



**FAIRFIELD**

2024-2025 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

**Dear Fairfield Local Schools Student-Athletes and Parents/Guardians,**

This handbook is being provided to you because your son/daughter has expressed a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have indicated your willingness to permit him/her to compete. The Fairfield Local Schools Athletic Department believes that a dynamic program of student activities is essential for the educational development of students. The Fairfield Local Schools Athletic Program will offer a variety of experiences to aid in the development of positive habits and attitudes that will prepare them for adult life.

The Fairfield Local School District takes great pride in the wide variety of athletic participation opportunities it offers. These opportunities are considered integral to a student's overall development, as they contribute to the building of positive character traits and leadership skills.

Participation in interscholastic athletics provides young people with valuable lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition, and how to win and lose gracefully, all of which are fundamental aspects of our athletic program.

Likewise, it is understood that by participating, you are committing to certain responsibilities and obligations. This handbook is intended to familiarize prospective athletes and their parents/guardians with the Interscholastic Athletic Code of Conduct and the policies of the Fairfield Local Schools Athletic Department.

These rules require broad-based community support to be fully effective, which can only be achieved through communication among all involved parties. It is our hope that this handbook serves as a tool to facilitate this objective.

Yours in sports,

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## **Purpose**

This athletic handbook is designed to explain and inform athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations, and policies relative to participation in interscholastic athletics at Fairfield Local Middle and High School.

Participation in middle and high school athletics is a privilege, which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility, and sacrifice. Since athletic competition on high school teams is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct established by the administration and other specific rules for their sport. Authority for the conduct of athletics in Ohio is governed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) via the principles of member schools. The principal is assisted by the athletic directors and head coaches. As stated in the OHSAA By-laws, any school may establish its own set of guidelines beyond those set by the state. The athletic department and administration need and depend on parent/guardian help and cooperation to aid coaches and athletic directors in promoting a successful athletic program. Athletes represent their school and student body. Athletes are to conduct themselves in a manner that is becoming to Fairfield Local Schools and the community.

## **Athletic Program Mission Statement**

Fairfield Local Schools is dedicated to providing a comprehensive athletic program emphasizing sportsmanship, moral character, team spirit, self-discipline, individual and team commitment, school loyalty, and competitive athletic interaction. The athletic program will be designed to allow for the greatest number of student participants possible while encouraging academic excellence through high academic standards.

## **Athletic Program Profile**

Fairfield Local Schools support sports for girls and boys. All students with sufficient ability are eligible to participate, provided they meet the established scholastic standards and conduct requirements.

High school girls are offered an eight-sport program, which includes cross-country, golf, soccer, and volleyball in the fall; bowling and basketball in the winter; and softball and track in the spring. Boys are offered a seven-sport program, which includes cross-country, golf, and soccer in the fall; bowling and basketball in the winter; and baseball and track in the spring.

Fairfield High School is a member of the Southern Hills Athletic Conference (SHAC). The conference has two divisions. Members of the small school division are Fairfield, Ripley, Fayetteville, Manchester, and Whiteoak. Members of the big school division are West Union, Eastern, North Adams, Lynchburg-Clay, and Peebles.

## **Athlete Defined**

The Fairfield Local School District athlete is defined as all young men and women who represent a team that engages in interscholastic competition of OHSAA-sanctioned

sports and further includes student managers, athletic training student assistants, statisticians, and cheerleaders.

### **Sport Season Defined**

Each sport season is defined by the OHSAA by-laws. Each sport season begins with the first day of authorized practice and concludes on the date on which the team is eliminated from the OHSAA state tournament series.

### **Health Insurance/Student Accident Insurance**

Fairfield Local School administrators, coaches, and athletic trainers are safety-conscious and are trained to instruct athletes in the safe and proper techniques of their particular sports; however, due to the nature of athletic activity, injuries do occur. The school provides the opportunity for participation, while the parent retains the right of denial for such participation.

Students who plan to participate in athletics must have adequate insurance through their family insurance or carry student insurance to cover the cost of injuries. Fairfield Local Schools does not carry a second-level insurance to cover student injuries and/or to cover loss or damage to a student's personal property.

Parents/Guardians will be responsible for all medical costs associated with athletic participation. The insurance section on the OHSAA physical/consent release certificate must be completed, and the athletic office should be notified of any changes in status. Fairfield Local Schools do not provide accident insurance for its athletes. The athletic department strongly advises that parents purchase insurance to cover athletic injuries and the cost of treatment. All student-athletes are given the opportunity to purchase Student Accident Insurance Plans. This is accident insurance that is purchased by the family, and all interested parents should purchase the policy before their athlete's practice season begins. Forms for this accident insurance are available at the Fairfield District Office.

### **Physical Examinations**

Every student-athlete is required by Fairfield Local School District and the OHSAA to have a current physical examination by, or shall provide certification from, a physician holding an unlimited license to practice medicine who shall clear the student for athletic participation using the current OHSAA pre-participation evaluation form and a Consent/Release certificate completed and on file with the athletic office prior to the first practice of any sport. Fairfield Local requires that the student-athlete have this physical on file prior to the first workout/open facility each year. Physical examinations and submitting the completed forms to the coaching staff and or athletic directors are the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents/guardian.

All athletes, including cheerleaders, MUST have a current physical exam on file to participate in practice and events. Physicals are good for one calendar year from the date they are obtained. (EXCEPTION: If a student obtains a physical exam between

May 1 and June 1, that physical will be good for not only a calendar year but the entire school year.

Current OHSAA physical forms are available at the Fairfield athletic office and on the Fairfield Local Schools website and at all local physicians' offices.

### **Acknowledgement of Risks**

When participating in any type of athletic activity, there is always a possibility that an injury can occur. Statistically, an athlete will suffer at least one injury during their athletic career that requires that he/she miss a number of practices and/or games.

There are several types of injuries that can force an athlete to miss practices and/or games. Some of the more common injuries that occur in athletics are strains (stretching or tearing of muscle and tendon tissue), sprains (stretching or tearing of ligaments), and contusions (bruises of soft tissue or muscle tissue). These three types of injuries can vary in their severity. In the case of mild strains, sprains, and contusions, the athlete will feel some discomfort but will be able to continue his or her participation in athletics. In severe cases of strains, sprains, and contusions, the athlete may miss a large amount of time participating in his or her sport. Some severe injuries may need to be surgically repaired and require an extended period of physical therapy.

Athletes can also experience more serious injuries such as fractures, dislocations, concussions, internal injuries, spinal injuries, or death. Fortunately, most of the injuries that occur with athletics are mild strains, sprains, and contusions, and the athlete misses little or no participation.

It is important to remember that statistically, athletes are much safer than those who participate in riskier types of physical activity.

Athletes can decrease their chances of being injured by adhering to the following guidelines:

1. Use the proper athletic techniques that are taught by the coaches.
2. Condition properly during the preseason and work to stay in condition.
3. Get proper rest and nutrition.
4. Refrain from risky behavior on the athletic field or in the locker rooms.
5. Wear properly fitting protective equipment.
6. Keep all protective equipment in working order.
7. Stay alcohol and drug-free.

Remember that some serious or severe injuries still occur when the athlete follows the above guidelines. However, those who disregard the above guidelines are at greater risk of sustaining a serious or severe injury.

