many students as possible.
- Have the best interest of the participants as the first consideration.

It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of our student bodies and an important phase of good community-school relations. Too great of an emphasis on winning at all costs or a too consistent record of losing contests are both harmful to the development of good attitudes among our students and the public.

Adding an Interscholastic Sport: The following criteria shall be considered prior to the addition of any interscholastic sport:

- There should be an indication of strong student interest.
- The sport must be a MHSAA sanctioned sport.
- Adequate facilities must exist. It must be possible to coordinate the use of facilities so as not to conflict with existing programs.
- It must be possible to secure competent coaches.
- Adequate funding must be available without diverting funding from existing programs.
- Priority will be given to those sports that best equalize the opportunities for boys and girls.

Deleting an Interscholastic Sport: The following criteria will be considered prior to the deletion of an interscholastic sport:

- Student interest declines to an unsatisfactory level both in terms of participation and spectator attendance.
- It becomes impossible to secure competent coaches.
- Adequate facilities do not exist.
- Adequate funding is no longer feasible.
- Scheduling of contests at local or regional level becomes impossible.

All requests to add or delete a sport will go through the office of the director of athletics, school administration, and superintendent.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFERED

Sport	Season
Cross Country (7-12)	Fall
Football	Fall
Slow Pitch Softball (7-12)	Fall
Basketball	Winter
Bowling	Winter
Powerlifting	Winter
Soccer (7-12)	Winter
Cheer	Fall-Winter
Dance	Fall-Winter
Archery	Spring
Baseball	Spring
Golf (7-12)	Spring
Fast Pitch Softball (7-12)	Spring
Tennis (7-12)	Spring
Track & Field	Spring

Teams Fielded: 23

JUNIOR HIGH SPORTS OFFERED

Sport	Season
Football	Fall
Basketball	Winter
Cheer	Fall-Winter
Dance	Fall-Winter
Archery	Spring
Baseball	Spring
Track & Field	Spring

Teams Fielded: 9

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

To participate in athletics, a student must:

1. Live with one's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in the North Pike School District or have a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that is employed by NPSD.
2. Turn in and/or have on file (a) **current school year physical**, (b) **signed athletic participation consent/release form**, (c) **signed drug test screening form (HS only)**, (d) **signed concussion form**, and (e) **signed athletic handbook form**. The school specific forms will be given to each athlete to have signed and returned, and a copy is also included in the Forms section of this handbook for reference.
3. Complete the MHSAA Star Sportsmanship On-Line Program. Middle school students must complete the Star Program before their sports season ends. High school students must complete the Star Program before post-season play begins.

MHSAA academic eligibility rules require each student participating in MHSAA sanctioned competitions to make "satisfactory progress toward graduation." Each school district determines the requirements for "satisfactory progress toward graduation" through its graduation requirements.

Additionally, according to Mississippi law, a student must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 or a "C" average. In the North Pike School District, a "C" average is equal to a 70.

MHSAA Academic Eligibility Rule – High School

- Satisfactory Progress Toward Graduation – School District Determination
- MS Law – Student must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or a "C" average.
- 9th Grade Begins HS Eligibility – Fall eligibility: Promoted to 9th grade, with at least an overall 2.0 GPA or "C" average of all 8th grade courses.
- Semester Eligibility – For grades 9-12: Overall average of all course grades must equal to at least 2.0 GPA or "C" average.
- Fall 2015 Eligibility – Overall average of all final grades (whether credit was earned 1st or 2nd semester) must equal to at least 2.0 GPA or "C" average.
- Grades for credit recovery classes or correspondence courses must be earned prior to the beginning of the following semester or year.

Middle/Junior High School Eligibility Rule

- Must be promoted – If not promoted, the student is ineligible for the entire year.
- Must have passed 4 basic courses.
- The average of those 4 basic courses must be a "C" or above.
- The same guidelines apply at the semester.

Middle/Junior High School Eligibility for Participation at the High School Level

Fall Eligibility

- Must be promoted – If not promoted, the student is ineligible for the entire year.
- Must have passed the 4 Core Courses (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies).
- The average of those 4 core courses must be a "C" or above.

Spring Semester Eligibility

- Do not have to be passing all 4 core courses, but the average of those 4 core courses must be a "C" or above.

