

## **NEVADA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC CODE**

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All students participating in interscholastic athletic programs will be governed by the rules and regulations of this Athletic Code, California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), the on-campus site rules of Nevada Union and Bear River High Schools, and the policies and philosophies of the Nevada Joint Union High School District (NJUHSD). NJUHSD supports the CIF's philosophy on student eligibility for participation in high school athletics:

### **CIF PHILOSOPHY ON STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION (Article 2, CIF Constitution)**

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), as the governing body of high school athletics, affirms that athletic competition is an important part of the high school experience and that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. The privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics is available to students in public or private schools who meet the democratically established standards of qualification as set forth by the CIF Federated Council. CIF Bylaws governing student eligibility are a necessary prerequisite to participation in interscholastic athletics because they:

- A. Keep the focus on athletic participation as a privilege, not a right;
- B. Reinforce the principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary;
- C. Protect the opportunities to participate for students who meet the established standards;
- D. Provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interscholastic athletic competition can take place;
- E. Provide uniform standards for all schools to follow in maintaining athletic competition;
- F. Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools for athletic reasons and to individuals who recruit student-athletes;
- G. Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools to avoid disciplinary action;
- H. Maintain an ethical relationship between high school athletic programs and others who demonstrate an interest in high school athletes;
- I. Support the Principles of "Pursuing Victory with Honor."

CIF bylaws are available at school sites or at [www.cifsjs.org](http://www.cifsjs.org).

### **NJUHSD POLICY ON STUDENT-ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITY**

In addition to the CIF Philosophy above, NJUHSD also believes that student-athletes carry a special responsibility in connection with their participation in the privileged activity of interscholastic athletics.

Student-athletes generally receive a great deal of attention both on and off the field of competition as a result of their athletic talents and accomplishments. This attention primarily comes from the student-athletes' peers at school, who look up to student-athletes as role models for their own behavior. Attention also comes from the greater community, which views student-athletes as representatives of their schools. As a result, student-athletes are expected to demonstrate leadership by setting positive examples of personal conduct both on and off the field.

Consequently, it is the policy of NJUHSD that its student-athletes accept responsibility for conducting themselves in strict conformance to the provisions of this Athletic Code during their prescribed season of sport (from first practice through conclusion of season and any playoffs), as well as all other applicable NJUHSD, school and CIF policies, rules and regulations (including but not limited to the grounds for discipline specified in Education Code section 48900 et seq.), **at all times**, as a condition of their continued enjoyment of the privilege of participation in NJHUSD athletics. (c/f Section K below).

- A. **GRADES**: A student athlete must meet both the NJUHSD and CIF academic eligibility standards. Each student must have recorded a minimum of a 2.0 GPA during the quarter grading period prior to athletic participation, and be enrolled in at least 20 semester periods of work. A 2.0 GPA must be earned at each quarter grading period throughout the athlete's sport season. In addition, an athlete who has two grades of "F" in the last quarter grading period, is ineligible to participate (practice or play) in athletics even though he/she may have maintained a 2.0 GPA and earned twenty (20) credits. The Nevada Joint Union High School District follows CIF bylaw 205.a and 205.b in determining eligibility. CIF standards are based on a minimum un-weighted GPA of 2.0 using a 4.0 scale. Any athlete who becomes scholastically ineligible when administration receives grade reports will be immediately dropped from the team and will not be eligible to receive a letter, an award or physical education credit. All incomplete grades are to be computed as "F" grades until they are officially changed by the teacher of record and duly recorded in the school's records office. A grade change must occur within two weeks of the grading period. Summer school is not considered a separate grading period. Grades earned during summer school will be included with term 2 grades for the purpose of computing eligibility. However, a completed (5 units for a semester course) summer school class(es) (maximum of 2) and the resulting earned grade(s) may be used to replace a grade(s) earned in the same course(s) during term 1 or 2 of that school year. Grades earned in completed summer classes that are different from courses taken during term 2 will be averaged with term 2 grades as additional courses when computing the term 2 G.P.A. for eligibility. Grades earned in courses attempted but not completed (partial credits earned) during summer school will not be included in calculations for eligibility. Following the official recording of summer school grades, an athlete's transcript will be reviewed by the athletic director in regards to the 2.0 G.P.A.