Athletic participation benefits people by teaching self-esteem, team unity, proper health, and fellowship. Most people agree that the benefits of participating in athletics outweigh the risks. The coaching staff of Fairfield Local School District wants its athletes and parents/guardians to understand that there are risks involved with participating in

athletics. The coaching staff will continue to teach and practice only those techniques that promote safe participation, but the staff realizes that some athletic injuries will continue to occur. The staff hopes that the athletes and parents/guardians alike will take the time to learn more about athletic injuries and how to best avoid them. It will take a "team" effort from coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, and their parents/guardians to continue to provide safe participation for all of those involved. We hope that we can count on your support in this endeavor.

## **Concussions**

Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate healthcare professional that day. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition."

The language above appears in all National Federation sports rule books as part of the suggested guidelines for the management of a concussion. It reflects a heightened emphasis on the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion, especially since the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness. The following suggested guidelines provide the technicalities when an athlete in a contest or a practice in an OHSAA recognized sport sustains an apparent concussion.

1. No student-athlete should return to play or practice on the same day that the student suffers a confirmed concussion.
2. Any student-athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate healthcare professional that day. a. If it is confirmed during a contest or practice by the school's healthcare professional that the student did not sustain a concussion or head injury, the healthcare professional shall issue clearance to return to play. If the event occurred during a contest which continued, the head coach may advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play, and the student-athlete may re-enter competition pursuant to the contest rules. If the event occurred during a contest, the contest concludes, and the healthcare professional did NOT clear the student-athlete for return to play, the student-athlete should be subject to an appropriate return-to-play protocol which includes clearance to return to play, in writing, by a healthcare provider, and should not be issued on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play. Any student-athlete with a confirmed concussion or head injury should be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare provider prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition. After medical clearance by an appropriate healthcare provider, return to play should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for the delay of the return to play based upon the return of any signs or symptoms.

## **ImPACT-Immediate Post Assessment and Cognitive Testing**

All athletes will be given a 20-minute baseline test on the computer at the beginning of their first season at Fairfield High School. If an athlete has a concussion, they retake the test. It is suggested that the initial evaluation is 24-72 hours after injury. If, ImPACT results are abnormal or the athlete remains symptomatic, follow-up evaluations should be conducted at approximately five-day intervals.

Post-concussion test results are compared to the baseline test. The clinical use and analysis of ImPACT is an integral part of the protocol which assists clinicians in their evaluation process of the recovery and in return-to-play decisions.

The ImPACT test will be administered by the athletic trainer prior to the athlete's first contest.

### **Code of Conduct**

A student who is a member of a Fairfield athletic team in any capacity (athlete, cheerleader, student manager, athletic training student assistant, or statistician) must be willing to assume the responsibilities that go along with being a member of a team and wearing the red, white, and black. The student body, the community, and others often judge our school by our student athletes' conduct and attitude on and off the field, in season and out of season. Student-athletes and athletic support personnel are role models and therefore, are expected to be positive examples in school citizenship, scholastic effort, leadership, and in personal appearance.

The conduct of participants in athletics at Fairfield Middle and High School, in or out of school, shall be such as not to reflect discredit upon his/her school, nor create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, morale, or educational environment in his/her school. Areas of concern, such as, but not all-inclusive are: (1) tobacco use in any form, (2) alcohol use in any form, (3) use of drugs, depressants, stimulants, or any controlled substance, (4) use of performance-enhancing drugs, (5) verbal harassment, (6) sexual harassment, (7) theft, (8) vandalism, or (9) sexual violations. Acting in a manner that brings embarrassment or shame to yourself and/or your school, or that negatively impacts the reputation of yourself or your school shall be cause for disciplinary action by the school administration. Examples of such conduct include any illegal activity; any non-illegal activity that is lewd, vulgar, obscene, indecent, or that portrays sexual conduct done in a manner whereby the community learns of such activity, or any activity that degrades, demeans, or disparages any coach, activity sponsor, school official, or student.

Any student involved in an assault, possession of a weapon, intimidation toward staff or students, arson, theft, vandalism, falsifying school records, drugs, alcohol, fighting, extortion, hazing, and other similar serious violations will be subject to immediate suspension pending a hearing of the facts to determine the school's course of action.

It is expected that students will follow common rules of courtesy. Violations of rules of common courtesy include the failure to follow staff members' directions, talking back to a staff member, and the use of abusive or obscene language directed toward a staff member.

Students are prohibited from wearing messages on clothing, jewelry, and personal belongings that relate to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, violence, sex, vulgarity, or that reflect upon persons because of their race or ethnic group.

The school personnel shall enforce all rules and regulations as described in the Student Code of Conduct for athletes. All rules regarding behavior and/or training as outlined in



the OHSAA regulations apply. The Code will be reinforced by the coach of each sport during the year. Parents/guardians and athletes are required to sign the acknowledgment, consent, injury awareness, and disclosure document stating that they understand the Code and the athlete is subject to disciplinary measure should he/she violate the Code.

Evidence of violations of the Code may be determined by but not limited to the following: established charges filed by law enforcement officials or agencies, observation by members of the athletic staff, a faculty or staff member or administrator, or by the admission of the offender.

Any alleged violation of the Code shall be reported to the principal or his/her designee and then is to be followed by an investigation by any or all of the following people... coach, sponsor, athletic directors, principal, or his/her designee. The student shall be suspended from their team while the investigation is ongoing.

Be it understood that the Code of Conduct policy is in effect twenty-four (24) hours a day, twelve (12) months a year. Furthermore, violations of the Code are cumulative from season to season and year to year throughout the student/athlete's high school career.

During grades 7-12, students in violation of the code of conduct will be subject to the following penalties:

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### **Inappropriate Behaviors that will Be Addressed**

**Drug Policy** A student-athlete shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, caffeine-based pill, substance containing phenylpropanolamine (pps), stimulant, depressant, inhalant, solvent, ephedrine or intoxicant of any kind, whether prescription or sold over the counter. Proper use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a healthcare provider is not a violation of this rule. Possession of any drug paraphernalia such as but not limited to rolling papers or clips is also a violation of this rule. A student-athlete who finds themselves at a place where any of the above substances are being used is to leave the area to avoid being associated with that behavior.

**Alcohol Policy** A student-athlete shall not possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage. A student-athlete who finds themselves at places where underage drinking is taking place is expected to leave the area to avoid being associated with that behavior.

**Tobacco Policy** A student-athlete shall not use or possess tobacco in any form (including but not limited to snuff, chewing tobacco, or smoking tobacco on or off the grounds of Fairfield Middle & High School).

**Theft and Vandalism** A student-athlete shall not vandalize property, have stolen any item or have in their possession any stolen item from any source, including uniforms or equipment from Fairfield local schools, other schools, or communities.

**Verbal Harassment** A student-athlete shall not verbally harass another individual at any time and should report any instances of verbal harassment immediately.

**Sexual Harassment/Violations** A student-athlete shall not sexually harass or violate another individual in any way. If this behavior is observed it should be reported immediately.

**Felony Conviction** A student-athlete who is convicted of a felony will face the consequences listed in section 2 in addition to any sentence that is prescribed by the courts.

**Misdemeanor Conviction** A student-athlete who is convicted of a misdemeanor will face the consequences listed in section 2 in addition to any sentence that is prescribed by the courts.

**Juvenile Delinquency** A student-athlete who has been found delinquent on a juvenile delinquent act which would be a misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult will face the consequences listed in section 2 in addition to any punishment that is prescribed by the courts.

