

NEWTON FALLS EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Athletic Handbook

Revised and board approved June _____, 2022

NEWTON FALLS EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Athletic Handbook Table of Contents:

Section I: Philosophy, Objectives, & Educational Values of Athletics	Pages 2-3
Section II: Eligibility	Page 3
Section III: Participation Agreement	Pages 4-6
Section IV: Due Process and Right of Appeal	Page 7
Section V: General Requirements for Letter	Pages 8-9
Section VI: Job Descriptions for Newton Falls Athletics	Pages 9-13
Section VII: Clinic policy	Page 14
Section VIII: Spectator Conduct	Pages 14-15

NEWTON FALLS EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Newton Falls Board of Education Policy

SECTION I:

Philosophy of Athletics

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to provide rich and wholesome sports for as many students as possible, through which the students will develop, to a greater degree, the talents and skills needed in the performance of their duties as responsible citizens in our society.

Objectives of Interscholastic Athletics

All students in the schools should be provided the opportunity of a well-developed, comprehensive program. The needs of all participants should be met by a well-supervised program in health, physical fitness and recreational activities.

To achieve this goal, we believe that our athletic program should develop proper attitudes, instill an appreciation of values, build character, promote cooperation and teamwork, aid in the acquisition of skills, develop good habits and increase the understanding and appreciation of sports of each of the participants.

It is the duty of all concerned with the athletic program at Newton Falls Schools to:

1. Emphasize the proper ideals of ethical conduct, fair play, sportsmanship and cooperation;
2. Instill in each athlete the value derived from playing the game fairly;
3. Eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game;
4. Show proper courtesy to visiting teams, spectators, officials and coaches;
5. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote proper attitudes, the appreciation of moral and social values, the building of character, the physical wellbeing and the understanding and appreciation of sports of each individual participant;
6. Encourage leadership, good judgment and the use of initiative by the players on the team;
7. Understand and emphasize, to the participant, the standards of eligibility; and provide interventions when necessary;
8. Emphasize that an athletic contest is only a game—not a matter of “life and death”.

Educational Values of Athletics

The Board of Education of the Newton Falls Schools, believes in interscholastic athletics.

The Board believes that there are substantial educational outcomes derived from a soundly conceived and executed program for the players, the student body, and the school as a whole.

The Board believes that the potential values to the participants are genuine. Rigorous competition, under prescribed regulations and policies, provides adolescents the opportunity to develop ideas and habits of health, fair play, initiative, achievement and emotional control.

The Board believes that students can be taught to win gracefully and if they lose, lose in the same fashion.

The Board believes that many students have found a purpose in their school work and in their lives through the program of athletics.

The Board believes that athletics provide tangible values for the student body. Athletics can make a substantial contribution to morale, and can provide an outlet for enthusiasm.

The Board believes that the athletic program, though differing in nature from the academic program, does justify its existence by providing a profitable educational experience for the participant.

The Board believes that the welfare of the individual student is always to be the primary concern. The game exists for the students – never the student for the game.

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools to prepare the necessary procedures and guidelines for the proper governance of the Newton Falls Schools Athletics.

SECTION II:

Eligibility Requirements

In order for a high school student to participate in interscholastic athletics or any extra-curricular activities, he/she must be enrolled and receive passing grades during each grading period in subjects that earn a minimum of (5) five credits, or the equivalent, per year toward graduation. In accordance with Bylaws 4-4-4 and 4-4-5, students who are enrolled in grades 7-8 will be enrolled and required to pass a minimum of (5) five courses of all subjects taken in the preceding grading period.

Student athletes will adhere to the State of Ohio OHSAA eligibility requirements regarding credits and GPA.