Age Limits

- A 7th grader must not have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1st of the current school year.
- An 8th grader must not have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1st of the current school year.
- Once a middle school student “plays up” with a JV or varsity team, he/she may not be transferred back to a junior high team in that sport.

Regaining Eligibility

- A student who is not eligible at the beginning of the school year may become eligible for the second semester by using the formulas previously listed. **This may happen only once during the student’s athletic career!**

ATHLETIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. All student-athletes must maintain a strong sense of dedication, discipline, and desire in order to achieve their best. The following policies and procedures align with the North Pike School District Student Handbook and serve as a supplement to it. It is expected that all student-athletes remain in compliance with these rules.

1. School Attendance and Athletic Participation – A student who is absent or suspended from school for one academic class period or all day cannot participate in school activities or events that day, night, or immediate weekend. Exceptions must be approved by the principal or director of athletics. Documentation may be required.

Student-athletes are expected to be at all practices. If, for some reason, an absence from practice is necessary, the student-athlete or his/her parent should notify a coach of that sport in advance. Money or valuables should not be left in the dressing room during practice or at any other time. These are the student-athlete’s responsibility.

2. Student-Athlete Behavior – Student-athletes are expected to maintain proper behavior during school, practice, games, and travel, as they are representatives of North Pike. The use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs will not be tolerated.
3. Equipment – Student-athletes will be responsible for any equipment and/or uniforms issued to them during a sport season. Any damaged or lost equipment or uniforms will be replaced at the expense of the student-athlete.
4. Travel – Student-athletes will travel to athletic contests on the team bus. At the discretion of the head coach, players may return home with their parents if properly signed out. Only the parent is allowed to sign for the student-athlete. Any exception to this may be granted by written request to the school principal. Notification should be given at least a day in advance.

NORTH PIKE SCHOOL DISTRICT DRUG SCREENING POLICY

For the purposes of this policy, student refers to any student in grades 9-12 who participates in any extracurricular activity to include, but not limited to, any athletic program, the band program, any club, any other extracurricular activity in the District, or any student who seeks a privilege for which a school permit is required (i.e. operation of a motor vehicle on campus). Students and parents/legal guardians will be made aware of the drug testing process and the steps and consequences if and when a student tests positive. It is important to maintain accuracy and confidentiality of the test results, including the maintenance of a documented chain of specimen custody to insure the identity and integrity of the sample throughout the collection and testing process.

Purpose

The purpose of the Drug Screening Program is to aid and assist students. It is not intended to unduly interfere with the student's private life or to bring hardship, but rather to protect the student's well-being and threat of others who are associated with extracurricular activities or permitted privileges in the North Pike School District. Specific goals of the program are as follows.

1. To reassure students, parents and community that the health and academic progress of each of its students is the primary goal of the North Pike School District.
2. To develop drug-free programs and produce students who can serve as role models to influence peers to lead healthy and responsible lives.
3. To prevent drug use and abuse by students of the North Pike School District.
4. To identify any student who may be using or abusing drugs and to determine the identity of the drug or drugs.
5. To educate any student who may be using or abusing drugs as to the possible physical and mental effects drug use may have, and its possible adverse effects on the team and its members.
6. To provide opportunities for treatment and counseling rehabilitation for any student who is determined to be using or abusing drugs.
7. To provide reasonable safeguards to help insure that every student in the North Pike School District is physically competent to participate in extracurricular activities or permitted privileges.
8. To remove the stigma of drug use and abuse from those students who do not use or abuse drugs. No student testing positive, refusing to test, refusing to cooperate with testing or being in violation of this policy will be penalized academically. Information, including testing positive, will not be released to criminal or juvenile authorities absent compulsion by valid state or federal laws. The District will work with the student and/or his or her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) when there is any violation of this policy and procedures

NORTH PIKE SCHOOL DISTRICT DRUG SCREENING PROCEDURES

The North Pike School District administrators, coaching staff, band directors, and sponsors, along with the North Pike School District Board of Education, strongly believe that the use and abuse of drugs (excluding those prescribed by a physician to treat specific medical problems) can

