

***North Zulch Bulldogs
Athletic Handbook***



2020-21

Updated July 6, 2020

Table of Contents

Administration	3
Philosophy	4
Introduction.....	4
Participation	5
Chain of Command/ Open Door Policy	5
Available Sports	5/6
Letter Jacket Policy.....	6
Eligibility and Regulations.....	6
Eligibility Calendar.....	7
Disciplinary Procedures	8
Dropping a Sport	9
Procedures when ill or injured	9
Drug Policy and Screening Procedure	10
Philosophy	10
Purpose	10
Method	10
Drugs Eligible for Testing	10
Grade Range	11
Records	11
Consequences	11
Positive Testing First Offense	11
Procedure	11
Sanctions	11
Second Offense	12
Procedure	12
Sanctions	12
Third Offense	12
Sanctions	12
Refusal to Test.....	12
Costs.....	12
Handbook Acknowledgement	13

Administration

Superintendent	Alan Andrus
Secondary Principal	Janie Pope
Assistant Principal	Pete Martinez
Athletic Director	Clay Todd
Coaches	Jim O'Neal Michael Stenseth Melissa Padgett Brad Wallin
School Board Members	Brian Baker, President Richard Weaver, VP Tammy Gilbert, Secretary Daniel Theiss Karl Radde Becky Wilson Steve Diserens

North Zulch Independent School District

Philosophy

We believe that an exemplary athletic program is an extension of the classroom. As such, athletics offers students an opportunity to develop and grow physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. The positive benefits that participation in athletics offers include, but are not limited to self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence and the development of team spirit. Further, participants learn the values associated with competition and benefit from the experience of both winning and losing.

For the participating athlete, these experiences provide an integral part of the foundation needed to be a productive citizen capable of leading a full and enriching life.

Introduction

The athletic program will follow all policies/procedures in the NZISD student handbook. Athletics is an integral part of the total school experience for both boys and girls. It offers a variety of sports and activities to all students who have potential skill and the desire to participate.

The policies, procedures and regulations in the handbook are in compliance with school board policies and administrative procedures. They are designed to provide for successful experiences for students and the efficient operation of the athletic program.

This handbook supersedes all prior publications governing North Zulch athletic teams and shall be used by the principal, coaches and players in grades 6-12.

You, the student athlete, are accountable and responsible for all rules and procedures contained within this handbook and for any additional ones that your respective coaches might add.

Participation

It is the goal of the NZISD athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is participation in athletics required. It is also to be stressed that participation in the North Zulch ISD athletic program is a privilege, not a right. Since participation is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with North Zulch ISD policy, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and standards of this athletic program are not followed.

A student must be enrolled in the appropriate athletic period for the entire school year in order to participate in any given sport. The student must participate in an off-season program when not competing in a sport. Excessive absences can result in dismissal from the program.

Chain of Command/Open Door Policy

Parents and students will be expected to follow the chain of command when they have questions concerning a sport or athletic policy. The progression that should be followed is:

1. Athlete/Coach
2. Athlete/Parent/Coach
3. Athletic Director
4. Principal
5. Superintendent
6. School Board

All parent conferences will be scheduled with no conferences on the day of a game. Playing time or other athletes will not be discussed. We hope that any problems that may arise can be solved without having to complete this process.

Available Sports

Volleyball
Basketball
Softball

Cross Country
Track
Baseball

*****Team sports will take priority over individual sports*****

In Conference A schools or in small junior high schools whose enrollment corresponds to Conference A enrollment, 6th graders may be used when it is vital to field one combined 7th and 8th grade baseball, basketball, softball, or volleyball team on the first day of the season. Sixth graders may not be used on either team when a school has more than one team playing. The first day of the season is defined as the first day of practice outside the school day or the day of the first competition, whichever occurs sooner. If fewer than the below listed number of 7th and 8th grade students report the first day of the season, then 6th graders shall be notified the next day that they may try out for the combined 7th and 8th grade team and may participate for the entire season. If the number of 7th and 8th graders reporting the first day of the season meets or exceeds the number listed below, then 6th graders shall not be used any-time during the entire season.