**Arrests** A student-athlete who has been charged with a crime and/or arrested and/or arrested and charged with a crime or delinquent act which would be a crime if committed by an adult will be suspended from the team for at least one contest. The high school principal, athletic director, and/or superintendent will decide if the student will be suspended until charged or if charges have been filed until his/her trial is concluded or if the suspension will be lifted before the conclusion of the trial. The high school principal, athletic director, and/or superintendent will determine the length of a student-athlete's suspension on a case-by-case basis. If the student-athlete is found guilty of a misdemeanor; a felony, or a juvenile delinquent act which would be a misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult, then the appropriate penalty will apply at the time of the conviction.

### **Levels of Consequences for Violating the Code of Conduct (Student-athletes will also be disciplined under the Student-Parent Handbook Code of Conduct)**

**Level 1** - Equivalent to 10% of the regular season

- First violation of the Tobacco Policy

**Level 2** - Equivalent to 25% of the regular season

- First violation of the Alcohol Policy
- First conviction of a Misdemeanor
- First conviction of criminal delinquency/recklessness

- First violation of the Theft or Vandalism Policy
- Second violation of the Tobacco Policy

**Level 3** - Equivalent to 50% of the regular season

- First violation of the Drug Policy
- Second violation of the Alcohol Policy
- Second conviction of criminal delinquency/recklessness
- Second conviction of a Misdemeanor
- Second violation of the Theft or Vandalism Policy
- Third violation of the Tobacco Policy

**Level 4** - One Calendar Year Exclusion from athletics

- Third conviction of a Misdemeanor
- Third violation of the Alcohol Policy
- Second violation of Use of Drugs + Substance Abuse Program
- First conviction of a Felony
- Third conviction of criminal delinquency/recklessness
- Fourth violation of Tobacco Policy

**Level 5** - Career Exclusion from athletics at Fairfield High School

- Third violation of the Drug Policy
- Second conviction of a Felony
- Fourth conviction of criminal delinquency/recklessness
- Fourth conviction of a Misdemeanor

Coaches shall have the right to impose further rules, as they deem proper for their activities as approved by the Athletic Director. An example would be: (Using the maximum number of contests allowed by the OHSAA.

| Sport         | Maximum Season Length | 10% of The Season | 25% of The Season | 50% of The Season |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Baseball      | 27 games              | 3 games           | 7 games           | 14 games          |
| Basketball    | 22 games              | 2 games           | 6 games           | 11 games          |
| Bowling       | 24 matches            | 2 matches         | 6 matches         | 12 matches        |
| Cross-Country | 16 meets              | 2 meets           | 4 meets           | 8 meets           |
| Golf          | 20 matches            | 2 matches         | 5 matches         | 10 matches        |
| Soccer        | 17 matches            | 2 matches         | 4 matches         | 9 matches         |
| Softball      | 27 games              | 3 games           | 7 games           | 14 games          |
| Track & Field | 16 meets              | 2 meets           | 4 meets           | 8 meets           |
| Volleyball    | 22 matches            | 2 matches         | 6 matches         | 11 matches        |
| Cheerleading  | Same as sports season |                   |                   |                   |

The length of the season does not include scrimmages and scrimmages do not count as a contest. The number of games is rounded up at point five (.5).

## **Terms of Suspension**

- a. A student-athlete who has been suspended from a team for one game, 25%, or 50% of the season is expected to continue their association with the team in terms of attending practice and following team rules. The student-athlete will attend the contests but is not allowed to participate in the contests and will not wear the jersey or uniform of the team on the sideline during the period of suspension.
- b. A student-athlete who has been excluded from participation for a full calendar year will not associate with that team or other Fairfield Local athletic teams. This includes after-school conditioning.
- c. A student-athlete who transfers into Fairfield while serving suspensions at their previous school will serve out the remainder of their penalty at Fairfield. The previous school's penalty will be honored in full and will not be increased or decreased in length.
- d. Records of violations will be kept on file in the athletic director's office. Violations will be cumulative in grades 9 through 12.
- e. Season length will be determined by the actual number of contests scheduled in a particular sport during the current school year. Cancellations due to weather, etc., will not affect the number of actual contests scheduled.

## **Carry-over Suspension**

If the violation of the code of conduct occurs in the last part of a sport's season and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of their violation in that sport, the suspension will carry over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes the next sport or the same sport next year. For example, if the suspension is for 25% of the soccer season (4 games) and the student-athlete misses only one game before the season has ended, then they will serve the remaining percentage of the suspension in their next athletic season. If that next season is basketball, then they must miss the remaining % of the basketball season. If a one-sport student-athlete elects to participate in a new sport to serve a suspension, they are expected to participate as an active player of that squad, not as a member of the support staff (e.g., manager or statistician). They will be required to complete that season in good standing.

## **Completing a Suspension**

When serving a suspension, the student-athlete is expected to be present at all athletic contests and practices involving their team or squad. The student-athlete is a member of the team and is expected to fulfill this responsibility. The head coach's discretion can excuse the student-athlete.

## **Summer Participation**

Suspended students are not allowed to participate in open facilities and summer instruction. Students who have been excluded for one year of participation will not be

allowed to participate in summer instruction. Summer instruction is considered the same as practice.

### **Self-Reporting**

**Level 2 Consequence - Alcohol Policy** The penalty will be reduced to 10% of the current and/or next sport season if the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) report the violation to the principal and/or athletic directors, or coach prior to their independent confirmation of a violation.

**Level 3 Consequence - Tobacco Policy, Alcohol Policy, Drug Policy** The penalty will be reduced to 25% of the current and/or next sport season if:

1. The student or the student's parents or guardians report the violation to the principal and/or the athletic directors, or coach prior to their independent confirmation of a violation and the student-athlete
2. The student submits to and receives a certificate of completion from a substance abuse program of assessment, counseling, screening, and/or indicated therapy. The program must have been approved by the principal and may include a recommendation for parent or guardian participation. The cost of the program is the responsibility of the student and/or his/her parents.

**Level 3 Consequence - Theft or Vandalism Policy** The penalty will be reduced to 25% of the current and/or next sport season if the student or the student's parents or guardians report the violation to the principal and/or athletic directors or coach prior to their independent confirmation of a violation.

**Level 4 and 5 Consequence - All-Inclusive** There will be no reduction of penalty at Level 4 or Level 5

### **Appeal For Reinstatement**

Level 4 consequences will include a provision that the student-athlete may appeal for reinstatement after one sports season.

Level 5 consequences will include a provision that the student-athlete may appeal for reinstatement after one calendar year from the date of the declaration of suspension. Only one appeal for reinstatement may be granted during grades 9 through 12.

### **Parent and Student Notification**

Parents will be notified in writing of each offense. On the second violation of the Drug Policy, the student must attend substance abuse counseling at the student's own expense and receive a certificate of completion. The certificate will be approved by the principal and filed in the principal's office.

### **Appeals/Hearing**

A student-athlete and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to a hearing on the removal from participation by notifying the Fairfield High School athletic director by phone or in writing within two (2) school days after the removal. The right of appeal is forfeited if this is not requested within this two (2) school day limit. The purpose of the appeal hearing is to inquire into the student-athlete's alleged violation and allow the student-athlete and parents or guardians to present evidence on behalf of the student-athlete. The removal from participation will remain in effect during the appeal process.

## **TEAM RULES**

A coach may establish team-specific rules that are more restrictive than this code. Such rules must be approved by the athletic director before implementation. Once approved, these rules must be provided in writing or electronically to team members and their parents/guardians. A copy of these team-specific rules will be made available to the school board if requested.

## **CELL PHONES AND CAMERAS**

Cell phone cameras or any camera may not be used inside a locker room for any purpose. This rule applies to all players, managers, and coaches without exceptions. Violation of this rule will result in immediate penalties, including possible dismissal from the team. If a photograph is taken, it may be turned over to legal authorities for possible prosecution.