1. Be detrimental to the physical and mental health of students;
2. Seriously interfere with the academic, social, and competitive performance of the students;
3. Be extremely dangerous to the student's teammates, fellow band members, club members, or fellow students, particularly with regards to the participation in competition, practice, or driving on campus; and
4. Create an unfair and damaging stigma for those students who do not use and abuse drugs. Because of the genuine concern for each student enrolled in the North Pike School District, as well as, the obligation to assure that the curricular and extracurricular activities programs are operated in the best interest of all who participate, the school district is implementing a program of drug education, testing and counseling/rehabilitation to assist and benefit all students. Random drug screening is required for any student participating in any extracurricular activity, or for any student who seeks a privilege for which a school permit is required (i.e. operation of a motor vehicle on campus). Students and parents/legal guardians are required to sign a student consent/release form before submitting to screening or testing. Students will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity or obtain/keep a permit when he or she tests positive for drugs or adulterants, substitute the specimen, refuse to submit to a test, fail to cooperate at any stage of drug screening or testing, or refuse to execute the required consent/release form. Any parent/legal guardian of a student who does not participate in an extracurricular activity or obtain a permit may voluntarily include said student in the drug screening program. The drug screening program shall be implemented in accordance with the established board policy by the administration with the advice and assistance of representatives from the medical profession. The contracting biomedical laboratory shall be approved by the North Pike School District Board of Education and conduct drug testing according to nationally accepted standards and procedures. The testing shall be done only with written consent from the student and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

Descriptor Term:

Procedures for Testing

Quality control and confidentiality is assured as follows:

School officials and lab technicians shall be responsible for the collection and labeling of urine samples.

1. Labels that include each student's testing number shall be used to identify urine samples.
2. A minimum of two (2) school officials shall be present with the technician(s) when urine samples are being collected.
3. The student's initials listed adjacent to the student's testing number shall indicate that the number is correct and matches the number affixed to the specimen bottle.
4. Specimen bottles and packaging provided by the contracting agency shall be utilized to properly obtain and transport samples.

5. Urine samples shall be analyzed for one or more of the substances specified in the North Pike School District Drug Screening Policy by the contracted agency selected to perform the laboratory work.
6. The superintendent and school officials shall assure that school board policy is implemented on a fair and consistent basis for all students in the North Pike School District.
7. Required drug counseling shall be provided by an approved agency at the student's expense.
8. School officials will designate collection sites where individuals may provide specimens

Substances to be Screened

Students will be subject to drug screening to test for any of the following substances, the use of which is expressly prohibited:

Amphetamines	Cocaine	Marijuana	Phencyclidine
Barbituates	Methaqualone	Methadone	Propoxyphene
Benzodiazepines	Methamphetamine	Opiates	Ecstasy

Drug Screening

The drug screening shall consist of the collection of a urine sample from the student by any assistant(s) from the contracting biomedical laboratory under the supervision of North Pike School District Officials. Each specimen shall be analyzed for the presence of drugs identified previously in this document, by said contracting agency, which has been approved by the North Pike Board of Education. The laboratory shall report all results to the Medical Review Officer (MRO). The MRO will be responsible for reviewing the test results of the students and confirm that the individuals testing positive have used drugs, adulterated the specimen, or substituted the specimen in violation of the policy. Prior to making a final decision, the MRO may at his or her discretion, give the individual an opportunity to discuss the result. The MRO shall then promptly tell the school principal or superintendent or his designee which student(s) or applicant(s) test positive for drugs or adulterants or a substituted specimen. The North Pike School District will then schedule a conference between the student and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to discuss the non-negative test result. For purposes of this policy, a positive result shall mean a test result, which indicates the presence of one or more of the listed drugs in the student's urine sample, adulterated specimen or a substituted specimen. Refusal to produce a specimen will be considered a positive test. The student and their parent/legal guardian shall be notified when a student tests positive. Random testing will be performed throughout the year for the aforementioned drugs. Also included in the testing will be any and all students who have tested positive at an earlier date during their high school career. Request for Retest of Specimen Split specimens will be collected for each drug screen. A student may request a retest of the split specimen within 72 hours of notification of the final test result. Request will be submitted to the MRO. The student will be required to pay the associated cost of the retest in advance, but will be reimbursed if the result of the retest is negative.

