



National Honor Society of Waccamaw High School

Constitution and Bylaws (Updated 6/1/2017)



ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE AND BY-LAW ADJUSTMENT

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the National Honor Society of Waccamaw High School (NHS).
- Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Waccamaw High School.
- Section 3. The NHS shall be under sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA, 22091.
- Section 4. The NHS Constitution and By-laws shall be updated as need each academic year. All changes must be approved unanimously by the Faculty Advisor, the Principal of the School, and two (2) Faculty Consultants.

ARTICLE II – PROCEEDURE FOR SELECTION

- Section 1. To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a sophomore, junior, or senior. Freshmen are not eligible.
- Section 2. Candidates will be identified using their freshman year cumulative GPA as an indicator.
- Section 3a. Candidates must have been enrolled at the school the equivalent of one academic year.
- Section 3b. A transfer student already enrolled in National Honor Society at their previous school will be exempted from the attendance rule if they present proof of membership in the form of an official NHS membership card, certificate of induction, or letter verifying membership from their previous chapter's advisor.
- Section 3c. A senior transfer students not currently enrolled in National Honor Society at their previous school whom has a GPA equal to or greater than 4.5 will be exempted from the attendance rule.
- Section 4. Students offered membership in ANY year that decline membership by choosing not to join and/or participate (not paying dues, not attending meetings, etc.) will not be offered membership the following year regardless of GPA or petition.
- Section 5. Students will be notified of eligibility of membership via letter the first week of school in their respective homeroom. In addition to the notification letter, they will receive a contract they must return completed and signed by both themselves and a parent/legal guardian, and dues in the amount of \$25.00 by the date specified in the letter.
- Section 6. Students who do not respond as requested will be dropped from the roster and will not be eligible for membership the remainder of their high school careers at Waccamaw High School.
- Section 7. The National Council and NASSP shall not review members in local chapters.



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ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection of membership is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.
- Section 2. Membership levels shall be known as inductee, member and graduate.
- Section 2b. Inductee students are first year candidates who must be inducted into the society at the end of the academic year.
- Section 2c. Members are students who are in good standing with the chapter and have already completed the academic and service requirements for induction.
- Section 2d. Members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

ARTICLE IV – MEETING ATTENDANCE

- Section 1. All inductees and members must attend ALL scheduled meetings on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of the month.
- Section 2. Students may only miss TWO (2) meetings or they will be dismissed for failing to meet the attendance requirement.
- Section 3. Absences from meetings are only excused for the following criteria:
- A school sanctioned activity (such as a field trip, college visitation, or athletic game, meet, or tournament), but 72 hour (3 DAYS) notice must be given.
 - Absent from school - PROOF in the form of a front office yellow slip to receive an excused absence must be submitted.
 - Medical Appointment – a note from the physician must be submitted and 24 hour notice is preferred if not an emergency situation.
- Section 3b. An unexcused absence includes all of the following, but is not limited to:
- Athletic practices (both school and travel teams), other club meetings, employment, correcting or making up class work is
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- Section 4. Any members who accumulates **TWO (2)** unexcused absences will be notified in writing of their termination from National Honor Society. Once terminated, they will NOT be eligible for reinstatement regardless of petition.
- Section 5. Any member caught falsifying attendance, such as but not limited to signing in and then leaving; having another member sign in for them; or lying about being in attendance will be immediately dismissed.

ARTICLE V – ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS



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- Section 1. Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 4.5 (hundredths and thousandths are rounded to the tenth) on the South Carolina uniform weighted scale.
- Section 2. GPAs will be verified at the conclusion of each academic year. Any member whose grade point average falls below the set standard of 4.5 will be placed on probation for a period of **ONE ACADEMIC YEAR**. If improvement is not made by this time a member will be dismissed.

ARTICE VI - SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AND OPPORTUNITES

- Section 1. All members and inductees must participate in service requirements. Service requirements are indicated by the label 'Mandatory Service Requirement'.
- Section 1b. Failure to participate in Service Requirements will result in a deduction of service credits as determined by the director.
- Section 1c. All members and inductees shall regularly participate in chapter sponsored service opportunities.
- Section 2. These opportunities shall have the following characteristics: Fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; be well planned, organized, and executed.
- Section 3. Each member and inductee shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in service opportunities that reflect his or her particular talents and interests.
- Section 4. Chapter service opportunities shall be publicized in a positive manner.
- Section 5. Service hour requirements.
- 1) ALL MEMBERS obtain at LEAST TEN (10) SERVICE CREDITS, equivalent of 20 hours of community and/or school service from July through April of the Academic Year.
 - 2) ALL INDUCTEES must obtain at LEAST TWELVE (12) SERVICE CREDITS, equivalent of 20 hours of community and/or school service from July through April of the Academic Year.
- Section 5b. Service hour credits exceptions:
- 1) An officer of the National Honor Society shall receive 1 credit for his or her service.
 - 2) A member of the Student Council shall receive 2 credits for his or her service.
- Section 5c. Members and inductees may elect, at their own discretion, to transfer up to four hours (2 service credits) of school service activities – that are not STUDENT COUNCIL activities - from activities sponsored by clubs and organizations affiliated with Waccamaw High School. These activities are subject to the approval of the sponsor and must be SERVICE in nature.
- Section 5d. Members and inductees may elect, at their own discretion, to transfer up to four hours (2 service credits) of community service activities from non-profit organizations that are not affiliated with Waccamaw High School (i.e., churches, religious organizations, shelters, animal rescues, community festivals, etc.).
- Section 5e. If the NHS co-sponsors an activity with another school organization or a community organization, it can not be counted twice for credit, a.k.a “double dipping”.



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- Section 5f. Student Council members may NOT transfer In School Activity Credits from Student Council service projects, as they are already being credited for their service.
- Section 6a. Any members that fails to make adequate service hours will be placed on probation until the delinquent hours are made up. If service hours are not made up by the conclusion of the first semester, membership is revoked.
- Section 6b. Any inductee who does not make adequate service hours will not be responsible for making up their delinquent service hours. If service hours are not made up by the conclusion of the first semester, the inductee is dismissed and will not be eligible for membership for the remainder of their career at Waccamaw High School.
- Section 7. Any member caught falsifying service hours will be dismissed from membership.

ARTICLE VII - DISCIPLINE

- Section 1. No inductee can be suspended from school during the induction year.
- Section 2. Any member receiving out-of-school suspension will first be administered a warning and with their second offense be dismissed unless the offense involves possession or consumption of illegal substances, being arrested, fighting, bullying, academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) or any other act that diminishes the four qualities of NHS. Those offenses warrant immediate termination.
- Section 2b. Any student proven by a faculty or administrative member to have committed to academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will be dismissed from membership.
- Section 3. Members that receive in-school suspension for being tardy will not be dismissed from the NHS chapter.

ARTICLE VIII – The Executive Board and Officers

- Section 1. The NHS chapter will be governed by an executive board consisting of:
- An administrative-appointed faculty advisor
 - An elected President
 - An elected Vice President
 - An elected Secretary
 - The Principal of the School
 - Two faculty members (no less than 2 years in the school) to serve as Faculty Consultants.
- Section 2. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to be elected to any chapter office.
- Section 3. The duties of officers will be determined year to year by the executive board.
- Section 4. Officers will be awarded 2 services credit of serving as member of the executive board.