## **SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES**

Student-athletes are accountable for information contained in written or electronic transmissions (e.g., email) and any information posted on public domains (e.g., internet, chat rooms, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram). Inappropriate or embarrassing information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. While student-athletes are not prohibited from participating in online social networks, they should remember that they represent their team, the athletic program, and their community.

Texting, tweeting, and using other social networks to disparage or criticize the team, other students, opponents, coaches, or other school personnel is inappropriate and unbecoming of a Fairfield Local Schools student-athlete. Any individual identified on a social networking site engaging in illegal or inappropriate behavior will be considered in violation and subject to athletic discipline or suspension per policy guidelines.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Academic Eligibility**

- Grades 9-12: To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.

- Grades 7 & 8: To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of four of all subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period.

### **Eligibility Periods**

For academic eligibility, there will be a period after each nine-week grade check. If a student does not receive the required credits in a grading period, they are ineligible for the next nine-week grading period, starting five days after the grades are turned in.

### **Grade Checks**

Each athlete's grades will be checked periodically by the coach and/or athletic director to maintain their grades throughout the season. Athletes needing academic assistance should notify the coach, athletic director, principal, or guidance counselor immediately for help.

### **Conditions of Ineligibility**

During periods of ineligibility, students shall not participate with the team in any capacity except at the coach and/or athletic director's discretion.

### **Applicability**

FFA, Band, Choir, and School Yearbook are considered co-curricular activities and may have exemptions from certain requirements.

### **College Credit Plus (CCP) Student**

Academic standing requirements apply to CCP students according to the academic calendar of the college or university through which they are taking courses.

### **Special Eligibility Concerns for Athletes**

Fairfield Local Schools follows all athletic rules and regulations prescribed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). All athletes must maintain OHSAA standards to remain eligible.

It is recommended that athletes considering college-level athletics consult with the guidance counselor and athletic director for information on college entrance and eligibility requirements.

**Parents and students share the responsibility to comply with scholarship standards. Therefore, students should consult with the athletic administrator before dropping a class to ensure it does not affect athletic eligibility.**

## Incompletes

An incomplete in a course at the end of a grading period or semester counts as a failure until the deficiency has been removed.

## DISCIPLINARY ELIGIBILITY

- **Suspension:** Any student suspended from school for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities for one day for each day of suspension, up to a maximum of 5 days following their return to school. During this time, students are expected to demonstrate intent to seriously pursue their academic education and fulfill their responsibilities as students to the school's rules and regulations.
- **Expulsion:** Students expelled from school for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletic contests for one nine-week grading period following their return to school. Students returning in the fall from a spring semester expulsion will not be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletic contests for the first nine weeks of the new school year.
- **Ejection from OHSAA Contest:** Any athlete ejected from an OHSAA contest for an unsportsmanlike act shall be suspended from the next interschool contest at that level of competition and all other interschool contests at any level in the interim, in addition to any other penalties assessed.
- **Unsportsmanlike Acts on the Road:** Unsportsmanlike acts that occur on the road are subject to harsher penalties at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and principal.

## School Administrators' Authority:

- **Protection of School Image:** The outlined disciplinary and eligibility rules do not negate the school administrators' right and responsibility to protect the image of the school. Administrators retain the authority to remove a student from participation in any extracurricular activity if it is deemed not in the best interest of the school corporation.

## Coaches' Authority:

- **Setting Additional Rules:** Coaches have the right to establish additional non-academic rules that regulate student participation in extracurricular activities. These rules may be more specific or restrictive than the general code of conduct outlined.

## Suspensions by Due Process:

- **Effect on Eligibility:** A school due process suspension (out of school) renders a student-athlete ineligible for competition and practice in any activity for the duration of the due process.



## Athletic Transfers & Residency Requirements:

- **Transfer Eligibility Period:** If a student transfers after the fifth day of their ninth-grade year or after establishing eligibility by participating in a contest before the start of the school year, they will be ineligible for 50% of the season from the date of enrollment in the new school. This rule applies when a student changes enrollment from one school to another or participates in activities with a school-sponsored squad without prior enrollment.
- **Exceptions to Transfer Bylaw:** Specific exceptions to the general transfer bylaw may apply. These exceptions are subject to the provisions outlined in Section 7 - Transfer.

**Exception 1:** If the parents or legal guardian have made a bona fide legal change of residence from one public school district to another public school district, the student may enroll in either the public school within the boundaries of that public school district that includes the new residence of the parents or legal guardian or any non-public school. The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office upon submission of an accurately completed Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence and accompanying guidelines. Parents making a bona fide legal change of residence into the state of Ohio for the first time may enroll the student in any school that accepts that student. That student shall be eligible insofar as transfer is concerned in accordance with this bylaw. Note 1: These forms can be found at <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/AffidavitBonaFideResidence.pdf>. Note 2: See the definition of a bona fide residence in Bylaw 4-6-1.

*Bylaw 4-6-1: The districts for all public schools are established by the State Board Of Education and defined for athletic purposes. In addition, school districts with multiple high schools may establish attendance zones within those districts. In determining one's residence for purposes of these bylaws, the following criteria shall apply: (a) where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time, (b) where the mail is received, (c) where the meals are prepared and eaten, (d) where the parents are registered to vote, and (e) where important family activities take place during significant parts of each day. Note: It shall not be considered a "bona fide" change of residence as prescribed in Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 1, or Bylaw 4-7-4 (1) if the parents of a transfer student vacate the residence prior to one year from the date of transfer and the student remains in the school into which the transfer was approved. Penalty for the student: ineligibility for one year from the date the parents vacate the residence.*

## Additional Transfer Policy Information:

- **Meeting with Athletic Director:** There are 10 more exceptions to the transfer policy that are not outlined in the handbook. Students who have switched schools or intend to do so are strongly advised to arrange a meeting with the Athletic Director. This meeting will help them understand the entire policy of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) to determine their eligibility.
- **Enrollment Timing for Transfers to Fairfield Local School District:** Any student-athlete planning to transfer into the Fairfield Local School District must be enrolled at the time of tryouts for any athletic team. This requirement applies to sports such as Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Baseball, Softball, and Track & Field. If a student-athlete enrolls after the tryout period, they will not be eligible to participate until the following season. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **PARTICIPATION**

A student-athlete must follow OHSAA standards as outlined in the OHSAA By-Laws. Always confer with the athletic director or the OHSAA for participation guidelines.

None of the above is seen as a forfeiture of the right and responsibility of the school administrators to protect the image of the school by removing a student from participation in any extracurricular activity at any time that the student's participation is not in the best interest of the school district.

None of the above is seen as a forfeiture of the right of coaches to set additional non-academic rules which regulate participation of students in extracurricular activities.

**If an athlete plans to participate on a team outside of the school's jurisdiction and/or participate in a camp or clinic during the summer or school year, they should contact the athletic director before attending any practices or sending any registration fees. The OHSAA rules concerning situations are strict, and the athlete must protect themselves from penalties.**

Athletes that compete in multiple sports across the three sports seasons must be given a minimum of three days off after the conclusion of the previous sports season before transitioning into the sport for the next season, but no more than five days off. Incoming coaches determine how many days (three to five) that they will grant an athlete to have off. Athletes/Parents can choose not to take the days off between seasons, but it is strongly encouraged to take at least the minimum to recoup and reenergize for the upcoming season.