Release of Test Results

All information, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda, and test results, written or otherwise, received by the District through its drug and alcohol testing program are confidential communications and may not be used or received in evidence, obtained in Court discovery, or disclosed in any public or private proceeding except in the following: (a) As directed by the specific, written consent of the student authorizing release of the information to an identified person. (b) To the school principal, district superintendent or his designee, athletic director, band director, sponsor, the head coach of any interscholastic sport in which the student is a team member and/or a drug counselor designated by the superintendent or his designee, or (c) To the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s). All students will be required to execute a consent/release form permitting the District to release test results and related information to the school officials who have a need to know.

Effects of Positive Results

Re-test refers to a series of one or more tests given after a positive test is reported. More than one test may be used to re-test because of the amount of time needed for the substance to be removed from the body of the student. If a student fails to provide a urine sample at the time of testing, it will be the responsibility of the student, at his or her expense, to go to the approved testing laboratory by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the testing and provide North Pike School District with the test results. Failure to do this will be considered a positive test result.

A. First Positive:

When the positive result is verified and confirmed, the school contact person(s) as defined in subparagraph (b) on page 5 and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified. The student will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular event or permitted privilege until he or she tests negative, the student and or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) attend and complete a District approved drug counseling program at the parent(s)/legal guardian(s)'s expense, and the student and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign a release form releasing the school district from liability. A minimum of two weeks must pass before the first test of the re-test is administered.

B. Re-testing After First Positive:

The student will be re-tested after completing the required counseling period. Another positive test will result in the student being suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity or permitted privilege for a period of 90 school days. A third test will be given after the said 90-day period. The student will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular event or permitted privilege until he or she tests negative, the student and or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) attend and complete a District approved drug counseling program at the parent(s)/legal guardian(s)'s expense, and the student and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign a release form releasing the school district from liability. If the student tests positive, the student will be suspended from any extracurricular activities and permitted privileges for one calendar year.

C. Second Positive:

When the positive result is verified and confirmed, the school contact person(s) as defined in subparagraph (b) on page 5 and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified. The student will immediately be suspended from participating in any extracurricular activity or permitted privilege for 90 school days. The student will be tested after the 90 school day suspension. The student will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular event or permitted privilege until he or she tests negative, the student and or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) attend and complete a District approved drug counseling program at the parent(s)/legal guardian(s)'s expense, and the student and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign a release form releasing the school district from liability. If the student tests positive, the student will be suspended from all extracurricular activities and permitted privileges for one calendar year.

D. Third Positive

When the positive result is verified and confirmed, the school contact person(s) as defined in subparagraph (b) on page 5 and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified. The student will immediately be suspended from participating in any extracurricular activity or permitted privilege for one calendar year. After the one-year suspension, the parent or legal guardian may petition the District to ask for reinstatement. The student will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular event or permitted privilege until he or she tests negative, the student and or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) attend and complete a District approved drug counseling program at the parent(s)/legal guardian(s)'s expense, and the student and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign a release form releasing the school district from liability.

Appeal Process

If the student is suspended from extracurricular activities or permitted privileges, he/she has the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent within five (5) business days. Then if the student receives an unfavorable decision he/she has the right to appeal the decision to North Pike School District Board of Education within five (5) business days for a final determination. Although the appeals process is informal, the student shall have the right to have an attorney or other person present, at the student's own expense, and the right to question witnesses.

Miscellaneous Provisions

If any portion of the policy shall be found to be unconstitutional or illegal, the remainder of the policy shall not be affected thereby, and shall remain in full force and effect. All responsibilities and duties of administration and the District personnel named herein shall be deemed discretionary acts.

INSURANCE

All student-athletes must have health and accident insurance to participate in athletics. The North Pike School District is prohibited by law from paying any expense incurred for any accident involving a student on school property or participating in school activities, and does not provide health or accident insurance for participants in athletic or activity programs.

PRIORITY SPORT DESIGNATION

If a student-athlete is a member of two or more athletic teams whose seasons overlap, a Priority Sport Designation Form should be filled out by the student-athlete and his/her parents and filed with the director of athletics. The sport that is designated as the priority should take precedent for that school year. Once that document is complete, the priority sport cannot be changed.