#### **ATHLETIC "PRACTICE ONLY" PROBATION**

Athletes who do not meet the required 2.0 GPA may, upon the coach's recommendation and the Athletic Directors approval, be placed on an athletic probation contract. Athletic "Practice Only" probation may only be applied at the beginning of a season, and only if there is a grading period during the season that may allow the athlete to return to eligible status. An athlete that becomes ineligible during the season is not eligible for Athletic "Practice Only" probation. "Practice Only" probation may only be used twice during an athlete's high school career and never for two consecutive quarters.

Athletic "Practice Only" Probation allows the player to practice until the next grading period. They may NOT dress or participate in games.

As Bear River High School uses an employability grade, an athlete receiving two unsatisfactory "employability grades", in the same grading period, shall be placed on probation, as defined in the Bear River Student Handbook.

POLICY ON ATHLETIC PROBATION: If an athlete begins to fail because of insufficient academic performance, disruptive behavior, or excessive absences, the Athletic Director will be notified in writing. The Athletic Director and/or the coach will meet with the student and may warn or place the student on probation at the discretion of the Athletic Director. If the student is put on athletic probation, a letter will be sent to the parents notifying them. If the situation persists, the Athletic Director has the authority to suspend the athlete from competition.

- B. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: No student will be allowed to try out for, practice, or play any sport without having a medical clearance to participate. A valid physical examination signed by a physician must be on file in the Student Store.
- C. INSURANCE: No student shall be allowed to try out, practice, or play for any sports team without having on file in the Student Store a valid insurance policy stating his/her insurance company and policy number, thereby insuring him/her in case of a medical emergency.
- D. RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY: An athlete's legal attendance area is determined by the residential address of a parent or legal guardian as defined in Rule 206 & 207 of the CIF regulations. A team with an athlete who violates these rules runs the risk of forfeiting each contest in which that athlete participates. Any transfer or foreign exchange students must meet with the athletic director to determine eligibility under CIF rules 510 and 207.
- E. DROPPING/QUITTING A SPORT: The proper way to withdraw from a sport is to make personal contact with the coach and to notify him/her of the athlete's decision to discontinue participation. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she will not receive a participation award or a PE waiver. An athlete who quits a sport will not be allowed to participate in another sport during that season unless extenuating circumstances warrant the Athletic Director waiving this specific participation criterion. Students will be allowed to try out for another sport in a subsequent season without penalty.
- F. LETTERS AND OTHER AWARDS: Letters are awarded according to school, league and CIF rules and regulations. An athlete must complete the entire season in good standing in order to receive an award at a Sports Award Night.
- G. TRANSPORTATION: In all athletic contests played away from the school, the athlete will ride to and from these contests in school-arranged transportation. However, an athlete may leave a contest with his or her own parent or guardian as long as the parent/guardian verbally communicates with the coach and then provides written verification by way of a sign-out sheet. Athletes may also ride home with a parent or guardian other than his/her own parent or guardian only if the athlete's coach receives a verbal confirmation as well as

a written verification from the requesting athlete's parent or guardian. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an athlete's suspension from the team. Any exceptions to this procedure must be approved by a site administrator or the Athletic Director at least one day prior to the contest.

H. DONATION FEES

A donation fee, in order to help with the escalating costs incurred in providing a quality athletic program, will be asked of each athlete, in each sport.

I. SPORTSMANSHIP AND EXPECTED CONDUCT:

1. Good Sportsmanship:

In order to promote fairness in competition, a series of rules governing each sport has been adopted. Good sportsmanship requires that the athlete adhere to the rules of the game. Furthermore, it requires that the athlete also comply with the spirit of those rules which were written to promote fairness. An athlete must understand that compliance with the standards of good sportsmanship is required in order to participate in athletics. Good sportsmanship is expected behavior of athletes experiencing either success or failure, victory or defeat.

- a. On the field, an athlete is to be respectful towards his/her teammates, opponents and officials. He/she must abide by all of the rules of the game.
- b. During athletic contests, an athlete's conduct must be such that he/she is a good representative of the team, the school, and the community. An athlete must be conscious of his/her appearance and manners at all times and realize that he/she is representing the school. The athlete must also realize that he/she is to be governed by all of the school and districts rules whether on the home campus or away.
- c. On campus, an athlete is expected to set an example of good citizenship for his/her classmates. He/she should help promote school spirit and work to be a positive leader in school activities.
- d. In the classroom, an athlete must show respect for teachers and for his/her fellow students. An athlete must maintain good attendance, satisfactory academic grades and satisfactory citizenship standards.
- e. Failure to follow proper sportsmanship at an athletic contest may result in disciplinary action being meted out by Administration.

