



New Paltz Champion of the Community Pledge

New Paltz Athletics is committed to ensuring the safety and health of all of our student-athletes, coaches, faculty, staff, and spectators. Each of these individuals play an important role in keeping our community safe by limiting the spread of COVID-19. As a student-athlete, I understand that I have a personal responsibility to take steps to protect those around me to limit the spread of COVID-19 and ensure a safe environment for all students in New Paltz.

In order to reduce my risk of contracting COVID-19, I commit to abiding by all existing guidelines both on and off the field to ensure the safety of my teammates, coaches, classmates, community, competitors, and myself. I commit to reviewing these guidelines and understand that my School District may provide updates as additional information is learned. It is my responsibility to stay apprised of these changes to protect classmates and myself.

As a New Paltz student-athlete, I pledge to:

Unite with my team members and school community to have a memorable season

Lead by example and support members of my team who may be experiencing physical and mental health challenges

Stay safe, healthy and informed of COVID-19 updates both on and off of the field

To operate in a healthy environment and complete daily health attestations

Every day be a role model for my team members and community

Respect and follow face mask, hygiene, social distancing guidelines, and all of the additional health and safety requirements of the school. This may include participating in testing, self-quarantining, and contact tracing.

I have read and understand, as well as agree to comply with, the **New Paltz Champion of the Community Pledge**. I recognize that COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus and it is possible to develop and contract the COVID-19 virus even if I follow all of the safety recommendations of the school and comply with the pledge. I understand that even though the school is following the guidelines issued by the CDC, Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health, and other experts to reduce the spread of infection, a COVID-19 free environment can never be guaranteed.

I understand that if I do not honor my pledge, I would be failing to comply with a legitimate school directive and pursuant to school and Section IX policies, students, faculty, and staff will be subject to the appropriate accountability measures and disciplinary actions.

New Paltz Athletics adheres to the highest standards of excellence both on and off the field. Interscholastic athletics plays a critical role in developing core values for our student athletes such as leadership qualities, instilling sportsmanship, embracing diversity in all people, fostering inclusion, integrity, and serving as role models for others to look up to in our community. These core values of our student athletes are the champions of character.

STUDENT NAME

STUDENT SIGNATURE

Code of Conduct Relating to School Sports and Other Activities

School District: New Paltz Central School District

Sport: _____ **Other Activity:** _____

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

The State of New York recently updated its “*Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Sports and Recreation*” permitting in-school sports and athletic competitions for certain sports only if permitted by local health departments. This **Code of Conduct** is intended to enable students, and parents/guardians of students, to recognize and acknowledge the personal responsibility involved in taking steps to protect themselves, fellow students, coaches, spectators and other school and community members from contracting the COVID disease.

To reduce my risk of contracting and or spreading COVID-19, I pledge to abide by all existing best practices to ensure my own safety and the safety of my teammates, classmates, and community. I pledge to review these practices and I understand that my School District may provide additional updates as needed. It is my responsibility to stay informed of these updates to protect myself and my classmates. As an Ulster County student, I pledge the following: (*Please initial each statement below.*)

_____ to follow all social distancing guidelines, including the wearing of masks or appropriate face coverings, and

_____ to submit to COVID-19 testing any time it is advised, and to abide by all isolation and/or quarantine orders as I am directed by the Ulster County Department of Health, my school or health care provider, and

_____ to participate in daily self-assessments for COVID-19 symptoms,
and

_____ to **not** participate in school classes, athletic events, or other activities if I am feeling sick with any of the following symptoms, until cleared by my health care provider, including but not limited to: fatigue, headache, muscle pain (myalgia), fever, cough, nasal congestion, new loss of taste or smell, abdominal upset or pain, sore throat, and

_____ to **not** participate in unapproved social gatherings, parties or other activities which are known to increase the spread of COVID-19.

As a student participating in sports or other activities, I understand that I have a personal responsibility to take steps to protect myself and those around me from the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure a safe environment for everyone in my home and school community.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, that I understand, and I will abide by this *Code of Conduct Relating to School Sports and Other Activities*. I recognize that COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus which can lead to severe illness and death in some individuals. I further understand that even though my school is following the guidelines issued by the CDC and other experts to reduce the spread of infection, a COVID-19 free environment can never be guaranteed.

I understand that if I do not honor my pledge, I would be failing to comply with Public Health and school best practices and I therefore could be subject to the appropriate accountability measures and/or disciplinary action on account of insubordination.

Electronic signatures may be used to execute this document and shall have the same force and effect as original signatures.

Student Name/Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name/Signature: _____

Date: _____

**NEW PALTZ CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COVID-19 ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WAIVER/INFORMED CONSENT**

On January 22, 2021, the New York State Department of Health issued [updated guidance](#) to enable Winter Season “Higher-Risk Sports” to be conducted, provided that the school district follows certain protocols set forth in the guidance.¹ These protocols need to be followed by all student-athletes, along with the attached Student Code of Conduct and Health Risk Communication issued by the Ulster County Department of Health (“UCDOH”) on January 31, 2021. You are expected to review such documents with your child and sign and date where indicated.

It is known that COVID-19 is highly infectious and variant forms of the virus have already begun to emerge in our area that could lead to the discontinuation of the higher-risk sport activities. The County will inform school authorities if its permission to continue with the sports will continue or be withdrawn based upon local infection rates and other health-related considerations. Permissions to engage in higher-risk sports may be withdrawn if the positivity rate in the county exceeds the state average.

It is also known that being infected with COVID-19 may be uneventful, with the infected individual being asymptomatic, whereas in other cases, unfortunately, the infection may be quite debilitating, and even cause death. The protocols established to create conditions where the risk of being infected with COVID-19 are greatly reduced does not guarantee that infection will not occur. Both the student athlete and parent(s) need to understand that there is an assumption of risk of COVID-19 infection not only for the student-athlete, but also a significant risk of transmission for those with whom the student-athlete might later come into contact, at home and/or in the community. Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can spread the virus. Masking, social distancing, proper hand hygiene and other mitigation measures reduce, but do not eliminate risk. At the current time, the long-term effects of the COVID-19 virus are largely unknown; even people with mild cases may experience long-term complications. The District will not be responsible for the consequences of infections that occur as a result of the student’s participation in the sport in which he/she voluntarily chooses to participate. Thus, he or she will be voluntarily seeking to participate on the team and thereby assuming the risks attendant to such participation.

Having read the information above, it is acknowledged that the student’s participation on a District higher- risk sports team is being undertaken on a fully voluntary basis and there has been no influence or compulsion on the part of the District or its officers or personnel leading to the student’s participation.

The undersigned agree that the District shall be held harmless, to the maximum extent allowed by law. Consequently, the undersigned knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waive their right to bring any and all legal causes of action or claims against the District based upon events arising from the student-athlete’s being infected with COVID-19 as a result of participation in a Winter Season Higher-Risk Sport.

It is agreed that the undersigned shall adhere to New York State Department of Health and Ulster County Department of Health guidelines for post-infection isolation or precautionary quarantine (as applicable) for the community welfare and the safe operations of the District’s schools.

Electronic signatures may be used to execute this document and shall have the same force and effect as original signatures.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

If you have difficulty, accessing the guidelines issued by the state or the county, please call Greg Warren, at 845-256-4151, and a copy will be provided to you.