QUITTING A SPORT/BEING DISMISSED FROM A SPORT

Any student-athlete that quits a sport or is dismissed from a sport before the season ends will not be eligible to participate in another sport until the season of the sport dropped is over, unless there is a mutual agreement between the two coaches that are involved. In the event of the dismissal of a student-athlete from a team, the parents will be contacted.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATIONS

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to our student-athletes. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with communication from the coach of the child's program.

Communications You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. General expectation
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs
5. Procedure if your child is injured during practice
6. Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions

Communication Coaches Expect from Athletes/Parents:

1. Concerns related to your child's general welfare
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

1. Ways to help your child improve
2. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals; they make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and all student-athletes involved. Certain topics, such as the ones listed previously, can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. The topics listed below should not be discussed with your child's coach:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and student-athlete, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged, but never after a game when emotions may be high. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position.

If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach can't be reached, call the department of athletics to help set up the meeting for you.
3. Please never attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

What to do if the Meeting with the Coach Doesn't Provide a Satisfactory Solution:

1. Call and set up an appointment with the director of athletics to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

VARSITY LETTERING POLICY

Each sport will set requirements for earning a varsity letter. These requirements are on file in the office of the director of athletics. Letterman jackets will be purchased through the North Pike Athletic Booster Club. The NPABC will pay for the base cost of the jacket, and the individual student-athlete will be responsible for the cost of any add-ons. Orders for jackets will be placed twice each year, once in the fall and once in the spring. To receive a jacket, an athlete must letter two years in a sport.

HAZING

The ***National Federation of High Schools*** defines hazing as “Any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a group, regardless of their willingness to participate.” Hazing includes acts that carelessly or intentionally endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of another person for the purpose of initiation or as a condition for membership or affiliation with a school organization or promotion to a grade level. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to the following:

- Forced consumption of any drink, drug, or controlled substance
- Forced prolonged isolation
- Forced exposure to the elements
- Forced participation in pranks or unlawful acts
- Other forced activity
- Sleep deprivation
- Carrying physically heavy items
- Other activities that cause humiliation, physical, or mental harm

Mississippi has a strong Anti-Hazing Law that provides for punishment in the form of fines and/or imprisonment to person or persons found guilty of hazing. The North Pike School District has a zero tolerance policy toward hazing. Student athletes are not to participate in any form of hazing activities. Student athletes should report any acts of hazing to a coach, a principal, or the director of athletics.

CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, humiliating, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student or staff member by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs) which has the effect of:

- a. Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a student
- b. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm;

Bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts:

- a. Directed at another student or students
- b. Occurs in a school setting
- c. That is severe, persistent or pervasive
- d. That has the effect of doing any of the following:
 - i. Substantially interfering with a student’s education;
 - ii. Creating a threatening environment; or,
 - iii. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

North Pike School District has a zero tolerance for any form of cyber bullying. Athletes involved in the practice of this behavior will face disciplinary actions or suspension from the athletic team.

COLLEGIATE ELIGIBILITY & THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

To participate as a freshman at a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I or Division II college or university, a student athlete must fulfill the academic requirements of the NCAA. The NCAA Eligibility Center must certify these requirements. Any senior student athlete that intends to participate in Division I or II athletics, as a freshman, must register and be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. Student athletes should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center before or early in their senior year. The application and registration process are available online at www.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter.net or may be obtained in the counselor's office or athletic department.

TOOLS FOR COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT ATHLETES

Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete is available in the athletic department or on line at www.ncaa.org. This is a great tool to better serve the student-athletes and their parents with the process of preparing for the selection of a college or university. The guide focuses on key elements as they occur from the beginning and through the final decision. In addition, it also includes the NCAA Eligibility Center procedures.

The Student Athlete and College Recruiting is a valuable educational tool for the student athlete (and their parents) that aspires to attend college and participate in collegiate athletics. This handbook covers the following four subjects: academics, athletics, marketing, and recruiting. This resource tool is available at www.dynamitesports.com or from Dynamite Sports, P.O. Box 101, Lemoyne, Pa. 17043-0101 (717-554-4950 phone).