1. Report cards/ Quarterly Reports will determine academic eligibility for each season.
1. (from #6 to #2) Students that are ineligible at the beginning of the quarter are allowed to practice provided they have been placed on an academic intervention plan and are taking active steps to improve their grades as determined by the head coach, principal and athletic director.
2. Every head coach will be required to submit an academic intervention plan for student athletes in danger of not meeting state minimum academic requirements to the athletic director and head principal for approval. That upon agreement of the Athletic Director, Head Coach, Principal & Student-Athlete: intends to continue participation in non-interscholastic activities (Practice) If progress is not made by the interim report of the current grading period, the students participation will be suspended until the end of the grading period.
 - a. Academic intervention plans must reflect participation penalties for student athletes who continue to display low grades after the initial warning &/or interim report. If the students' academic performance has not improved, participation in that sport will be suspended.
4. Once the student athlete's grades have improved to meet the state minimum requirements, they are no longer required to be on an academic intervention plan. Unless they were not eligible to begin the quarter.

SECTION III:
Student Athlete Participation Agreement

I understand that participation in the athletic programs of the Newton Falls Exempted Village School District is a privilege, not a right. I further understand and agree that my participation in the District's athletic programs is conditioned on my compliance with the terms of this Agreement, as determined by the District Administration.

While a member of a District athletic team:

1. I will not use, sell, distribute, or possess tobacco products of any kind, nor any alternative nicotine product, including, but not limited to vapes, electronic cigarettes, or nicotine cessation products; and (Level I)
2. I will not attend a party or other gathering where alcohol or controlled substances are being unlawfully consumed. If I become aware of such unlawful consumption of alcohol or controlled substances, I will leave the party or gathering immediately. (Level I)
3. I will not sell, distribute, use or possess any alcohol, controlled substance, or prescription drug for which I do not have a prescription issued by my physician; (Level II)
4. I will not be involved in any criminal related activity;(Level II) Minimum Level II subject to possible dismissal from the team (Level III) depending on the severity of the offense as determined by the Head Coach/ AD/NFEVSD Administration.
5. I will adhere to the rules and regulations of my coach or be subject to discipline as my coach sees fit (i.e., push ups, laps, extra duties, etc.).
6. I will be present at least four (4) periods a day of the contest to be eligible to play, unless otherwise granted administrative approval.
7. If I am dismissed or quit an athletic team, I cannot participate in another sport during the same season.
8. I may appeal the dismissal from a team to the athletic director and building principal.
9. I understand any dismissal appeal must be made in writing within three days from the initial dismissal and the appeal will be heard within three calendar days, during which time I will not be able to participate. The decision will be made by the head principal and athletic director within three calendar days of appeal hearing.
10. I understand that to receive an award of recognition for participation, I must be a member of the team at the end of the season.
11. I will use transportation provided by the Newton Falls Schools unless a written request has been submitted by my parent(s) and approved by the coach and principal. The athletic director may give approval in the absence of the principal.

High School: This agreement is in effect for the entire school calendar year. This agreement extends to August 1st for Fall athletes as well as the last day of participation in June for Spring athletes. This agreement will commence upon conclusion of the school calendar year and all violations of such contract in the Level I category will be reset. Level II & III offenses will not reset.

Junior High School: This agreement is in effect for the entire school calendar year. This agreement extends to August 1st for Fall athletes as well as the last day of participation in June for Spring athletes. This agreement will commence upon conclusion of the school calendar year and all violations of such contract will reset upon entering the 9th grade (high school).

This agreement also applies to team functions during the summer months, including but not limited to, team camps, team-building activities, and team excursions.

Violations of the above-listed terms 1-4 shall result in the following consequences:

Level I Violation:

In addition to School approved disciplinary actions. The Student athlete will have the opportunity to receive intervention and remediation, 1 time only, during the student-athletes four years (or time at Newton Falls High School). For their first violation only.

Violation of Level I (1st time): In addition to School approved disciplinary action intervention through a Health & Safety awareness video relating to the offense. This video will be administered by the coach &/or Athletic Director. To be done in conjunction with all school disciplinary procedures. No forfeiture of playing time for 1st violation.

Violation of Level I (reset): (In addition to School approved disciplinary actions) community service hours to be determined in accordance with the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal, not to exceed 1/4 the total hours of 1 in-season week of practice time for their in-season sport. Participation in interscholastic competition may be affected/suspended by the Head Coach, Athletic Director or Principal until completed.

