

Athletic Policy



**2025-2026 School Year
West Muskingum Local School District**

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WEST MUSKINGUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2025-2026

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the athletic program in the West Muskingum School District is based on several ideals. Our athletic program is committed to fostering a culture of excellence, integrity, and sportsmanship. We believe that participation in sports enhances physical well-being, builds character, and teaches valuable life skills such as discipline, teamwork, and leadership. Our program prioritizes the development of well rounded student-athletes.

Competition is a life-long experience and a positive attitude toward competition should be developed through the athletic program. All objectives and principles in athletics must be primarily concerned with the welfare and educational development of the student-athlete.

The West Muskingum Schools are members of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Muskingum Valley League (MVL). The athletic program will conform to the principles, policies and regulations governing amateur athletics, prescribed by these organizations.

Local board policy will supersede policies set forth by the OHSAA and the MVL.

EDUCATIONAL VALUES OF ATHLETICS

At West Muskingum, we believe Athletics play a vital role in the educational experience. In addition to improving a student's physical well being, athletics also promote qualities such as character development, discipline, teamwork and leadership, and even career preparation. We truly believe participation in sports helps foster important life skills that contribute to success in academics, careers, and all other aspects of life.

Character Development

Student-athletes learn integrity, responsibility, and sportsmanship through competition and teamwork. They develop the ability to handle success with humility and failure with resilience.

Discipline

Balancing academics and athletics requires commitment, organization, and self-discipline. Student-athletes learn to manage their time effectively by setting priorities and honoring commitments.

Teamwork and Leadership

Athletics teach individuals to work collaboratively toward a common goal. Athletes also learn to lead by example and support teammates in achieving shared success.

Career Preparation

Skills gained through athletics translate to academic and professional success. Many colleges and employers value the discipline and work ethic developed through sports.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. The eligibility for the 2025-2026 school year will be based on the OHSAA guidelines. The G.P.A. requirement will start at the beginning of the first grading period. The OHSAA policy states the following:
- i. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility. (Exception: All 7th graders will be eligible during their first grading period.)
 - 1. Grades 9-12: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - 2. Grades 7-8: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of four courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - 3. For eligibility purposes, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.
- B. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.
- C. OHSAA requirements for passing classes leading to five one credit courses or the equivalent that should lead to graduation for the grading period and must maintain a 1.5 G.P.A. (C- average). If a student-athlete is below a 1.5 G.P.A. The student-athlete will be automatically ineligible for the grading period.
- D. Other requirements for participation
- a. Any and all paperwork/forms as designated by OHSAA and West Muskingum Schools. (Example = All Final Forms paperwork)
 - b. ALL FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN TO THE COACH AND OR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR BEFORE A STUDENT-ATHLETE IS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN MANDATORY PRACTICES AND COMPETITIONS.

ATHLETIC SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

- I. All student-athletes in the West Muskingum Local School District are subject to the Athletic Sportsmanship Policy. Any discipline is to follow the rules set forth by the West Muskingum Local School District and OHSAA.
 - A. Ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct: Any student-athlete ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the next seven calendar days in the sport from which the student-athlete was ejected. If no contests are played during this seven-day period at the same level as the ejection, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the next football game or a minimum of two contests in any other sport. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student-athlete participates. A student-athlete under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).
 - B. A student-athlete who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. If the second infraction occurs at the end of the sport season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport the student-athlete is to participate in.
 - C. It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student-athlete is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the OHSAA Tournament Regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-11, the decisions of contest officials are final.
 - D. Any student-athlete suspended for the remainder of an athletic season will also forfeit any awards he/she was to receive.

STUDENT-ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITIES & GENERAL POLICIES

- I. West Muskingum Schools student-athletes (student-athlete is defined as any participant in West Muskingum athletics, male or female).
 - A. A student becomes an athlete the first day of mandatory practice as designated by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for each sport. The student must meet all requirements and participate in practice to be considered an athlete. If a student does not participate in any sport for one calendar year from the date of their last participation (date of last game/quitting a sport), they would not be considered an athlete.

- II. All of the rules and regulations of the OHSAA and West Muskingum Local School Districts must be strictly adhered to.

- III. Student-athletes must have a physical examination and participation card signed by a parent or guardian, signed copy of Ohio High School Athletic Association eligibility and authorization statement, and an insurance policy form signed before they may participate in practice or contest.

- IV. All student-athletes must be covered by either the school insurance plan or policy carried by their parents or guardian. Football players should be advised the school policies will not cover participants in Football. The Athletic Department will provide a policy to cover Football players. It is not mandatory for the Football players to carry the school policy if their parents or guardian insures them.

- V. The beginning of each sport is determined by the OHSAA.

- VI. A member of a team may not come out for practice until the first team has concluded its season.