### **WHAT MUST BE DONE BEFORE YOUR FIRST PRACTICE**

The following items are to be completed by the athlete and parent/guardian before the first practice with any team:

- Take and pass a physical examination and have supporting student, parent, and doctor signatures on the OHSAA physical form.
- Meet academic eligibility requirements.
- Meet OHSAA residency requirements.
- Meet OHSAA age requirements.
- Have a Fairfield Local Schools Athletic Packet completed and on file (including the student emergency medical form, FLSD Athletic Participation Consent Form, FLSD Student Athlete and Student Athlete's Parent Pledge, OHSAA Eligibility Checklist, Ohio Department of Health Concussion Acknowledgment form, and FLSD Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook form).

### **WHAT MUST BE DONE BEFORE YOUR FIRST CONTEST**

In addition to the above, the following items are to be completed by the athlete and parent/guardian before the first contest with any team:

- Have the team rules signed by the athlete, parent/s, or legal guardian/s.

- Attend the OHSAA team parent/guardian meeting.
- Have athletic transfer filed and approved by the OHSAA (transfer students new to Fairfield High School cannot compete in interscholastic contests until an athletic transfer is complete).
- Foreign exchange students must have completed the appropriate OHSAA form.

## **ATTENDANCE**

School and Game Day:

Student-athletes are expected to be in attendance both on the day of and the day after all weekday athletic contests. Student-athletes must be in attendance the day prior in case of a weekend contest. Student athletes and student staff are expected to be in attendance at school on time the day following all evening weekday contests. Failure to do so may result in suspension of the student athlete from the next event/contest. A student must be in attendance for no less than half of the regular school day to participate in any sporting event or practice. School-approved field trips or school activities constitute attending school. Students are only allowed to participate in practice or an event if their absence is verified by a doctor's note, a note from a parent explaining a family emergency, or a note from another meeting involving a professional. Any student who comes to school before the 11:32 am (5th period) bell must present a written excuse to the principal and/or athletic director to be approved for practice and/or that evening's contest. Any student who comes to school after the 11:32 am (5th period) bell will be ineligible for participation in that evening's activities unless there has been prior approval from the principal and/or athletic director. Tardiness to any class during the school day is not acceptable.

## **PRACTICE & PARTICIPATION**

A student athlete shall attend and actively participate in regularly scheduled practice sessions to be eligible for interschool athletic competition. Each coach will have an attendance policy for his or her team, and student-athletes will need to adhere to this policy to participate on the team.

## **ATHLETIC TRAINER AND REPORTING INJURIES**

The athletic department will assume no responsibility or payment for medical treatment for an injury incurred during practices or contests. A state-licensed athletic trainer is employed by Highland District Hospital for the purpose of treating injuries that are not severe enough to be referred to a doctor. All injuries are to be reported to the coach and to the athletic trainer.

## **PRACTICES**

Regular, Vacation, and School Closing:

All team members are expected to attend all practices. Practice schedules during school vacations are set by the coach, and only the coach can excuse an athlete from practice. Practices during a school closing lime (snow, etc.) are under the discretion of the

administration. There will be no penalty for any student who does not participate on a day school is canceled.

If an activity is planned by the OHSAA, which is under no control of our school corporation, our students' participation will be reviewed to determine if attendance and participation is acceptable.

All athletic practices are closed to friends, parents, and family members unless otherwise stated by the coach.

### **CUTOFF DATE**

Each sport will have a cut-off date for being a member of the team. Usually, this date will coincide with the OHSAA guidelines. No one will be accepted on any team after the passing of this date.

### **EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS**

All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (excepting normal wear and tear), or the athlete is expected to compensate the Athletic Department for the lost or damaged equipment. Failure to return equipment or to compensate the school for lost or damaged equipment will result in forfeiture of all athletic awards for that sport. No athlete may practice or try out for another sport until all issued equipment has been turned in, all bills paid, and they have been cleared by the previous sports coach. Remember that stealing or wearing stolen equipment is a violation of the Code of Conduct. Equipment may not be worn during the school day, at home, or on the streets without approval of the coach of that sport. All uniforms and warmups must be approved by school officials before being worn at events.

### **CONFLICTS BETWEEN ACTIVITIES AND DUAL SPORTS**

Activities at Fairfield involve many students. From time to time, there may be conflicts between the times of activities, and the athlete will have to make a decision as to which one to attend. Interscholastic sports at the high school level require a substantial time commitment, usually extending Monday through Saturday from the first official day of practice until the end of the tournament series. A commitment to a high school athletic team indicates that all non-school conflicts will be resolved in favor of the high school team. This would not include such things as significant religious holidays, participating in a relative's wedding, a family member's funeral, etc.

If a conflict between school activities arises, the athlete should notify the coach and/or sponsors involved. They, in turn, will attempt to resolve the conflict as equitably as possible. The general rule is that a contest takes priority over a practice. If two competitions are involved, the higher level of competition will take priority. If the conflict persists, the parties involved may contact the athletic director.

A student athlete wishing to play two sports during the same season must discuss this with the head coaches of the two teams involved. If both coaches agree that the practice and game schedules can be worked out, then the student athlete may participate in both

sports. The coaches involved must ensure that the parents are well aware of all practice and game arrangements before the season begins. Practice schedules will be coordinated between the coaches involved. The athlete must meet the requirements of both sports. If the requirements are not met, the athlete may be removed from the sport(s). The coaches involved must also discuss this situation with the athletic director at the time of the initial request by the student athlete. The athlete must complete a dual sport agreement form and submit it to the athletic director. The athlete will choose his or her primary sport and must attend all practices and games scheduled for that sport. One exception to this would be when an athlete has a game/contest for the secondary sport and practice for the primary sport. The game/contest of the secondary sport supersedes practice of the primary sport.

### **CUTS/QUITTING A SPORT/REMOVAL FROM A TEAM**

If an athlete is cut from a team, he/she may join another team or program in that sport season. An athlete has until the first game to decide whether or not he or she wishes to stay out for that sport. If an athlete quits a sport during this grace period, he or she must practice for two full weeks before being allowed to participate in another regular contest in a sport being held during the same season.

Any athlete quitting a sport following the grace period shall not be allowed to participate in that sport for the remainder of that season or participate in any other sport that is being played during that season. In addition, the athlete will be required to miss the first 25% of his or her games in the next sport season.

Any athlete who quits a team or is removed from a team for any reason during the season will not be permitted to try out for any other team of that sport season or participate in a practice, conditioning program, or weight room activity of any team preparing for an upcoming season.

The end of the sport season is defined as the day following the last scheduled contest for all teams other than varsity; for all OHSAA tournament roster teams, the date that a team is eliminated from the state tournament is considered the conclusion of a sport season.

### **TEAM SELECTION POLICIES**

Coaches of the sports at Fairfield Local Schools have their own policy on how they will choose their teams. In some sports, cutting a team down to manageable size is a necessity. Coaches will explain their policy to candidates for their team at their first meeting. An athlete may be removed from a team at any time during a season.

### **CHEERLEADERS**

Fairfield cheerleaders are representatives of and ambassadors for our school. In addition to fostering spirit and good sportsmanship, they serve as positive role models for the youth of our community. All requirements for participation that apply to other athletes (such as physicals, Code of Conduct, etc.) also apply to cheerleaders. Cheerleaders are selected in the spring by the Cheerleader coaches and/or certified

cheerleader judges. The procedure for selection of cheerleaders is established by the coach and/or athletic director.

The cheerleaders primarily cheer at boys' basketball contests; however, they are also occasionally assigned to other sports and related activities.