Failure to comply with the intervention or remediation steps will advance the student to a Level II violation.

Level II Violation &/Or 2nd Level I Violation.

1st Offense: The student athlete will be dismissed for **10%** of the season in which the infraction occurred. Dismissal means complete prohibition from participation in any activities of the athletic teams, including games. Students will still be permitted to participate in practices. A season is measured by the total number of scheduled regular season games. The dismissal will take effect immediately following the determination of a violation and will encompass all the games from which he/she is dismissed. If less than 10% of the season remains, the student athlete will be dismissed for any remaining portion of the 10% during the next season for that sport. If that sport is not played by the student again, the dismissal shall be for the remaining portion of the 10% dismissal not yet served in the next athletic season in which the student athlete participates. In addition, the student athlete must submit proof to the District Athletic Director that he/she is participating in a drug and alcohol counseling program.

2nd Offense: The student athlete will be dismissed for **50%** of the season in which the infraction occurred. Dismissal means complete prohibition from participation in any activities of the athletic teams, including games. Students will still be permitted to participate in practices. A season is measured by the total number of scheduled regular season games. The dismissal will take effect immediately following the determination of a violation and will encompass all the games from which he/she is dismissed. If less than 50% of the season remains, the student athlete will be dismissed for any remaining portion of the 50% during the next season for that sport. If that sport is not played by the student again, the dismissal shall be for the remaining portion of the 50% dismissal not yet served in the next athletic season in which the student athlete participates. In addition, the student athlete must submit proof to the District Athletic Director that he/she is participating in a drug and alcohol counseling program and/or mental health counseling (dependent upon infraction).

3rd Offense: Dismissal from the team immediately and prohibition from participating in any District athletic programs for one calendar year. In addition, the student athlete must submit proof to the District Athletic

Director of a drug and alcohol test analyzed by a medical laboratory subsequent to the student's dismissal indicating a negative result for the presence of drugs and alcohol. The drug/alcohol test must take place within the two weeks prior to the one-year anniversary of the dismissal.

4th Offense: Dismissal from the team immediately and prohibition from participating in any athletic activity for the remainder of high school and/or junior high school.

Level III Violation

Criminal Activity: Immediate Dismissal from the team.

Dependent upon the severity of the offense as determined by the Head Coach/ AD/NFEVSD Administration.

Be aware that this contract is effective from the date you sign the agreement and will remain in effect for the school calendar year (extending to August 1st for Fall athletes and the last day of participation in June for Spring athletes). Moreover, violations DO NOT carry over from year to year.

I have read and fully understand this Student Athlete Participation Agreement, and I consent to be bound by its terms for the duration of my attendance in the District. STUDENT ATHLETE WILL BE DENIED PARTICIPATION UNTIL THIS FORM IS SIGNED BY BOTH PARENT AND STUDENT AND RETURNED TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, in addition to a *completed physical form, insurance waiver, emergency care form, and drug and alcohol policy form.*

Student Signature

Date

Parent Section

I have read and fully understand the above Newton Falls Exempted Village School District Student Athlete Participation Agreement ("Agreement"). I acknowledge that my child will be bound by the terms of the Agreement, as well as all other applicable rules and regulations established by the Newton Falls Exempted Village School District. If my child breaks any of the terms of this Agreement, I understand that he/she will be subject to the consequences set forth therein and may be subject to discipline in accordance with Board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. *I further understand that as a parent, if I am warned or removed from an athletic event by a game official or school administrator, I may be prohibited from attending any or all of future athletic events.*

