

NEW TRIER GIRLS HOCKEY
Athletic Code of Conduct

Philosophy

New Trier Girls Hockey (NTGH) is dedicated to interscholastic athletics as a vital component of a New Trier High School (NTHS or the "School") education. Athletics will be a positive learning experience for our players if they recognize that they may achieve their highest personal and athletic potential only by embracing a lifestyle dedicated to competition, integrity and self-discipline. In addition, selection to a team is an honor and a privilege, but not a right. Participants are visible representatives of NTHS, their fellow students, and the community as a whole; therefore, they have additional responsibilities to be exemplars to all and to comply with the Code twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Failure to comply will lead to consequences and ultimately to the dismissal from NTGH.

Participants in the New Trier Girls Hockey program have a responsibility to adhere to the policies established by New Trier Girls Hockey, the New Trier Township High School District 203, the Chicagoland Metro Girls' High School Hockey League, the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois and USA Hockey. We support New Trier High School's enforcement of its academic standards and rules of behavior, including the Extracurricular Code, by taking disciplinary action when a player is determined by the School to have violated a school rule or academic standard.

Participant Pledge and Prohibited Conduct

Participation as a student athlete is an honor and a privilege. As a visible representative of the school and the community, I have the obligation and responsibility to represent myself, my family, my team, my school and my community in an exemplary manner. I understand that if I violate the express or implied terms of the Code, or if I engage in any behavior that negatively affects my team, fellow students, school or community, I will be subject to disciplinary measures that may have significant adverse consequences up to and including dismissal from the team and the NTGH program. I understand that the NTGH Athletic Code applies twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year - throughout my entire career in New Trier Girls Hockey.

Conduct prohibited under this Code includes, but is not limited to the following:

- The purchase, possession, delivery, distribution, or use of tobacco products including e-cigarettes;
- The purchase, possession, delivery or distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, other illegal mood-altering and/or performance enhancing drugs or chemicals, or any substance used to obtain an altered mental state or "high";
- The purchase, possession, delivery, or distribution of look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, and alcohol containers;
- Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy;
- Hosting or organizing a gathering or providing a venue where minors and any of the above-referenced prohibited substances are present;
- Assault or battery;
- Bullying and intimidation, hazing, and harassment of a written, verbal, physical or sexual nature; including, but not limited to, handwritten, computer generated, or spoken words;
- Vandalism, theft, property damage;
- Violations of major school policies including, but not limited to, disobedience, excessive absenteeism, misuse of technology, etc;
- Unsportsmanlike conduct during or surrounding games, practices and team events, such as cheating, fighting, or abuse of officials, other players, coaches or spectators;
- Conduct resulting in a school suspension;
- Falsification of any signatures on NTGH registration forms;
- Withdrawing from or quitting a NTGH team without prior written approval; and

- Alteration to the standard NTGH team uniform (including, but not limited to, the purchase of an alternative jersey, shell, helmet, etc.).

As stated in the School's Extracurricular Code: "Attending parties or gatherings where illegal substances or tobacco products may be present is strongly discouraged. The District's concern for the health and overall welfare of its students is at issue along with the potential for problems that may face the District's students in such situations. The District encourages its students to make responsible choices. However, the mere presence at such parties and gatherings will not result in a violation of the code of conduct."

Note: For consistency, the terms "under the influence", "possession", "delivery", "look-alike", and "drug paraphernalia" will be defined consistently with the School's Extracurricular Code.

Consequences for Violations:

- 1st offense: Suspension for up to 25% of the season's games and removal from Captain status (*2-6 games depending on the severity of the offense*).
- 2nd offense: Dismissal from the team/club's program for one calendar year.
- 3rd offense: Permanent dismissal from the New Trier Girls Hockey program.

The Code of Conduct is in effect twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days throughout the entire calendar year; penalties are cumulative throughout the player's NTGH career.

