



Athletic Handbook 2016-17

Athletes/Parents/Coaches/Administration

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Interscholastic Athletics

Interscholastic athletics have a vital place in the total educational program when they are effectively planned, organized, administered, supervised, and evaluated. Through school athletics, many of the interests and needs of young people can be served better than through any other channel. For this reason, it is important that school administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community personnel determine what educational objectives seem most desirable and plan athletic programs in keeping with the overall purposes of the school program. These additions should be printed in handbook format and provided to all member schools to ensure compliance and fairness.

Underlying every phase of the athletic program should be a primary concern for the athlete as a person, student, and a member of society. At all times, emphasis should be placed upon progressing levels of maturity both physical and emotional, upon integrity both personal and social, and upon responsibility, both for one's self and to all involved in the athletic program. Any play between organized teams or individuals from different schools is defined as an "interscholastic athletic contest" and shall be subject to all regulations pertaining to such contests.

California Education code states that "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."

CA Ed Code 35179(a)

Athletic Participation Requirements

Athletic participation at Nicolet Middle School encourages sportsmanship, fair play, teamwork, a sense of personal worth and a feeling of well-being through physical fitness. Athletics also develops a sense of responsibility, commitment and school spirit, while encouraging the desire to develop to one's full potential.

- Proof of Physical Examination on file with the Athletic Director.
 - Updated proof of physical completed once each school year.
 - Database provided to coaches each season.
- Code of Conduct, Health Insurance Coverage Verification, and permission to participate, on file with Athletic Director.
 - Completed once each school year.
 - Kept on file with A.D., database provided to coaches each season.
- Academic Eligibility
 - Student must have a 2.0 GPA to participate. Grade check on most recent officially reported quarter. Verified by Athletic Director.

Required forms can be found on the Nicolet Middle School athletics web site:

<http://nicolet.banning.k12.ca.us/documents/Sports%20Physical%20Packet.pdf>

Athletic Activity Offerings

Nicolet Middle School has a tradition of excellence in athletic competition and supports the following sports (depending on funding, coaching, and league participation):

- Flag Football
- Girls' Volleyball
- Boys' Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Girls' Softball
- Girls' Basketball
- Boys' Basketball
- Girls' Soccer
- Boys' Soccer

Why Middle School Sports?

We believe middle school is a time for student-athletes to gain experience in organized sports. Fundamental skills are taught and honed. Experiencing game contests will empower students to become team players, empathetic participants, and disciplined persons. We are concerned more about preparing the student-athlete for their future than the score line. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend all contests and support all student-athletes.

Non-Discrimination

No person shall on the basis of sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, or non-limiting handicapped condition be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program offered by Banning Unified School District.

Personal Behavior Expectations

1. All student-athletes will be expected to be aware of and follow the guidelines of conduct for all middle school students as listed in the Student/Parent Handbook.
2. We expect the behavior of our student-athletes to be better than that of the general population. If a player is suspended from school, this will count as an unexcused absence. If the suspension is for three days, this will be the same as three unexcused absences, and the student-athlete may be dismissed from the team, assessed game suspensions, assigned extra duties/conditioning and/or is required to attend a parent/coach/athletic director conference.
3. The use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs is not acceptable for any student-athlete. Violation of school policy will result in school disciplinary action as stated in the Student/Parent Handbook. In addition, a conference with the coach and athletic director will be conducted to discuss further disciplinary actions which may include possible game suspensions, extra conditioning, dismissal from team and/or program, etc.
4. Student-athletes are expected to represent their teams and this middle school well throughout their time at this institution. Good citizenship is yearlong. Players whose offenses occur outside their sport season will succumb to school policy for that offense. They may also be ineligible to play athletics for the next sport season.
5. Student-athletes suspended from school (including in-house and out of school suspension) shall not practice, participate, attend, or compete in athletic activities during days of suspension.

6. Student-athletes who quit a team will not be allowed to return to that team until the following year. Student-athletes who quit a team may not start practice with another sport until the team he/she has quit has completed its season. The athletic director should be informed of any student-athlete who quits a team.
7. We expect our student-athletes to reflect excellence both on and off the fields and courts. Disrespect of any kind towards staff, coaches, opponents, or officials will not be tolerated. Discipline will be delivered promptly.
8. Student-athletes ejected from a contest by an official will be suspended from the next scheduled contest.

Practice Expectations

1. All student-athletes are expected to be at all practices unless they are absent from school or go home because of illness. Student-athletes leaving school due to illness should personally inform their coach. Student-athletes will not be allowed to practice unless they are at school. (Student-athletes and coaches are reminded that 4 periods of attendance are required for game/event day participation. Exceptions will be addressed by the athletic director and principal on a case-by-case basis.)
2. Coaches and student-athletes should communicate and address any known conflicts that might arise during that sport's season. Family vacations, prior commitments, extracurricular conflicts, etc. should be promptly communicated. Commitment to the team as a member takes precedence.
3. All student-athletes will have two unexcused absences from practice. Following an unexcused absence, the student-athlete will be given extra conditioning following the practice at which he or she returns. Upon the third unexcused absence, the student-athlete may be dismissed from that team. Assessed game suspensions; assigned extra duties/conditioning and is required to attend a parent/coach/athletic director conference.
4. All student-athletes are expected to be on time for practice or any other activity where a predetermined time has been set. Student-athletes who are late will be assigned conditioning as deemed appropriate by the coach of that team. Chronic tardiness will be addressed by the coach and athletic director to determine the athlete's team membership status.
5. Injured student-athletes are expected to attend practice and/or seek rehabilitative treatment.