Parent Signature

Date

SECTION IV:
Due Process and Right of Appeal for Athletic Participants

- Section 1 When an infraction of the Code of Conduct for individual sports occurs, the coach or advisor has the right and the responsibility to discipline the participant.
- Section 2 The coach or advisor will meet with the participant being disciplined and present him/her with the charges. The participant will have an opportunity to explain his/her position.
- Section 3 If the disciplinary action results in denial of the right to participate for twenty-four (24) hours or less, no written notification is required. However, if the disciplinary action results in denial of the right to participate for more than twenty-four (24) hours, the student shall be informed, **in writing**, by the coach of the intended removal, and the reasons for the proposed action.
- Section 4 **First Level of Appeal**
- a. Prior to the initiation of the appeal process, documentation must be provided that evidences a meeting with the coach (not on a game night), player, and parents regarding disciplinary action being disputed.
 - b. Any member of an athletic team who has been denied the right to participate or has been dismissed from a team for more than twenty-four (24) hours, has the right to appeal this disciplinary action. Any such appeal, must be made in writing, to the athletic director or principal within forty-eight (48) hour period.
 - c. During the appeal process, the participant will remain on the team, but will not be permitted to participate in the activity.
 - d. The athletic director and principal, shall hear this appeal within forty-eight (48) hours from the date of receipt.
- Section 5 **Second Level of Appeal**
- a. If a student and parent wish to appeal the decision of the athletic director and principal, this action must be initiated by the student or parent, **in writing**, to the superintendent within three (3) school days.
 - b. The superintendent and a committee of two (2) Board members, shall hear this appeal within five (5) school days from the date of receipt.
 - c. The decision on the appeal is final and represents the last avenue of appeal within the school.
- Section 6 In the event that the hearing for the appeal is during a period of time when school is not in session, every effort will be made to comply with the stated timelines.
- Section 7 The coach/es will be present at **all** levels of appeal.

SECTION V:
General Requirements for a Letter at Newton Falls

1. They must be a member of the squad at the end of the season.
2. All equipment issued to or used by the player, must be returned to the school at the requested time.
 - a. Only one (1) varsity letter will be awarded to any one individual no matter how many sports they letter. Insignia will be issued thereafter.
 - b. Individual earning first varsity letter, will receive the letter, an insignia will be issued thereafter.
 - c. Individuals who have lettered in one sport may letter in another.
 - d. Senior awards will be the responsibility of the individual sport team.
 - e. Junior varsity athletes will receive a participation certificate.
 - f. All freshmen will receive a set of numerals. One (1) set no matter how many sports in which they are involved.
 - g. Seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) grade individuals will receive certificates.

Criteria for earning a Varsity letter for the following:

Football Individuals must play in $\frac{1}{2}$ of total quarters of the season.

Basketball Individuals must play $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total quarters of the season.

- Baseball**
1. All outfielders and infielders must play $\frac{1}{2}$ of all innings of the season.
 2. Pitchers must play $\frac{1}{4}$ of all innings of the season.

Golf Individuals must play in $\frac{1}{2}$ of total matches.

Volleyball Individuals must play in $\frac{1}{2}$ of total games.

- Softball**
1. Individuals must play $\frac{1}{2}$ of total innings.
 2. Pitchers must play $\frac{1}{4}$ of all innings.

- Track**
1. Individual must participate in two (2) events and be involved in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total meets. Individuals must also earn an average of four (4) points per meet.
 2. You can also letter in track by scoring a point at an invitational meet of six (6) or more teams.

Soccer Individuals must play in $\frac{1}{2}$ of total periods played.

**Managers,
Statisticians and**

Student Athletic Trainer: They must work in the capacity for two (2) years in order to earn a varsity letter. May be held to the discretion of the Coaching Staff per their respective sport.

Scholar Athlete Patch:

Any student who earns an accumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better during a varsity sports season in which they earn a varsity letter upon entering their junior academic year.

In the case of injuries, illness, transfers or borderline cases, the issuing of a varsity letter will be at the discretion of the coaching staff with the approval of the Athletic Director and the Principal.

The awards ceremony: The program is an extension of school activities and all school student handbook policies apply.

***SECTION VI:
ATHLETIC JOB DESCRIPTIONS***

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

The Board recognizes the Newton Falls Athletic Council as an advisory body charged with matters involving procedures and policies consistent with sound goals and objectives of the athletic program.