Basketball – 10
Girls Volleyball- 12
Baseball-18
Softball-18

The following sports are available for athletics in grade 7-12:

Volleyball-Girls
Cross Country-Boys and Girls
Basketball-Boys and Girls
Track-Boys and Girls
Baseball-Boys
Softball-Girls

Letter Jacket Policy:

As an award for success in athletics, NZISD will award an athlete a letter jacket and letter. The jackets will be ordered in the spring of every year and will be distributed to students once they arrive. A student may add individual, last name, etc. at their own cost at time of order or on their own. In order to be awarded a jacket the athlete must meet one of the following criteria:

Team Sport: Must complete the sport and participate in a minimum of two district games.

Individual Sport:

- A). Must compete in a minimum of two contests for two seasons in the same sport
- B). Qualify for regional, area, or state competitions

Eligibility and regulations

A student in grades 6-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if he/she has earned the cumulative number of credits in state-approved courses indicated.

1. At the beginning of the 6th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 5th to the 6th.
2. At the beginning of the 7th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 6th to the 7th grade.
3. At the beginning of the 8th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 7th to the 8th grade.
4. At the beginning of the 9th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 8th to the 9th grade.
5. At the beginning of the 10th grade year, the student must have at least five credits towards graduation.
6. At the beginning of the 11th grade year, the student must have at least ten credits towards graduation or have earned five credits during the previous 12 months.
7. At the beginning of the 12th grade year, the student must have at least fifteen credits towards graduation or have earned five credits during the previous 12 months.

North Zulch I.S.D.

Eligibility Dates For the 2020-2021 School Year

September 25 th October 2 nd	End of 6 weeks	Loss or Gain of eligibility Must stop playing (end of grace period) – Lose or Regain
October 8 th October 15 th	End of 9 Weeks (1 st)	Regain eligibility / Lose eligibility Begin playing / Stop playing (End of grace / waiting period)
October 30 th November 6 th		Regain eligibility Begin playing (End of waiting period)
November 20 th December 7 th		Regain eligibility Begin playing (end of waiting period)
Nov. 20 th after school – Nov 29 th		All Students Academically Eligible – Thanksgiving Break *****
December 17 th	End of 9 weeks (2 nd)	Regain eligibility / Lose eligibility
Dec. 17 th after school – Jan. 4 th		All Students Academically Eligible - Christmas Break *****
<u>January 5th</u>	<u>Begin 2nd Semester</u>	
January 12 th		Begin playing/Stop playing (End of grace /waiting period)
January 25 th February 1 st		Regain eligibility Begin playing (End of waiting period)
February 16 th February 23 rd		Regain eligibility Begin playing (end of waiting period)
March 5 th March 12 th	End of 9 Weeks (3 rd)	Regain eligibility / Lose eligibility Begin playing / Stop playing (End of grace / waiting period)
March 19 th after school– March 28 th		All Students Academically Eligible - Spring Break *****
April 5 rd April 12 th		Regain eligibility Begin playing (End of waiting period)
April 26 th May 3 rd		Regain eligibility Begin playing (End of grace period)

Coaches will be updating student athletes weekly on their grade status, but please keep this list of dates handy. These are the dates when our students involved in UIL extracurricular activities can regain or lose their eligibility.

Disciplinary Procedures

Suspension:

Each coach will have the authority, with the concurrence of the athletic director, to suspend or place on probation for an extended period of time, any student-athlete for major or accumulated minor infractions of rules for that team.