1. The season for NTGH begins at the time the teams are announced, except for those players who participate in a NTHS fall sport, and for them it begins immediately following the last contest for that fall sport team. The season ends upon the completion of the last game of the AHA! State Tournament for that player's team.
2. Any in-season violation will result in the loss of leadership status and may result in the loss of privileges to attend the end of the season sports banquet and receipt of any individual awards.
3. NTGH reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust the length of any penalty assessed under this Athletic Code based on the best interests of the player and New Trier Girls Hockey.
4. Under certain circumstances, players in violation of the Code for alcohol or substance abuse may be offered the option to participate in a recognized, community-based substance abuse education program. If a player chooses to enroll in such a program, their suspension may be lessened. Participation in these programs will not be grounds for reinstatement of leadership positions. Participation in these programs is voluntary and at the player's sole expense.
5. **Out of Season Violations:** If a player violates the Athletic Code outside the NTGH season, NTGH has the option to accept a penalty imposed by the School under its Extracurricular Code and served by the player prior to the start of the NTGH season or, if the NTHS penalty is not in compliance with the School's rules and procedures, to impose an in-season penalty.
6. **Conflict with NTHS fall sport:** If the player is also participating in a NTHS fall sport at the time a violation occurs and the School institutes punishment consistent with the School's rules and procedures, and the penalty is served prior to the start of NTGH League games, then NTGH should accept the punishment imposed by the School and no further action should be taken. For NTHS suspensions not completed prior to the commencement of NTGH League games, the NTGH President may review the case with both the NTHS Athletic Director and the NTGH Rules and Ethics Committee Chairman, and determine whether the player may serve the balance of her suspension during the NTGH team's season. The purpose of this provision is so a player does not serve time twice for the same violation.
7. Suspensions that are not completed prior to the end of a season will carry over into either 1) the following NTGH season, or 2) if the player is a member of a NTHS team during the off-season, the NTGH President may review the case with the NTHS Athletic Director and determine whether the player may serve the balance of her suspension during the NTHS team's season.
8. Players suspended from NTHS will NOT be allowed to participate in practices or games while on suspension. Additional consequences from the NTGH Athletic Code will begin after completion of the NTHS suspension.

Updated 7/2023

9. **Tryouts:** Players serving a NTGH suspension for either a first or second offense at the time of NTGH's fall tryouts will be allowed to try out but must then continue to serve the remaining balance of their punishment during the new season. A player serving a NTHS suspension (i.e., is suspended from school) at the time of tryouts may NOT try out but may be placed on a team according to the NTGH policies for accommodating players who are unable to try out due to injury or illness.
10. Players will receive written notice of any Athletic Code penalty assessed by New Trier Girls Hockey. They will be expected to confirm receipt of this notice by signing and returning a copy.
11. In the event that a member of a NTGH team withdraws from or quits a team without prior written approval from their Head Coach, Team Manager and the NTGH President (or his/her designee), the player will forfeit indefinitely their eligibility to participate with future NTGH teams and in alumni activities. Each situation will be reviewed by the Rules & Ethics Committee with input from the Player's Head Coach and the Team's Manager.
12. **Players who are suspended or dismissed from NTGH with respect to a violation of the NTGH Athletic Code will NOT be entitled to any refund or any reduction in fees.** The full amount of any outstanding season fees must be paid – regardless of any suspension or dismissal.
13. **Definition of Hazing:** Hazing is any act which subjects a player to physical or verbal harassment, mental or physical discomfort, intimidation, embarrassment, or ridicule, or demeaning activity committed by an individual NTGH player or group of players for the purpose of initiating or maintaining membership in a team.
14. **IF YOU TURN YOURSELF IN:** Voluntary admission of a **first** offense Athletic Code violation related to alcohol and/or drugs, will not result in any loss of playing time. The consequence will be a mandatory meeting with the NTGH Rules & Ethics Committee and the player's parents. The purpose of this provision is to provide help for the player. A specific plan for providing counseling, community service or other forms of assistance will be designed as a cooperative result of this meeting. **Voluntary admission must occur prior to any NTGH personnel, school personnel, or police being aware of the incident and that player's involvement.** Players will only be excused from a penalty based on a voluntary admission on one occasion.
15. **Right of Appeal:** The player has a right to appeal a decision. This would be an opportunity to present extenuating circumstances that she believes should affect the consequences that have been administered. The NTGH President will appoint the review committee if an appeal is made. This committee will consist of a NTGH Board member, a coach, and a parent not serving on the Board. Members of the Appeal Committee may not be associated with the player's team. The request for an appeal hearing must be made in writing to the NTGH President within three days following the initial decision.