MEMBERSHIP

- Athletic Director, Chairman
- High School Principal, Assist. Chairman
- Junior High Principal or High School Assistant Principal, Secretary
- Head Coach from each sport
- One member from the Athletic Boosters
- Two members from the Board of Education
- Superintendent, Advisory Capacity

MEETINGS

The Athletic Council will meet on the second Wednesday of the months November and April. The Athletic Director, Principal, and Assistant Principal will meet with all coaches and volunteers the Wednesday prior to the first day of practice for each season. Additional meetings may be called by the chairman at any time. In his/her absence, the Assist Chairman /Secretary will carry out his/her duties.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Principal

The administrative head of the school shall be held ultimately responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletic activities involving this school (OHSAA Rule 4, Section 1).

Assistant Principal

The assistant administrative head of the school shall be held responsible in all matters pertaining to athletic activities in the absence of the Principal or when acting as the Principal's designee.

Job Description

Position Title

Athletic Director

Recruited by Superintendent/ High School Principal

Length of Contract One Year (1)

Required Experience or Training

Licensed teacher, previous head coaching experience, or experience as an athletic director or an assistant athletic director, have a general knowledge of all sports and an understanding of the fiscal operation of a school athletics program. Must maintain the proper pupil activity license, CPR, BCI & FBI and OHSAA Fundamentals of Coaching Course and Concussion in Sports Certification.

Desired Experience or Training

Three years or more experience as a head coach, coaching experience in two or more sports, have a solid background of a school athletic program, demonstrated competency in the area of business administration.

Special Requirements of the Position

The ability to plan, supervise, organize and schedule athletic events. A sound general knowledge of business functions, leadership in planning and supervising athletic programs, the ability to work well with people, boosters, local businesses, sponsors to organize effectively, to make sound decisions and when necessary, to interpret administrative and OHSAA rules and regulations.

Reports to High School Principal

Receives guidance from Building Administrators/ Superintendent

Provides guidance to All Head and Assistant Coaches/ Game Day Workers
Facility Maintenance

Basic Functions

Serves as chief official of athletics providing overall leadership and direction for the district's athletic programs in accordance with board policy, administrative and OHSAA rules and regulations.

Position Responsibilities

- The athletic director shall, in cooperation with the various coaches, draw up interscholastic schedules in all sports and prepare and execute all contracts as provided by rules of the OHSAA.
- Distribute schedules and materials to the state, opponents and applicable news media.
- Contract with officials for all athletic events according to league and state rules.
- Supervise all Athletic Facility managers. Deposit all event revenue within 24 hours with the treasurer or at the bank.
- Prepare all financial statements and reports.
- Prepare, report and submit all athletic purchases and expenditures.
- Oversee that all transportation forms are completed for all away contests.
- Establish continual contact with all head coaches and distribute the necessary information, materials and forms to coaches.
- Responsible for the inventory of all athletic equipment.
- Responsible for eligibility lists for all sports.
- Oversee the planning of and attend (if possible) parent nights.
- Attend all league, district and state meetings when appropriate.
- Evaluate the total athletic program on a regular basis with yearly recommendations for improvement. Review head coaches performance of duties with the high school principal at the end of the season.
- Must attend a minimum of 20% of each varsity sport contest per season and a minimum of 10% of each Jr. High sport contest per season for end of season program evaluation purposes.
- Assumes such other duties as may be assigned by the high school principal or superintendent.
- Monitors maintenance of all athletic fields and facilities.
- Be actively involved in the recruitment of coaches and the interpretation of district athletic policies.
- Continued professional growth within the athletic director's position.

Evaluation:

Performance of this job will be evaluated annually in accordance with the Board of Education policy.

Job Description

Position Title

Head Coach

Responsible To

Principals Grades 7-12
Athletic Director

Experience

The coach should have played the sport on an organized basis sometime in his or her life. He or she should have at least two years experience as a varsity assistant. Must have a current certificate in Sports Medicine, CPR, BCII/FBI, Ohio Department of Education's Pupil Activity Permit, NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching and Concussion in Sports certificate.

Basic Function

To coordinate and develop the program in accordance with the rules of the OHSAA and the school district.