Cheerleaders must successfully complete the entire school year to count as one sport. Cheerleaders may participate in OHSAA sanctioned sports during the year while a member of the cheer squad. The dual sport policy applies to cheerleaders if they are also a member of a sports team. Failure of the cheerleader/s to participate in all assigned activities unless released by the coach and/or the athletic director will result in dismissal from the squad.

## **Pep Rally Policy**

### **Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball\*\*, Baseball\*\***

\*All of the celebrations listed below are at the discretion of the head coach. Some coaches may elect to skip or not have a pep rally/hallway walkthrough, etc., for various reasons.

The above teams get a pep rally/hallway walkthrough and spirit signs when they:

- Win a district semi-final game. The team will get a pep rally and spirit signs before their next contest (district finals).
- Win a district final game. The team will get a pep rally and spirit signs before their next contest (regional semi-final). A police escort will try to be arranged if possible.
- Win a regional final game. The team will get a pep rally and spirit signs before their next contest (state semi-final). A police escort will try to be arranged if possible.
- Advance to state finals. The team will get a pep rally and spirit signs after a state semi-final win (if timing allows). A police escort will try to be arranged if possible.
- State champion. The team will get a pep rally and spirit signs after winning a state championship. A police escort when the team hits city/county limits will try to be arranged if possible.

\*\*Spring Sports may receive alternate celebrations depending on cheerleader availability, school year-end activities, and summer schedules. This may vary for each spring sport.

### **Cross-Country, Golf, Bowling, Track & Field\*\* (gets the same as above if they win districts as a team, advance to regionals, or state as a team)**

\*All of the celebrations listed below are at the discretion of the head coach. Some coaches may elect to skip or not have a pep rally/hallway walkthrough, etc., for various reasons.

The above individual athletes get a pep rally/hallway walkthrough and spirit signs when they:

- Individual district champion. The individual gets a hallway walkthrough and signs.
- Individual regional champion or advances to state. The individual gets a hallway walkthrough and signs. A police escort will try to be arranged if possible.
- Individual state champion or podium. The individual gets a hallway walkthrough or pep rally and signs. A police escort when the individual hits city/county limits will try to be arranged if possible.

\*\*Spring Sports may receive alternate celebrations depending on cheerleader availability, school year-end activities, and summer schedules. This may vary for each spring sport.

### **Special Event Pep Rallies**

- Homecoming pep rally.

\*Athletic Director/Principals/Cheer Advisors reserve the right to hold additional pep rallies or have signs created for various sporting events/milestones.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The time on the bus is an important team time for many reasons. All athletes are expected to travel to and from away contests with the team. In the event that it is necessary to provide alternate transportation, the following policies are in place:

- An athlete will only be permitted to leave with their parent/guardian or others listed on their Final Forms.
- Coaches are permitted to set their own rules pertaining to how many times per season an athlete may choose alternate transportation home from an away contest. This means coaches can choose to require athletes to ride the bus home from contests also. If coaches allow athletes to leave after a contest, the athlete may only leave with those listed on this form. The athlete must be signed out after the contest and at that point, the parent/guardian or other person with permission assumes custody and full responsibility for transporting the athlete. The school district is released from all liability at that point.
- If a coach requires athletes to ride the bus home from a contest and there is an emergency or extremely unlikely occurrence when it is absolutely necessary for the parent/guardian or other person to transport a student from a contest, permission must be granted by the principal or game administrator. The person taking the athlete must sign them out and at that point, the parent/guardian or other person with permission assumes custody and full responsibility for transporting the athlete. The school district is released from all liability at that point.

## **GROOMING AND APPEARANCE**

Fairfield athletes act as representatives of the school and community and therefore are required to exhibit a well-groomed and appropriate appearance. The Principal and Athletic Director will determine Athletic Department guidelines as needed concerning the appropriateness of styles within the context of safety and accepted social norms.

## **SUMMER PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

Summer program participation is an opportunity for athletes to improve their conditioning and athletic skills. Athletes are encouraged to take advantage of these programs. In order to participate in these summer programs, athletes should submit a valid physical examination.

## **WEIGHT ROOM**

The weight room is available for use by athletes before and after school as scheduled by the athletic director. No student shall use the weight room facilities without adult supervision. No food or drinks are allowed in the weight room. Teams must sign up for times with the athletic director to use the weight room while they are "in season" and during the "off-season". Weights should be returned to the racks before athletes leave the area. Areas used should be properly cleaned after each use. Failure to properly clean or inappropriate use of the weight room will be cause for the athlete to be suspended from the facility for a period of time as set forth by the athletic director.

## **PRE-SEASON PARENT MEETING**

At the beginning of each sport season, the athletes and their parents are asked to attend an OHSAA required meeting with the coaches of their sport to be informed of specific rules and policies that pertain to that particular sport.

## **SEASON PASSES**

Season passes may be purchased from the athletic director or the high school secretary.

|  | Student/Senior Citizen | Adult    |
|--|------------------------|----------|
| Family Pass (Immediate Household Only) | \$275.00               |          |
| Basketball Only Pass                   | \$60.00                | \$75.00  |
| All Sports Pass (Single)               | \$75.00                | \$100.00 |

## **NCAA & SCHOLARSHIPS**

NCAA academic standards have been established for continued participation at the college level. Athletes planning to pursue athletics at the collegiate level must see the Guidance Department for the newly published NCAA guidelines. This information contains detailed descriptions of requirements for collegiate athletic participation. Student-athletes wishing to participate in collegiate athletics must meet NCAA athletic eligibility requirements.



These requirements include, but are not limited to:

1. Specific Grade Point Average in the Core Curriculum.
2. Specific Scores on the ACT and/or the SAT.
3. Must register with and be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.  
To register, go to  
[www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/student/index\\_student.html](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/student/index_student.html).

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

Awards are an integral part of most activities. They exist to reward, indicate belonging, and show commitment to a cause. Fairfield athletes are recognized with a wide variety of earned awards. It's important to keep awards in perspective. While they're significant, too many or inappropriate awards can indicate a disregard for the true meaning of sport, while too few can indicate a feeling of non-importance. In reality, awards cannot truly show what has been gained from competing in athletics: the development of loyalties, commitment to a cause, learning about one's limits, and representing one's school, community, family, and self.

All Fairfield athletes, cheerleaders, and support staff of OHSAA sanctioned sports who attend practices and contests are eligible to earn awards. Each sport has the option to grant awards, and all awards are purchased by the school. Jackets, updates, and award patches are purchased by the athletes. No athlete may receive an award in a sport for which he/she is academically ineligible at the completion of the season, under suspension for an athletic violation, or otherwise not in good standing in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Candidates must complete the season's play to receive an award; however, injuries may waive this stipulation. An athlete injured during the season must stay active in the sport in some capacity to earn their awards. No awards will be issued until equipment is turned in to the coach, all bills are paid, and the athlete is cleared by the coach.

New athletes to Fairfield (transfers) upon proof will have their varsity letters earned at their previous school recognized by and count toward awards at Fairfield. The same is true for participation at various levels of play at the previous school. This will be confirmed by the athletic director.

The athlete must attend the sports award program for their sport to receive their awards. Special situations requiring non-attendance must be arranged in advance with the coach.

## **FAIRFIELD AWARDS NIGHT**

At the conclusion of each season, the Fairfield Athletic Department holds an awards night at which all school awards are presented to the teams represented during that season.

Cheerleaders are honored at the winter awards night. An athlete must be present, unless unforeseen circumstances occur, to receive their awards.

All awards are presented on campus at the Fairfield High School Athletic Awards Night at the conclusion of each season.

