

NHS: Athletic Philosophy

The Norwell School Committee believes interscholastic athletics is a vital part of the entire educational program offered at Norwell High School. Athletic competition provides another opportunity for student-athletes to strive for excellence, practice respect and contribute to society. All athletic venues are viewed as extensions of the classroom, so the focus of the entire athletic program is the intellectual, physical, emotional and social development of the whole person. Student-athletes learn skills and values like respect, responsibility, perseverance, teamwork, discipline and work ethic, as well as the benefits of healthy behavior. These values, instilled and nurtured by a properly directed athletic program, benefit student-athletes not only during their active participation in interscholastic athletics, but also during their adult lives when the lessons learned on the playing fields will help them make wise decisions and valuable contributions to the larger human community.

Participation on Norwell High School athletic teams is a privilege, not a right. Student-athletes are expected to display characteristics of ethical conduct and fair play, both on and off the playing fields. All student-athletes are expected to obey the law and follow the rules and regulations set forth by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), Norwell School Committee, and by Norwell High School in the Student-Parent Handbook. They are also expected to show respect for fellow players, coaches, officials, fans, members of opposing teams, equipment, and facilities. Coaches are expected to be leaders as well as teachers, educating student-athletes and trying their best to help their team win, but not at the expense of academics, good sportsmanship, fair-play, integrity, or safety. Coaches are expected to respect all student-athletes. Fans are viewed as extensions of our teams and the same high level of behavior is expected from them.

All Norwell High School student-athletes, in good standing, are eligible to tryout (see Athletic Tryouts/Cuts section on page 7) for any team. Norwell High School has a two-tiered athletic program: sub-varsity (freshman and JV teams) and varsity. Teams will consist of as many players as can be safely equipped, coached and played, meaning that some sports may require limits in the number of participants. This decision will be made by the high school administration, SAAFF and coaching staff. The focus of sub-varsity teams will be skill development, gaining knowledge of the sport and successful strategies for playing the sport, and safe and healthy training and conditioning. On the varsity level, the focus will be improving skills and knowledge while, at the same time, allowing for the highest level of healthy competition possible. High school athletics is a competitive experience; therefore, not all who try-out will make the team, nor do all those who make the team receive the same participation opportunities in contests. These decisions rest with the coach.