Duties

- Be responsible for all matters pertaining to his/her organization and administration of the teams. He or she shall enforce all rules of the O.H.S.A.A. and the school district.

- Assign assistants and evaluate their performance.
- Conduct and schedule all practices and scrimmages.
- Initiate requests for permits for the use of buildings and fields. Assign a coach to be the first one in and the last one out of any building which you use and see that the lights and doors are locked. (A coach must be in attendance at all times).
- Fill out proper forms for transportation and deliver to transportation office at least two weeks in advance.
- Be responsible for preparing releases to the press and public and see that scores and stats are prepared and given to all news media.
- Issue, collect and inventory all equipment dealing with the program.
- Arrange for the cleaning, repairing and storage of equipment.
- See that all involved in the program have insurance or waivers, emergency forms and physical examination cards. Place these on file in the Athletic Department. A copy of the emergency forms should be present at all practices and contests. No individual will be allowed to practice until they have these forms turned in to the coach.
- Prepare an inventory, stats and request for payment and send to the Athletic Director at the end of the season. (Must be signed by the principal).
- Report and assist in care of all injuries.
- Report any damage at home or away immediately.
- Organize and conduct a conditioning program during the off season.
- Assist in attaining scholarships whenever possible.
- Cooperate with the athletic director, school administration and other coaches in fact and in spirit.
- Start and end season in accord with dates established by the OHSAA.
- Try to keep abreast of new ideas that would aid you and your team.
- See that all assistant coaches are currently certificated in sports medicine, CPR, BCII, Ohio Department of Education's pupil activity permit, NFHS of Coaching and Concession in Sports certificate.
- Sit in on interviews and have input when hiring assistant coaches.
- Handle cancellations, rescheduling and confirm with the athletic director.
- Arrange for the purchase of equipment and awards with the approval of the athletic director.

- Assume such other duties as may be assigned by the athletic director or principal.
- Prepare all financial statements, budgets and reports for respective sports.
- Turn in the team rooster with name, address, phone number, sizes needed and parents names prior to the first game or preview to the athletic director.

Job Description

Position Title

Assistant Coach

Responsible To

Principal, athletic director and head coach in conducting the total athletic program of the particular sport.

Duties

- Assume any duties assigned by the head coach.
- In the absence of the head coach, assume all responsibilities herein assigned as those of the head coach.
- Cooperate with other coaches in the operation of the total athletic program in Newton Falls.
- Currently certified in sports medicine, CPR, BCII/FBI, Ohio Department of Education’s Pupil Activity Certificate, NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching certificate, Concessions In Sports certificate.
- Supports the head coach in conducting the total athletic program of that particular sport and the total athletic program at Newton Falls Schools.
- Is loyal to the head coach, all other coaches, the team, the school and administration. Personal thoughts regarding team strategy, etc., will not be in conflict with those of the head coach.
- Is available for staff meetings called by the head coach.

Job Description

Athletic Activities Volunteer

Any individual who is not a full-time staff member of the Newton Falls Schools, volunteering to assist in sports of other extra-curricular activities, must:

1. Receive prior approval of the head coach of the activity or sport, and notification to the Board of Education;
2. Exhibit evidence of being of value to the program or sport assigned.
3. Currently certified in sports medicine, BCII check, Ohio Department Of Education’s pupil activity permit, NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Certificate and Concussion in Sports certificate.

4. Must have a BCI check on file.

The Board of Education, while it appreciates volunteer assistance, feels an obligation to establish accountability in all its programs. Implementation of the above steps shall be the Board's method of monitoring all athletic and activity programs where individuals, other than full-time staff, are placed in areas of responsibility directly affecting students.

***SECTION VII:
Athletic Clinic Policy***

For the purposes of this policy, a clinic shall be defined as an athletic meeting devoted to the presentation, demonstration or administration of athletic contests or athletic skills. The state tournament is a presentation of athletic skills.