2016-2017 ACT DATES

It is strongly recommended that each student-athlete take the ACT for the first time by at least his/her sophomore year in high school. Listed below are the ACT dates for 2016-2017:

Test Date

September 10, 2016
October 22, 2016
December 10, 2016
February 11, 2017
April 8, 2017
June 10, 2017

Registration Deadline

August 5, 2016
September 16, 2016
November 4, 2016
January 13, 2017
March 3, 2017
May 5, 2017

MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

Concussion Information Form

(Required by MHSAA Annually)

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You cannot see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Symptoms may include one or more of the following:

- Headaches
- “Pressure in head”
- Nausea or vomiting
- Neck pain
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Blurred, double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish or slowed down
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Drowsiness
- Change in sleep patterns
- Amnesia
- “Don’t feel right”
- Fatigue or low energy
- Sadness
- Nervousness or anxiety
- Irritability
- More emotional
- Confusion
- Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)
- Repeating the same question/comment

Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:

- Appears dazed
- Vacant facial expression
- Confused about assignment
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily or displays incoordination
- Answers questions slowly
- Slurred speech
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can’t recall events prior to hit
- Can’t recall events after hit
- Seizures or convulsions
- Any change in typical behavior or personality
- Loses consciousness

(Continued on next page)

What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often fail to report symptoms of injuries. Concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is key to a student-athlete's safety.

MHSAA Concussion Policy:

- An athlete who reports or displays any symptoms or signs of a concussion in a practice or game setting should be removed immediately from the practice or game. The athlete should not be allowed to return to the practice or game for the remainder of the day regardless of whether the athlete appears or states that he/she is normal.
- The athlete should be evaluated by a licensed, qualified medical professional working within their scope of practice as soon as can be practically arranged.
- If an athlete has sustained a concussion, the athlete should be referred to a licensed physician preferably one with experience in managing sports concussion injuries.
- The athlete who has been diagnosed with a concussion should be returned to play only after full recovery and clearance by a physician. Recovery from a concussion, regardless of loss of consciousness, usually takes 7-14 days after resolution of all symptoms.
- Return to play after a concussion should be gradual and follow a progressive return to competition. An athlete should not return to a competitive game before demonstrating that he/she has no symptoms in a full supervised practice.
- Athletes should not continue to practice or return to play while still having symptoms of a concussion. Sustaining an impact to the head while recovering from a concussion may cause Second Impact Syndrome, a catastrophic neurological brain injury.

Remember, it is better to miss one game than to miss the whole season.

****This is the athlete/parent copy of the MHSAA Concussion Information Form****

****Acknowledgement of receiving this information is included on the North Pike Activity/Athletic Participation Form****

**NORTH PIKE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM**

Student's Name _____

As a student in the North Pike School District and an active participant in school sponsored athletic and activity trips, I will abide by the following rules and regulations stating that:

1. I have received a copy of written rules and regulations concerning my participation in athletic events and school sponsored activities.
2. I fully understand that a violation of these rules can result in disciplinary action as stated in the student handbook.

LEVEL OF OFFENSES & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

I. Minor Offenses:

- a. Inappropriate classroom behavior (per student handbook)
- b. Tardiness or missed practices/meetings without proper excuse
- c. Inappropriate dress

Disciplinary Actions:

- a. Verbal correction
- b. Sitting out game or games
- c. Parental conference

II. Major Offenses:

- a. Defacing or destroying school property
- b. Fighting
- c. Stealing
- d. Committing forgery
- e. Defying a coach, sponsor, or school authority
- f. Causing a disruption in school or on a school bus (per student handbook)
- g. Leaving school grounds or assigned area without permission
- h. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances
- i. Smoking
- j. Display of poor attitude or lack of self-discipline
- k. Boycotting team for any reason

Disciplinary Actions:

- a. Parental conference
- b. Sitting out game or games
- c. Dismissal from program for a specified period of time
- d. Permanent dismissal from program
- e. Any other action deemed appropriate by the administration

I further understand that each student who participates in the secondary athletic program must be medically screened and cleared by a licensed physician. The screening is general in nature and limited in its scope and does not indicate or assure me that my child is completely free from impairments, which may be affected by the athletic participation.

I further consent to the random testing of urine samples of my child to ensure that each athlete/participant is drug free, and hereby release the North Pike School District from legal responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records as authorized by this form. (A copy of the North Pike School District Random Drug Testing Policy is included in the North Pike Athletic Department Student-Athlete/Parent Handbook, which is issued to each student-athlete. A copy may also be obtained by request through the North Pike Athletic Department.)