General Discipline

There are varying types of punishment that can be administered for rule violations. They are as follows:

1. Verbal warning between coach and athlete
 2. Corporal punishment
 3. Physical activity
 4. Loss of playing time
 5. Suspension from games
 6. Behavior Contract
 7. Suspension from sport
 8. 25 miles/5 days
 9. Expulsion from program
 10. ISS - In School Suspension (*in the event of theft only*)
- Refusal of punishment is grounds for removal from the program.
 - Technical fouls, and ejections will result in a disciplinary action to be determined by the head coach of the individual sport. Repeated infractions will lead to harsher penalties which could include suspension from games to removal from the activity.
 - Rudeness and poor attitudes will not be tolerated and will be directly reflected in an athlete's playing time. Again, repeated offenses could lead to suspension from games or removal from the activity.
 - Athletes who receive ISS as punishment will not be allowed to participate in any practice or game while they are in ISS.
 - Understand that because we hold athletes to a higher standard, there will be repercussions for misbehavior or lack of progress in the classroom setting.

Dropping a Sport

Athletes are encouraged to finish a sport once it has begun. Each sport will have a “drop dead” day where students may remove themselves from a sport without penalty. Once this date has passed, the following procedures will be met for students wanting to quit a sport. The student athlete will be given a 24 hour “cooling off” period before decision is finalized. Once that period has passed, for a first time offense, the athlete in question will not be allowed to start the next sport until he/she has completed 25 miles in 5 consecutive school days. If an athlete quits a second time, they will not be eligible to compete in an athletic event for one calendar year from the day they quit. An athlete that quits a third time will be removed from the athletic program. Of note, athletes who quit a sport will be required to run 25 miles within 5 consecutive school days to regain standing within the program. The athlete must also be approved for reentry into the next sport by that head coach and/ or the athletic director. Attitude and behavior in the entire school setting will be considered in allowing re-entry into program/sport.

1. The athlete should think the whole situation through before reaching a final decision.
2. The athlete should talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached without having to quit. A conference between the parents, athlete and coach/athletic director is recommended before the athlete quits.
3. If an athlete decides to quit, he/she must check out of the sport.
4. All equipment must be turned in clean. Also, an athlete must pay for any equipment not returned.
5. If an athlete wants to return to a sport, he/she should consult the appropriate coach. The decision as to whether the athlete will be allowed to return to that sport shall be the decision of the individual coach and the athletic director.
6. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may not start another sport or practice until after the 25 miles/5 days has been completed and has been approved to advance by the next sports head coach and athletic director.

If the next sport is an individual sport (track, cross country) then consequences may be modified by the athletic director to one contest.

Procedures when ill or injured

If you become injured or ill, inform a member of the staff as soon as possible. Let us decide the severity of the illness or injury. Something small or seemingly insignificant can become problematic if it is allowed to go untreated. We currently use the Texas A&M team orthopedic staff and pediatrician/team doctor. These doctors are some of the best in the state of Texas, and have a better understanding as about athletic injuries/illnesses in relation to the physical demands placed on an athlete's body.

North Zulch Athletic Department Drug Policy and Screening Procedure

Philosophy

The NZISD Athletic Department believes that athletes, athletic managers and cheerleaders who represent North Zulch School, the community and their families have an obligation to perform at the highest level of their ability and to behave in a manner that casts a positive light on everyone and everything they represent.

Drug abuse is a major problem in our society. Drug abuse has a negative effect on a person's health, behavior and learning. Drug abuse limits the individual's ability to develop to his/her potential and to become a positive member of our society. Drugs have proven to be detrimental to an individual's contribution as a team member.

Purpose

The purpose of the NZISD Drug Screening procedure is to:

1. Provide for health and well being of the individual.
2. Ensure safety of others with whom the individual interacts.
3. Promote order and positive discipline.
4. Make a statement of right and wrong.
5. Conform to public laws.
6. Assist young people in resisting negative peer pressure.

Method

1. Athletes must submit a signed parental consent form (required for participation).
2. Testing will be administered by qualified lab personnel.
3. The lab technician will explain the procedure and collect the athlete's specimen
4. The qualified lab that is chosen by the North Zulch ISD will accept urinalysis and recording of results.
5. Reports will be confidential to coach/sponsor, parent/guardian, student, school administrator and administering physician.
6. Athletes will be selected at random from a pool of in-season and off-season athletes.