3. Communication Protocol:

- a. Parental involvement and dialogue is encouraged in the areas related to student safety and the personal conduct of a coach; however, parents are not to interject themselves in those areas which are the coach's domain, including: playing time, and game and practice strategy.

Meetings should be requested in order to resolve conflicts. The recommended steps are:

- 1- Parent to Coach
- 2- Athlete/Parent to the Athletic Director
- 3- Athlete/Parent to Site Administrator
- 4- Athlete/Parent to District Office/School Board

- b. Coaches are not to be approached at the conclusion of a contest for any reason other than congratulations or consolation. This also applies to game officials, opposing coaches, opposing team members, and opposing fans.
- c. Student athlete concerns regarding playing time, game and practice issues, etc. should be addressed in the following sequence:
  - 1- Student/Parent to the coach
  - 2- Student/parent to Athletic Director
  - 3- Parent/Athletic Director/Site Administrator to coach
  - 4- Parent to District Office/School Board

#### 4. Scope of Coaches Authority

Head coaches maintain the right to suspend or remove any student-athlete from a team for separate issues not specified in this code, including but not limited to work ethic, attitude, attendance, sportsmanship and relationships with players and coaches.

- J. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: Based on the NJUHSD policy regarding student-athlete responsibilities stated above, head coaches maintain the right to suspend and/or remove student-athletes for violations of the provisions of this Athletic Code or any of the above-referenced policies, rules and regulations:

#### 1. Section By-Laws 302.3

Any player who is ejected or who leaves the confines of the bench or team area during a fight, shall not be allowed to participate in the remainder of the game, shall not be eligible for the team's next contest, and may not be eligible for subsequent contests as determined by the Athletic Director.

#### 2. Attendance

In order to practice or compete in a game, an athlete must attend all classes on that day.

However, a class may be missed for an appointment or personal matter on the day of a contest if prior approval is obtained from the Athletic Director or a Site Administrator. Exceptions must be approved by the Athletic Director or a Site Administrator.

#### 3. School Related Discipline:

When an athlete is officially suspended pursuant to Education Code 48900 et. seq. for any of the causes enumerated therein that athlete is prohibited from participating in any contests and/or practices that occur during the time of the suspension. In addition, the athlete may be prohibited from participating in additional athletic contests if the Athletic Director and the School Administration deem this to be warranted.

4. Non-School Related Misconduct:

When an athlete commits an act of misconduct enumerated in Education Code section 48900 et seq. but is not subject to school suspension and/or expulsion because the misconduct occurred away from school or a school sponsored activity, he/she is nonetheless subject to discipline in relation to athletics including but not limited to suspension and removal the team.

5. Illegal Substances

Written consent from a student and his/her parents/guardians agreeing to the administration of random test(s) for drugs and alcohol during the season is an express condition in order to participate in the interscholastic sports program. Any student found to be involved in the possession of, sale of, under the influence of alcohol or drugs or to be involved in the use of alcohol or drugs, including paraphernalia, or tests positive for alcohol/drugs, will violate the district approved Athletic Code. The athlete may request to continue the current season of sport or try-out for the next season of sport by completing the following:

Days 1 through 7 (calendar days)

- Suspension from all athletic and school activities.
- Sign Athletic Code Suspension Contract

Days 8 through 14 (calendar days)

- Must attend all practices without participating.
- Must show proof of enrollment in an approved drug diversion program.
- Must submit to mandatory drug and alcohol testing.
- Must sign a comprehensive discipline contract (if applicable)

Days 15 through 30 (calendar days)

- The athlete may participate in practices, but may not participate in any competitions or scrimmages.
- The athlete must actively be attending the approved drug diversion program as scheduled (above).
- The athlete must be in compliance with the terms of their comprehensive contract (if applicable).
- The athlete who has completed their diversion class prior to 30 days may request to return to normal athletic participation.

After Day 30

- The athlete may then return to normal participation in their chosen sport provided they are actively attending their drug diversion program and fulfill the requirements of the comprehensive contract.