- VII. All student-athletes must be at school for at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the regular school day in order to participate in practice or a contest that day (can be overruled by the Principal under special circumstances). All student-athletes must be at school by 11:20am on the regular school day in order to participate in practice or a contest that day. A student-athlete who leaves school after 11:20am will not be allowed to participate in practices or a contest unless the absence is excusable (Medical, legal, funeral or emergency situation as approved by the principal or designee)
- VIII. A student-athlete who has just completed a previous season during the school year will be given a five-day grace when coming out for the next sport season.
- IX. A student-athlete will be permitted to compete in more than one sport during any given season with mutual consent of the head coaches of the sports involved.
- Student athletes competing in more than one sport in a season must designate their primary and secondary sport and complete the appropriate form. The student can not reverse their decision during the season.
- X. The athletic department may provide transportation to and/or from contests at the discretion of the coach and athletic director. If transportation is provided, student-athletes are expected to go together and return the same way. Student-athletes can ride home with their parents or guardian if arrangements are made with the coach prior to the contest in writing. Such arrangements are at the discretion of the principal.
- A. No athlete will be permitted to ride home with a non-parent/guardian adult unless they have written permission from a parent/guardian and approved by Athletic Director or Principal.
- XI. All student-athletes are expected to attend practices and games unless excused by the coach in advance and/or notified by the parent. Each head coach will create and enforce an attendance policy, which may include suspensions.
- XII. Student-Athletes participating in the athletic program will be responsible for the care of all school equipment issued to them. The student-athlete will pay for lost or damaged equipment. All equipment is to be turned in promptly at the conclusion of the season. Student-Athletes will not be allowed to practice or participate in another sport until all outstanding equipment is either turned in or paid for at replacement cost.
- XIII. Coaches may discipline student-athletes for being disrespectful, using improper language, fighting, poor sportsmanship, and other inappropriate actions. Severity of punishment is at the discretion of the coach.
- XIX. All sports will play no more contests than the number established in the OHSAA Policy Handbook.

Quitting and/or Removal from a Team Policy

* Athletics provide teaching opportunities that can not be learned in a classroom setting. There are many lessons learned through athletics, which include teamwork, leadership, dedication, and how to appropriately handle adversity. We want to create a culture where our student athletes understand quitting should not be an option as it goes against our culture and lets our teammates down. Additionally, engaging in activities that result in a player being removed from the team also lets a team down, therefore we have policies in place for these situations.

* For this policy's purpose, quitting will be defined as permanently leaving a team anytime after the first regular season game/contest is played.

1. A student-athlete may not quit one sport to participate in another sport until the season for the original sport has ended without the consent of both coaches and the Athletic Director.
2. Any student athlete who has been removed or quits a team during the regular season will not be permitted to use West Muskingum athletic facilities after school hours until the sport they participated in completes their regular season contests. This includes individual use or structured off season workouts with other teams.

Discipline Policy for Student-Athletes

** It is important to understand that participation in extracurricular activities and representing West Muskingum is a privilege, NOT a right. We expect our student athletes to be held to a higher standard and expect all student athletes to represent our athletic programs, school, and district in a way that makes us all proud. That privilege can be taken away at any time if our student athletes do not live up to expectations.

Tobacco, Alcohol, or Illegal Substances

Use or Possession of tobacco in any form is prohibited.

1. a 1st violation: suspension for 10% of season's games or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
2. 2nd violation: suspension for remainder of season or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
3. 3rd violation: suspension for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction from all sports at West Muskingum Schools.

Use or Possession of Illegal Substances or Alcohol in any form is prohibited.

1. 1st violation: suspension for 20% of season games or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
2. 2nd violation: suspension for remainder of season or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
3. 3rd violation: suspension for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction from all sports at West Muskingum Schools.

B. Violations

1. Any violation of use or possession of tobacco, illegal substances or alcohol policies may be reduced in half if the student athlete attends approved counseling.
2. Counseling must be paid for by student-athlete/family
3. Student-athlete must complete the counseling
4. If counseling is not completed in a timely manner, he/she will be removed for the remainder of the suspension with a carry over to the next sport he/she participates in.

Theft or Vandalism

1. 1st violation: suspension for 20% of season games or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
2. 2nd violation: suspension for remainder of season or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
3. 3rd violation: suspension for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction from all sports at West Muskingum Schools.

Criminal Acts/Convictions

1. 1st Violation: Misdemeanor charge evidence/conviction = suspension for 20% of season games, or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.

1st Violation: Felony charge evidence/conviction: suspension for 50% of season games or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.

2. 2nd Violation: Misdemeanor charge evidence/conviction = suspension for the remainder of the season or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.

2nd Violation: Felony charge evidence/conviction = suspension for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction from all sports at West Muskingum Schools

3. 3rd Violation: Misdemeanor charge evidence/conviction = suspension for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction from all sports at West Muskingum Schools

*** Based on the severity of the crime, administration has the right to skip steps in the discipline process. Again, participating in athletics at West Muskingum is a privilege, NOT a right.