DRUGS ELIGIBLE TO BE TESTED FOR:

Alcohol	Opiates
Amphetamines	-codeine, heroin, morphine, papaverine
Barbiturates	Phencyclidine (PCP)
Benzodiazepine	Steroids
Cocaine	Tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) - Cannabinoids
Methadone	-marijuana
Nicotine	Propoxyphene
Methamphetamine	

Grade Range

All students participating in extracurricular athletics and cheerleading, grades 7-12.

Records

All records will be kept in the Main School office in a confidential file. All test results will be destroyed when the student is no longer in school

Consequences

1. For refusing consent, immediate suspension until reviewed by the athletic director with a possibility of removal from the program.
2. If drug test is negative, confidential notification of results will be given to student and parent/guardian.
3. Any athlete who receives a positive screening will have an opportunity to retest within 24 hours at student's expense (only if positive was for drugs other than alcohol).
4. If re-test is negative, confidential notification will be given to the student athlete and parent.
5. If re-test is positive or no re-test is done, the student will follow sanctions for positive testing.
6. If caught in possession, the student-athlete will be added to the drug testing list for the next 2 random tests. Also, the NZISD student code of conduct policies will be enforced.
7. If caught under the influence, this will serve as a positive drug test. Also, the NZISD student code of conduct policies will be enforced.
8. All NZISD student code of conduct policies, will be enforced on a case by case basis.

SANCTIONS FOR POSITIVE TESTING

The following disciplinary measures will be taken for any student testing positive to a drug test.

FIRST OFFENSE

Procedure:

1. Conference with parent/guardian to discuss the student-athlete.
2. Student-athlete must enroll in and complete drug/tobacco/alcohol education program in a timely manner.
3. Approval of the Athletic Director and Head Coach before reinstatement into the program.
4. Student will receive counseling from North Zulch counselor

Sanctions:

1. Suspension from athletic program for 14 calendar days (this includes participating in all sports but does not include practicing sports with coach's approval.)
2. The coach of the student's sport may require additional sanctions.
3. Student-athlete shall be subject to testing on the next 2 random test dates.
4. If no in season, suspension from competition and/or additional consequences is at the coaches discretion.

SECOND OFFENSE

Procedure:

1. Conference with parent/guardian to discuss the student-athlete.
2. Student-athlete must complete drug/tobacco/alcohol education program, before being allowed to participate.
3. Approval of Athletic Director and Head Coach before reinstatement into the program.

Sanctions:

1. Suspension from athletic program for a minimum of 30 calendar days (the student-athlete may still participate in practices).
2. Student-athlete shall be retested and his/her system must be clear of any drugs before being reinstated
3. The coach of the student's sport may require additional sanctions.
4. If no in season, suspension from competition and/or additional consequences is at the coaches discretion.

THIRD OFFENSE

Procedure:

1. Conference with parent/guardian to discuss the student-athlete.
2. Student-athlete must complete drug/tobacco/alcohol education program, before being allowed to participate.
3. Approval of Athletic Director and Head Coach before reinstatement into the program.

Sanctions:

1. Suspension from athletic program for 60 calendar days (the student-athlete may still participate in practices).
2. Student-athlete shall be retested and his/her system must be clear of any drugs before being reinstated
3. The coach of the student's sport may require additional sanctions.
4. 4. If no in season, suspension from competition and/or additional consequences is at the coaches discretion.

REFUSAL TO TEST

North Zulch ISD Athletics is an elective and students are in these classes by choice. If a student-athlete refuses to take part in the drug-testing program, he/she will be suspended from the athletic program.

COST

The district shall not be responsible for any cost incurred for retesting or drug education.

North Zulch Athletic Handbook

I have read and understand all rules and regulations in accordance with the North Zulch Athletic Handbook. In signing this acknowledgement, I am giving my permission for my child to participate in extracurricular activities.

Print Student Name _____ Grade _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____