Any portion of the above requirements not completed will carry over into the student's next participatory sports season.

Any athlete who does not finish their season in good standing will not be allowed to compete in the next sports season, attend their sports awards banquet, or receive a physical education waiver. If these requirements are not met, the student will not be allowed to participate in any future sport.

Second offense, the student will be banned from competing for one calendar year from the suspension date. Before returning to athletics, the athlete must complete a

drug/alcohol diversion program and agree to participate in drug testing at the administration's request.

Upon return to the team the student athlete will be expected to meet all expectations for attendance, attitude and work ethic. The coach maintains the right to suspend all student athletes if these expectations are not met.

6. Sexual Harassment

Any athlete who commits sexual harassment including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or is involved in inappropriate other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature, resulting in suspension from school shall be prohibited from participating in any practices or contests during the period of suspension as outlined in Section number three, Suspension.

7. Tobacco

An athlete caught in the possession of cigarettes or chewing tobacco will be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Education Code section 48900 et. seq.

K. SCOPE OF AUTHORITY: Based on the NJUHSD policy regarding student-athlete responsibility stated above, NJUHSD student-athletes are subject to the disciplinary actions specified in this Athletic Code during their prescribed season of sport (from first practice through conclusion of season and any playoffs) for violation of the provisions of this Athletic Code or any of the above-referenced policies, rules and regulations no matter whether the violation occurs:

- during school hours or a school-sponsored activity, or during non-school time, including but not limited to evenings, weekends and holidays; for example, a student-athlete found to be in possession of an alcoholic beverage in the parking lot of a local supermarket on a Saturday night would be subject to the disciplinary actions under this Athletic Code for violation of Section J.5 (or J.4 – see Education Code section 48900(c)) - possession of alcohol);
- while on or off of school grounds (see above example); or
- while inside or outside of the county, state, or country; for example, a student-athlete committing an act of vandalism by willfully causing damage to private property in his or her hotel room during a vacation in Texas would be subject to the disciplinary actions under Section J.4 for misconduct that would be subject to school discipline under Education Code section 48900 et seq. (subdivision (f) – caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property) had it occurred at school or a school-sponsored activity.

L. APPEAL/COMPLAINT PROCESS: If an athlete wishes to appeal a ruling regarding his/her violation of any rules contained in this athletic policy, this athlete must first pick-up the formal appeal process guideline from the Athletic Department which will outline the appeal process. The potential levels of appeal will be in the following order: Athletic Director, the Assistant Principal, the Principal, the Superintendent, and, finally, the Board of Education.

1. Anyone who wishes to file a personnel complaint shall contact the District Office for a copy of the District's complaint policy.

2. Anyone wishing to file an Athletic Code violation against an athlete must do so in writing, submitted to the Athletic Director or Administration.

M. **ZERO TOLERANCE:** Hereafter, any student who is found in possession of loaded or unloaded firearms, knives, explosive devices, or any other dangerous weapons, has possession, sells or is under the influence of any controlled substance or alcohol, commits or attempts to commit robbery or extortion, or causes, attempts to cause or threatens to cause serious physical injury to another person, he/she shall be immediately suspended and recommended for expulsion, unless the particular circumstances of the case indicate that expulsion is inappropriate. No exception shall be made in the case of the possession of a loaded or unloaded firearm.

We understand the above rules and regulations and agree to abide by them for the present school year 2015-16.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (I have read and understand the Athletic Code Rules)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature (I've read and will abide by the Athletic Code Rules)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EDUCATION CODE AUTHORITY:**

35160. On and after January 1, 1976, the governing board of any school district may initiate and carry on any program, activity, or may otherwise act in any manner which is not in conflict with or inconsistent with, or preempted by, any law and which is not in conflict with the purposes for which school districts are established.

35160.1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that school districts, county boards of education, and county superintendents of schools have diverse needs unique to their individual communities and programs. Moreover, in addressing their needs, common as well as unique, school districts, county boards of education, and county superintendents of schools should have the flexibility to create their own unique solutions.