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

NORTH PIKE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION CLEARANCE & RELEASE FORM

I hereby give consent for my child, _____, to participate in the North Pike School District's athletic/activity program during the _____ school year.

Please list the sports/activities in which the above named student will participate:

I hereby authorize and give permission for emergency medical treatment to be rendered for and on behalf of my child, _____, for any injury received while participating in any supervised school related activity. This authorization includes, but is not limited to, any treatment deemed necessary by certified personnel, physicians, emergency room physicians, and/or hospitals. I hereby release the North Pike School District and all school personnel for any and all liability associated with such treatment. I hereby acknowledge that health and accident insurance is required for participation in all organized athletic activities and further certify that my child is covered under the health and accident program listed below.

Primary insurance _____
Policy # _____

Other insurance _____
Policy # _____

The North Pike School District is prohibited by law from paying any expense incurred for any accident involving a student on school property or participating in school activities, and does not provide health or accident insurance for participants in athletic or activity programs.

In addition, I assume any expenses for liability not covered by the above required insurance policy for injury received by the above named student while participating in the sports or activities authorized above. I accept full responsibility for medical and hospital expenses and any other related expenses and do hereby hold harmless the North Pike School District and the Board of Trustees, their agents or assignees, of responsibility for any such injury or expenses and waive any and all claims which may arise against them. I realize that participation in organized athletics involves the potential for injury which is inherent in all sports, sometimes severe enough to result in total disability, paralysis, or death.

I give the Mississippi High School Activities Association and its assignees, licensees and legal representatives the irrevocable right to use any picture or image or sound recording of the student in all forms and media in all manners, for lawful purposes. In addition, I consent to the disclosure, by my child's/ward's school, to the MHSAA, upon its request, of all records relevant to his/her eligibility and participation including, but not limited to, his/her records relating to enrollment and attendance, academic standing, age, discipline, residence and physical fitness.

Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITES ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION

This section required for all athletes

By signing below I acknowledge that I have received the Concussion Information Form required by MHSAA, included in the North Pike Athletic Department Student-Athlete/Parent Handbook. I understand that all concussions are potentially serious injuries and may result in complications, including prolonged brain damage and/or death, if not recognized and managed properly. I further understand that any athlete who exhibits any concussion symptoms may be held out of practice and/or games until he/she can be evaluated by a medical professional. Under this policy, any athlete who is diagnosed with a concussion must obtain a release by a medical doctor before returning to play.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name Printed

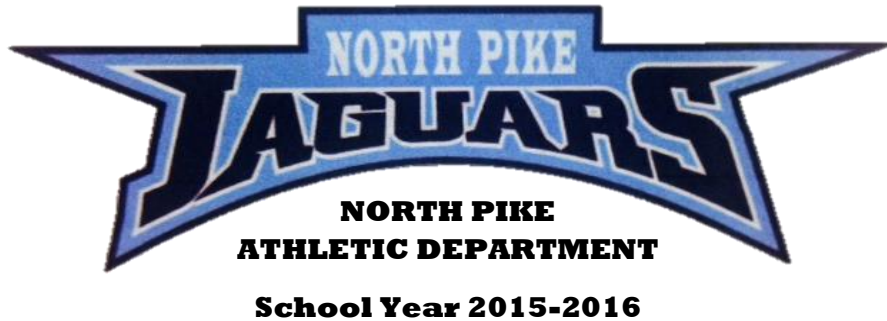
Parent Signature

Date

Student-Athlete Name Printed

Student-Athlete Signature

Date



The purpose of this handbook is to present clear guidelines that cover specific aspects of the overall athletic program in the North Pike School District and to provide specific policies and procedures that pertain to these programs. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the North Pike Athletic Department Student-Athlete/Parent Handbook. I also understand that as a parent of a student athlete in the North Pike School District, it is my responsibility, as well as my child's, to read the contents of this handbook and adhere to the policies and procedures outlined. One handbook will be issued to each student athlete per school year.

Printed Name of Student-Athlete

Signature of Student-Athlete

Printed Name of Parent

Signature of Parent

Date

**** Return of this form is a requirement for eligibility to participate in any athletic program in the North Pike School District. Forms should be returned to the coach who issued the handbook. ****