JH and JV teams receive up to two awards plaques per season, and each athlete receives a certificate. Varsity teams receive up to four awards plaques per season, each athlete receives a certificate, each athlete receives one varsity letter in their career, and each athlete receives a pin for each year they participate on a varsity sports team.

### **VARSITY LETTER REQUIREMENTS**

The Fairfield Athletic Department issues a varsity sports letter. The awarding of a certificate recognizes participation in any other level of competition. The head coach of each sport determines the requirements for earning a varsity letter. Varsity lettering must include completion of the season in good standing with the team unless the season is ended by an injury that occurs while participating in that sport.

### **LEO PANTHERA AWARD/ MVP**

This award is given to recognize the athlete making the greatest contribution to his or her sport in terms of overall excellence in performance and leadership.

### **LION PRIDE AWARD**

This award is given to the athlete whose performance indicates a great degree of improvement, character development, and participation during the season.

### **SOUTHERN HILLS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE AWARDS**

As a member of the Southern Hills Athletic Conference, Fairfield athletes may be selected to All-Conference teams. Criteria for selection are governed by the constitution of the conference. Following the fall, winter, and spring sport seasons, a banquet is held to honor those selected and all championship teams. Athletes selected as All-Conference team members are required to attend the banquet for their season. Additionally, the first and second place finishing teams in both large and small divisions must attend this banquet.

### **BANNERS & TROPHIES**

Banners and Trophies, as approved by the Fairfield Local Schools Athletic Council and Administration, will be displayed on the gymnasium walls and in trophy cases for the following OHSAA and Conference achievements:

Individual Athlete Banners (Please note that banner sizes could change for various reasons):

- The OHSAA sponsored sports listed below will receive an INDIVIDUAL athlete banner in the HS gymnasium if:
  - State champion banner will be 4x6
  - Top finisher banner will be 36"x53.5"

- Cross Country: Top 30 finisher in the state tournament
- Golf: Top 10 finisher in the state tournament
- Bowling: Top 15 finisher in the state tournament
- Track & Field: Top 8 finisher in the state tournament

Individual Athlete All-Ohio Cutout (Please note that All-Ohio Cutout sizes could change for various reasons):

- The OHSAA sponsored sports listed below will receive an INDIVIDUAL athlete All-Ohio Cutout in the HS gymnasium if (One Cutout per athlete for entire career, unless accolades require multiple due to space on Cutout):
  - Basketball (OPSWA): 1st team, 2nd team, 3rd team, and Special Mention All-Ohio (Honorable Mention Not Included for basketball)
  - Baseball (OHSBCA/Mizuno): 1st Team, 2nd Team, Honorable Mention All-Ohio
  - Softball (OFPSCA): 1st Team, 2nd Team, Honorable Mention All-Ohio
  - Soccer (OSBSCA/OSGSCA): 1st Team, 2nd Team All-Ohio
  - Volleyball (OHSVCA): 1st Team, 2nd Team, 3rd Team, Honorable Mention All-Ohio
  - Cross Country: State Tournament Qualifier
  - Track: State Tournament Qualifier
  - Bowling: State Tournament Qualifier
  - Golf: District Champion, State Tournament Qualifier

(Note: Please note that each sport varies on All-Ohio 1st/2nd/3rd teams and honorable/special mention teams. In this case, 1st through 3rd team will receive an All-Ohio Cutout for all sports and the next level after 2nd/3rd team will also receive an All-Ohio Cutout.)

Team Banners (Please note that banner sizes could change for various reasons):

- The OHSAA sponsored sports teams listed below will receive a TEAM banner in the HS gymnasium if:
  - TEAM reaches the elite 8 (top 8 team for Cross Country, Golf, Bowling, Track & Field) in their designated sport (36"x53.5" TEAM Banner)
  - TEAM reaches the final 4 (top 4 team for Cross Country, Golf, Bowling, Track & Field) in their designated sport (Size of TEAM Banner will be determined)
  - Team reaches state finals (top 2 team for Cross Country, Golf, Bowling, Track & Field) in their designated sport (Size of TEAM Banner will be determined)
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Baseball
- Softball

- Track & Field
- The OHSAA sponsored sports team listed below will receive updates to their Add-A-Year Banner located in the HS gymnasium if:
  - League Champions
  - Sectional Champions
  - District Champions
  - Regional Champions
  - State Champions
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Baseball
- Softball
- Track & Field

Team All-Ohio Cutout (Please note that All-Ohio Cutout sizes could change for various reasons):

- The OHSAA sponsored sports listed below will receive a Team All-Ohio Cutout in the HS gymnasium if (One Cutout per athlete for entire career, unless accolades require multiple due to space on Cutout):
  - District Champion Team:
    - Volleyball
    - Soccer
    - Cross Country
    - Golf
    - Basketball
    - Bowling
    - Baseball
    - Softball
    - Track & Field
  - State Tournament Participant Team:
    - Cross Country
    - Golf
    - Track
    - Bowling

SHAC All Sports Award Banners (Please note that banner sizes could change for various reasons):

- SHAC All Sports Awards Banners will be placed in the HS gymnasium.

Trophies:

- Trophies that will go into the designated sports trophy case:
  - League Champion

- OHSAA awarded (District Runner-Up and Above)
- Trophies that will rotate every academic year:
  - Any trophy received during the academic year in sessions
    - League Champions and OHSAA awarded trophies will move into their designated sports trophy case at the conclusion of the academic year
    - All remaining trophies will be granted to the head coach of the designated team to award to keep, award to another coach, or award to a player on that team
  - Historic trophies will remain with their designated sport in the trophy case
- Individual awards/honors/memorabilia/trophies:
  - Will remain in their designated sports trophy case for as long as space allows
  - If space becomes an issue, these items will return to the awardee
- Middle School Trophy Case:
  - An area will be designated for middle school trophies and will include:
    - League Champion
    - Tournament Champion
    - Tournament Runner-Up
- Cheerleading Trophy Case:
  - An area will be designated for high school and middle school cheerleading trophies and awards
    - As space becomes limited, trophies/awards will be rotated out and given to the coach to distribute as they wish.

## **COMMUNICATION GUIDE**

Appropriate lines of communication are vital to all parties involved in high school athletics. Concerns are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. The staff should be given the opportunity to consider the issue and address the concerns. A complaint about school personnel will be investigated fully and fairly; however, no such action will take place until it is in writing and signed. Anonymous complaints will be discarded.

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to student athletes. As parents, when your son or daughter becomes involved in the program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This all starts with clear communication from the coach of your child.

As your child becomes involved in the various athletic programs of Fairfield Local Middle School and High School, it is our hope that they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their life. It is important to understand that things may not always go as your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach may be desirable (in fact, encouraged) to clear up the issues and avoid any misunderstanding.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coach:

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

#### Inappropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coach:

- Playing time
- Play calling
- Position assignments
- Team strategy
- Matters concerning other student athletes

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. It is imperative that certain matters be left to the discretion of the coach.

#### Procedure to Follow if You Have a Concern to Discuss With a Coach:

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and a parent. Such a meeting is encouraged when necessary. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. Each should be willing to listen. The following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue:

- Contact the coach the day after a contest to set up an appointment.
- If a coach cannot be reached after a reasonable period of time, call the Athletic Director. An appointment with the coach will be arranged for you.
- Important: Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice session.

These can be emotional times for both parents and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

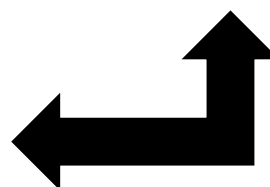
#### **The Next Step:**

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution? Although total agreement may not always be reached, most often such a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding. If the parent desires further communication, please call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step will be determined.