1. Head coaches of varsity sports are permitted one overnight clinic per year or attendance at the state tournament. Up to two days of professional leave may be granted.
2. Reimbursement will include transportation the amount recognized by the IRS, effective July 1 of the current year at a maximum of 500 miles round trip. Lodging at \$130.00 maximum per night, not to exceed 2 nights. Meals at a maximum of \$40.00 per day, registration fees or tickets not to exceed \$100.00. Prior to attending a clinic or state tournament, the head coach should submit an anticipated itemized expense with their professional leave request.
3. The Athletic Director for the purposes of this policy would have the same privileges as a head coach.
4. The head coach shall keep track of expenses and furnish receipts to the treasurer of Newton Falls Exempted Village School District.
5. This policy will be in effect only if the Superintendent agrees that funds are available.
6. Exceptions to this policy must be cleared in writing by the superintendent of schools.

***SECTION VIII:
Spectator Conduct***

Newton Falls Exempted Village School District, in association with the Ohio High School Athletic Association, promotes a positive interscholastic experience. The Board of Education believes that activities conducted for the benefit of the students of the School District are a meaningful component of the School District's total program. The Board further believes that through the participation in these activities, students learn important skills and values which will be of benefit throughout their lives. It is clear that both participants and spectators contribute to the educational value of these activities through good sportsmanship, and therefore, it is expected from athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. Student and adult spectators should set an example of positive encouragement while supporting participants and modeling good behavior. Spectators should be respectful of their surroundings by using appropriate language and demonstrating responsibility for their actions.

Instances of disruptive behavior on the part of spectators at events lessens the educational value of the activity and results in a loss of esteem for the participants and the members of the community. Therefore, the Board of Education expects both participants and spectators at events to conduct themselves with the highest level of

decorum. To this end, the Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, Police Officer, Official, Site Manager, or Designee under whose supervision the event is being conducted, may request such person or group of persons, who are engaging or participating in unsatisfactory behavior to cease, and/or to leave the school premises. The supervisor on duty may take reasonable action to ensure the orderly conduct of the event.

Spectators should:

- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students; mistakes will be made
- Understand that a ticket is a privilege only to observe the contest
- Learn the rules of the game to understand and appreciate why certain situations take place
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games and afterwards on or near the site of the event (i.e., tailgating)
- Refrain from cheers which downplay the opponent or which use profane or abusive language

Failure to meet the expectations set forth, culminating in ejection from an event or other actions deemed inappropriate by the administration or designee, either home or away, will result in the following disciplinary actions:

First Offense: Ejection from contest or removal from premises by game official, school staff, or security personnel. A letter will be sent from the office of the Superintendent notifying the spectator of the ejection/removal with written warning about the consequences of continued offenses.

Second Offense: The spectator will not be permitted to attend any athletic contests for a period of **14** days from the date of the offense. During the ban from athletic events, the individual is required to meet with school administration to review the school's expectations. Failure to meet with the administrative team during this period will result in an extended ban from athletic events. If the ejection occurs within the last ten (10) school days of the season, the suspension will carry over to the tournament or to the next sport season. A letter will be sent from the office of the Superintendent notifying the spectator of the ejection and the dates he/she is prohibited to attend district athletic events.

Third Offense: The spectator will not be permitted to attend any athletic contests for a period of **30** days from the date of the offense. A letter will be sent from the office of the Superintendent notifying the spectator of the offense and the dates he/she is prohibited to attend district athletic events.

Fourth Offense: The spectator will not be permitted to attend any athletic contests for a period of one year, from the date of the most recent offense. A letter will be sent from the office of the Superintendent notifying the spectator of the one year suspension from all Newton Falls athletic events.

Fifth Offense: The spectator receives a lifetime ban from all Newton Falls athletic events. A letter will be sent from the office of the Superintendent notifying the spectator of the ejection and the lifetime removal from all Newton Falls athletic events.

Appeals Process: Any spectator who has been ejected can appeal the decision by meeting with the Athletic Director, High School Principal, Superintendent, and Board of Education President to discuss the decision within 48 hours of the suspension. The meeting will take place at a time and location that is agreed upon by all parties. The appeal meeting does not imply that the suspension will be reversed.