35160.5. (a) The governing board of each school district that maintains one or more schools containing any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall, as a condition for the receipt of an inflation adjustment pursuant to Section 42238.1, establish a school district policy regarding participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities by pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

35179. (a) Each school district governing board shall have general control of, and be responsible for, all aspects of the interscholastic athletic policies, programs, and activities in its district, including, but not limited to, eligibility, season of sport, number of sports, personnel, and sports facilities. In addition, the board shall ensure that all interscholastic policies, programs, and activities in its district are in compliance with state and federal law.



**COMPREHENSIVE RISK**

Nevada Joint High School District has a responsibility to make you aware of the dangers of participation in any form of athletic training/competition. We are asking that you carefully read over the statement below with your son/daughter, sign and return it with other parts of this application for acceptance to the sport.

I am aware of the potential dangers of participation in athletics. I realize that there is a risk of being injured in all sports, no matter how many precautions are taken. I realize that this risk of injury may be severe, including varieties of fractures, sprains, contusions, brain injuries, paralysis or even death. I further realize that my son/daughter needs to follow carefully all of the guidelines given by the coaching staff regarding training rules, safety procedures, proper use of equipment, legal and safe playing techniques, any and all other safety procedures. I understand that even if all of the above is done, my son/daughter may still incur injury through participation in athletics.

**“Under state law, school districts are required to ensure that all members of school athletic teams have accidental injury insurance that covers medical and hospital expenses. This insurance requirement can be met by the school district offering insurance or other health benefits that cover medical and hospital expenses. Some pupils may qualify to enroll in no-cost or low-cost, local, state, or federally sponsored health insurance programs. Information about these programs may be obtained by calling 1-888-747-1222.”**

We understand the above rules and regulations and agree to abide by them for the present school year 2014-2015.

We hereby give our consent to the student named below to compete in sports. I authorize the student to go with and be supervised by a representative of the school on any trip. In case the student becomes ill or injured, you are authorized to have the student treated, and I authorize the medical agency to render treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (I have read and understand the Athletic Code Rules) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature (I've read and will abide by the Athletic Code Rules) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Medical Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

\*\*\*\*\***(Students MUST have medical insurance to participate)**\*\*\*\*\*

If you have purchased **Myers Stevens School insurance**, you **MUST** turn the forms in directly to the Athletic Office so that we have a record of your student being covered.

**THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE ALONG WITH THE SPORTS PHYSICAL EXAM FORMS AND THE DRUG TESTING FORM FOR ATHLETIC CLEARANCE.**

**ATHLETIC "PRACTICE ONLY" PROBATION**

All student athletes must meet both the NJUHSD and CIF academic eligibility standards. Each student must have recorded a minimum of a 2.0 GPA during the quarter grading period prior to athletic participation. A 2.0 GPA must be earned at each quarter grading period throughout the athlete's sport season. Student athletes that become scholastically ineligible at the time administration receives grade reports, will be immediately dropped from the team and will not be eligible to receive a letter, an award or physical education credit. All incomplete grades are to be computed as "F" grades until they are officially changed by the teacher of record and duly recorded in the school's records office. A grade change must occur within two weeks of the grading period.

Athletes who do not meet the required 2.0 GPA may, upon the coach's recommendation and the Athletic Directors approval, be placed on an athletic probation contract. Athletic "Practice Only" probation may only be applied at the beginning of a season, and only if there is a grading period during the season that may allow the athlete to return to eligible status. An athlete that becomes ineligible during the season is not eligible for Athletic "Practice Only" probation. "Practice Only" probation may only be used twice during an athlete's high school career and never for two consecutive quarters.

***Athletic "Practice Only" Probation allows the player to practice until the next grading period. They may NOT dress or participate in games.***

The athlete agrees to the following:

1. They must earn a 2.0 GPA by the following grading period.
2. If they do not show improvement in their grades by the grading period, they will be ineligible for the rest of their season and the following sport season.
3. All rules of the Athletic Code will apply and if they violate any rules, they will immediately lose all practices privileges and face disciplinary action.
4. They will still be eligible for drug testing.
5. They must turn in a weekly grade check to the Athletic Director and Head Coach. Failure to turn in a completed progress report to the Athletic Director by Friday of each week will eliminate the athlete from this probation program.
6. Athletes on "Practice Only" probation may not miss class time for travel to games or tournaments, etc.

*I have read and agree to all the above conditions. I understand that I am allowed to participate in practices but may **not** play in any games.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sport/Level

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Director