Equipment Expectations

1. All equipment issued should be free of defects.
2. Records are to be kept on all equipment that is issued.
3. Coaches must demand that student-athletes take proper care of the equipment that is issued to them.
4. At the end of each sport, the coach of that sport will be responsible for giving the athletic director an inventory of all equipment and uniforms. This must be done within two weeks of the date of the last game. A basic needs list for the following season should be supplied at this time also.

5. Equipment and uniforms should be clean and neatly returned to the athletic director.
6. The athletic director will purchase equipment and uniforms for all sports. All requests for equipment or items must be approved by the athletic director. Our district purchase order system must be followed without exception. All purchase orders need approval by the athletic director and principal.

Locker Room/Athletic Area Expectations

1. A coach or coaches must be present in the locker room and/or playing field at all times to supervise players.
2. The only persons allowed in the locker room will be those team members who are presently using the facilities and coaches.
3. These locker rooms are to be used for the purpose of getting dressed for the sport(s) that are in session.
4. The coach or coaches who are using these facilities will be responsible for making sure these areas are kept neat and locked when practices/events are completed

Coaches Guidelines

1. All coaches, paid or unpaid, must be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal and have on file a current First Aid/CPR card, fingerprints with the district, TB clearance, ASCC (walk-on) and, satisfy coaching education requirement (ASEP). All coaches must be approved before taking part in coaching activities.
2. Each coach is responsible for knowing and understanding the athletic policies, rules and regulations. Coaches must obtain copies of the C.I.F. Rule Book, League Rules, and Athletic Handbook from the Athletic Director.
3. Coaches are to demand that their team members conduct themselves as ladies and/or gentlemen at all times.
4. Coaches are held responsible for the conduct of team members during practice, at games, and on trips.
5. All coaches shall help to promote team morale and spirit.
- 6. Cooperation is an essential part of the school athletic program. Coaches should cooperate with coaches of other sports in the school. They should support each other in an ethical manner, never second-guessing or criticizing coaching ability.**
7. Coaches are to report promptly for all practice sessions and contests and are to be dressed appropriately.
8. All coaching activities are to be organized and supervised by the coaches so as to insure student safety. No "horseplay" is to be tolerated at any time in the gymnasium, on the athletic field, or locker room.
9. A coach will not permit:
 - A student to practice or participate on a team against administrative approval.
 - Athletes to use non-school transportation to and from athletic contests. Any exceptions must have prior approval.
 - An athlete to play, if he did not attend classes that day and was truant. The Site Administration

may allow exceptions.

10. **Profanity is not to be used by coaches or team members.**

11. **Each coach is responsible for supervising the locker room at the beginning and end of practices and games. At no time is the locker room to be left unsupervised. The members of the team are the coach's responsibility until they are picked-up or leave the campus.**

Athletic Probation

If a student-athlete violates the Nicolet Middle School Code of Ethics, they may be placed on probation. A meeting will be conducted with the student-athlete, coach, athletic director and administrator, if possible. A one-time violation may or may not initiate the probation. Parents/Guardians will be notified when the student-athlete is placed on contract. The contract does not prevent the student from participating in their current sport or any other sport for the remainder of the year. If they violate the contract, suspension from the sport will occur and they will not be allowed to try out for any other sports for the remainder of the school year.

Appeal of Suspension from Team

A student who wishes to appeal a suspension from a team/activity must first discuss the matter with his/her coach. Following that discussion, if the student and his/her parent/guardian wishes to appeal the suspension, it must be done in writing to the Athletic Director within three school days of notice of the suspension decision. The Athletic Director will conduct an investigation, as he/she deems advisable and render a decision, in writing, to the student and his/her parent/guardian within three school days.

If the student and his/her parent/guardian are dissatisfied with this decision, the decision may be appealed in writing to the Principal within three school days. The Principal will conduct whatever investigation he/she deems advisable and render a decision, in writing, to his/her parents within a reasonable time. The Principal's decision is final. The student shall remain under suspension during the appeal process.

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Handbook Receipt

I have read and understand the Athletic Handbook. If I have questions or concerns I will address them to the athletic director and/or the administration. Please sign and return only this page to the athletic director. A signed copy must be on file for the student-athlete to participate in any sport.

Signature

Date _____

Printed Name

Position (i.e. coach, parent/guardian, student-athlete)

Signature

Date _____

Printed Name

Position (i.e. coach, parent/guardian, student-athlete)

Signature

Date _____

Printed Name

Position (i.e. coach, parent/guardian, student-athlete)