#### **Proper Chain of Command for Complaints:**

Fairfield Local Middle and High School, in conjunction with the Athletic Department, follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe this order if you elect to pursue any concern you may have regarding the athletic program:

1. The Coach
2. Athletic Director



3. Principal
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

## **Sportsmanship Philosophy and Guidelines**

The Fairfield Local Middle School and High School Athletic Department believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to ensure that all participants have a common understanding of those basic principles. We believe that participation is more important than winning. We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that playing well is playing honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel and is directed towards the behavior of spectators, coaches, and players. An additional component to consider is coaches' ethics. We believe the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. We, therefore, expect school administrators, coaches, athletes, cheerleaders, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship:

- Respect should be demonstrated for athletic opponents and their schools at all times. We should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the consideration all persons deserve. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.
- Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. Officials must be assumed to be impartial arbiters who are trained to do their job and can be expected to do the job to the best of their ability.
- Knowledge of and proper respect for the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the "letter" of the rules.
- All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized.
- All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and goodwill that is encouraged in all member schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during, and after contests.

## **Coaches**

Coaches bear the greatest responsibility for the development of sportsmanship as they have the greatest influence on the attitudes and behaviors of players, the student body, and the community. Coaches must value sportsmanship and teach it through their words and by example.

Therefore, coaches should embrace the following appropriate behavior:

- Instruct their players in the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
- Teach the value of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- Make sportsmanlike behavior a matter of team discipline, with appropriate consequences for team members who display inappropriate behavior.
- Remind the student body at every opportunity that visiting teams are guests and, as their hosts, they should be polite and courteous.
- Respect the officials' judgment and interpretation of the rules.
- Demonstrate publicly the ideals of good sportsmanship by such acts as shaking hands with officials and opposing coaches before and after contests.

Coaches should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors:

- Use of profanity
- Ejection from contests
- Berating officials or players
- Inciting spectators/players to inappropriate behavior

## **Athletes**

Because athletes are admired and respected, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of the spectators. It is important that players:

- Treat opponents with the respect that is due them as guests and as fellow athletes.
- Shake hands with opponents and wish them good luck when appropriate.
- Exercise self-control at all times, accepting the judgment of the Officials as just that, the best judgment they could make given what they know and see.
- Never argue or make gestures indicating a lack of respect for the officials' judgment.
- Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.
- Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.

Athletes should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors:

- Use of profanity.
- Ejection from contests.
- Berating officials or fellow athletes.
- Inciting spectators and/or other athletes to inappropriate behavior.



- Leaving the bench area when not competing, or becoming involved in any type of altercation.

If an athlete receives a technical foul during a contest due to inappropriate behavior, he or she will not be permitted to play the remainder of that contest. If an athlete receives a second technical foul in the same season for behavior, he or she will sit out the remainder of that game, as well as, the next game. The athlete and coach will be required to meet with the athletic director prior to playing again. If the same athlete receives a third technical foul in the same season for behavior, he or she will face further suspension and/or removal from the team - as determined by administration.

## **Cheerleaders**

Cheerleaders are representatives of the student body. By setting a good example, the cheerleaders can influence and control the actions of the student spectators. They should:

- Establish standards of desirable behavior in keeping with the fundamentals of good sportsmanship for the cheerleaders and student spectators.
- Use positive cheers to encourage their own team without demeaning their opponents.
- Use discretion in deciding when to cheer and which cheers to use.
- Never attempt to distract opposing players or in any way interfere with their performance.
- Serve as hosts for visiting cheerleaders.

It should be noted that coaches and athletes ejected from interscholastic athletic contests will be accountable to the disciplinary procedure in the bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association as printed in the Association's handbook. Further action above and beyond this may be invoked by the school administration.

Cheerleaders must abide by the guidelines of the cheer packet that they receive prior to trying out for the squad.

## **Spectators**

Partisan spectators, by their behaviors and reactions, determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded, and should keep in mind, that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing interscholastic teams. They expect to be treated in that manner. Spectators should be reminded too, that the contest should be between the teams and athletes engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators:

- Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and athletes of all teams.
- Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is inappropriate.
- Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
- Respect the judgment and professionalism of the officials and coaches.

Spectators should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors: Verbal/physical abuse of contest officials. Berating athletes, coaches, officials, or other spectators with chants, signs, or cheers. Interruption of contests by throwing objects, entering the area of competition or becoming involved in disruptive behavior.

\*The Fairfield Local School District administration has the right to suspend any fan that is removed from a contest. The length of the suspension will be at the discretion of the administration, which may include one contest, one sport season, or for the remainder of the school year.

We believe that each participant should be committed to upholding the ideals of good sportsmanship put forth in this document. In this spirit, it should be understood that appropriate disciplinary action will be taken when incidents of inappropriate behavior occur. We also recognize the importance of communication and cooperation among school officials when incidents of inappropriate behavior arise. The quality of our athletic program depends upon this natural respect. We also believe that being proactive is vital to the education of our students and spectators.

### **Responsibilities of a Fairfield Local Interscholastic Athlete**

Being a member of a Fairfield interscholastic athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold. Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best effort of all concerned. Over many years, our athletic program has achieved more than its share of conference and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-Conference and other individual honors. It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. To compete for your school means that you have agreed to abide by a higher code of conduct. You will have to say "no" to temptations an athlete cannot afford. When you wear the Red and White, we assume that you not only understand our traditions but are also willing to assume the responsibilities that go along with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

### **Responsibilities to Yourself**

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop your strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experience. Your studies, your participation in other extra-curricular activities, as well as in athletics prepare you for your life as an adult.

### **Responsibilities to Your School**

Another responsibility you assume as a member of an athletic team is to your school. Fairfield cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity in which you become involved. By participating in

interscholastic athletics to the best of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic squad, to the student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on the stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make Fairfield proud of you and your community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

### **Responsibilities to Others**

As a squad member, you also bear a responsibility to your home and family. You should never give your family anything of which to be ashamed. You must measure up to the full code of conduct. You should practice to the best of your ability every day. If you have played the game "all out," you keep your self-respect and your family can be proud of you.

STUDENT-ATHLETE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_(Please Print)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

I have received and read the entire contents of the Athletic Department Handbook set forth by Fairfield Local Middle and High School. I understand and agree to abide by all rules, policies, and expectations stated in the Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Signature (Date)

**PARENT/STUDENT-ATHLETE RELEASE FORM**

I, the undersigned, being the parents/guardians of (student-athletes name) \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Fairfield Local School District Board of Education, its employees, agents, or anyone acting on its behalf, from any and all liability, claim, demand, action, or right of action, of whatever kind or nature, either in law or equity, arising from or by reason of any bodily injury, including but not limited to sprains, fractures, brain damage, paralysis, personal injury, or mental injury, known or unknown, including death, resulting from, or to result from (child's name)'s participation in sports and/or any other extracurricular activity on behalf of or in the name of the Fairfield Local School District Board of Education.

I hereby assume full responsibility for and risk of bodily injury, personal injury, or mental injury, or death due to my/our son/daughter/ward's participation in sports and/or other extracurricular activities on behalf of or in the name of the Fairfield Local School District Board of Education. Further, I acknowledge that I have received the Ohio Department of Health's concussion and head injury information sheet. I expressly agree that this release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Ohio or any other state in which said student may be injured and that if any portion of this release is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, nevertheless, continue in full force and effect. I further state that I/we have carefully read the above release, know the contents of the same, and sign this release as my/our own free act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (Date)

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Parent/Guardian Signature (Date)

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Student-Athlete Signature (Date)