- D. Punitive action for violations of the athletic discipline policy as outlined above may be taken in each of the following conditions:
 1. A student-athlete is observed by two or more teammates who are willing to confront the accused student-athlete.
 2. The student-athlete is observed by any coach on the staff.
 3. The student-athlete is observed by any school employee who is willing to confront the student-athlete.
 4. The student-athlete is reported by an official of the law.
 5. The student-athlete is reported by their own parent or guardian.
 6. The student-athlete admits he/she is in violation of the above-mentioned policy.

- E. Suspension period shall begin: (Excluding the 2nd and 3rd offense suspension)
 - 1. From the date of the suspension for infractions that occur during the competition season.
 - 2. If the infractions occur during the pre-season, the student-athlete will be suspended for the first week of competition, including a minimum of one contest for the 1st smoking offense.
 - 3. If the infractions occur during the pre-season, the student-athlete will be suspended for the first two weeks of competition, including a minimum of two contests for the 1st alcohol, drug, vandalism, or theft offense.

- F. Any student-athlete under suspension for the 1st offense involving any of the above infractions (refer to section B) must attend all practices and contests during the duration of the suspension.

- G. Accumulation of infractions is carried over from one sport to another. Violations will accumulate throughout a student-athlete's enrollment/participation at West Muskingum Middle School or West Muskingum High School. Violations will not carry over from 7th and 8th grade to the 9th grade.

- H. The Athletic Code will be enforced 12 months of the year

Additional Rules, Expectations, and Discipline from Individual Programs

In addition to the Athletic Department's procedures for discipline, each head coach has the authority and ability to provide consequences to their players as well. This includes but is not limited to removal from practice, limiting playing time, and even suspension from games.

- A. Coaches may discipline student-athletes for being disrespectful, using improper language, fighting, poor sportsmanship, and other inappropriate actions. Severity of punishment is at the discretion of the coach.

Fair Dismissal Policy/Procedures

*** Suspension from Athletic Teams and Participation: Only the Athletic Director can suspend a student-athlete from athletics for the season. Suspended student-athletes are not permitted to take part in that sport for the remainder of that season. Such suspensions shall be reported to the superintendent, principal and parent or guardian of the student-athlete within a 24-hour period. The report of suspension shall be in writing and include reason for the action. The parents shall be advised that within 72 hours after the tentative suspension, an informal hearing will be held if they desire. Such hearings, which are not judicial proceedings, must allow for:

1. Statements in support of the charge(s) against the student-athlete upon which the hearing is conducted.
2. Statements by the student-athlete and others in defense of the charge(s) and/or an explanation of his/her conduct.
3. The Athletic Director is not required to permit the presence of counsel or follow any prescribed judicial rules in conducting the hearing.
4. The Athletic Director will, within 24 hours, advise the student-athlete and parent/guardians by letter of his decision and reasons thereof.
5. The Athletic Director shall notify the parent/guardians of their right to appeal the decision to the Principal.
6. At the conclusion of the hearing, if the parent/guardian decides to appeal the decision of the Athletic Director, The principal will contact the parent/guardian to schedule an appeal to the principal.
7. The principal will notify the parent/guardian of their decision within 24 hours of the parents appeal to the principal. The principal will notify the parent of their right for a final appeal to the Superintendent.
8. At the conclusion of the appeal, if the parent/guardian decides to appeal the decision of the principal, the Superintendent will be notified to schedule a final appeal meeting with the parent/guardian.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

I. Awards Procedure

- A. Awards will be presented to student-athletes for participation in the various athletic programs sponsored by the West Muskingum Local School District.

II. Award Requirements

A. All High School Athletes

1. Attend practices, scrimmages, games and meetings unless excused.
2. Complete the season in good standing.
3. Maintain eligibility.
4. Must meet requirements of sportsmanship, citizenship, and policies of the school and athletic program.
5. All equipment issued to the student-athlete must be returned to the school, or compensation must be made.
6. Attend banquets unless excused.

III. Varsity Letter Requirements

- A. Varsity athletes must participate in half of the quarters, halves, meets, matches, or innings to earn a varsity letter.
- B. If a student-athlete fails to meet the minimum participation requirements and the head coach believes the individual has made an outstanding contribution to the team, after reviewing the situation with the Athletic Director, the coach may recommend the student-athlete be granted a letter.

IV. Boys/Girls Awards

A. Varsity - 1st year

1. Boys - a six-inch, royal blue letter "M" with gold border embroidered with "WEST" in gold letters.
2. Girls - a six-inch, gold letter "M" with royal blue border embroidered with "WEST" in royal blue letters.
3. Cloth insert indicating sport.
4. 1st Year Varsity certificate.

- B. Varsity - 2nd year
 - 1. Metal Bar Insert.
 - 2. 2nd Year Varsity certificate.
- C. Varsity - 3rd year
 - 1. Metal Bar Insert
 - 2. 3rd Year Varsity Certificate
- D. Varsity - 4th year
 - 1. 4th year award plaque.
 - 2. Metal Bar Insert
- E. Reserve/JV
 - 1. Certificate of Participation
- F. Freshman
 - 1. Certificate of Participation
- G. All high school athletes after the completion of their 1st sports season will receive the following award:
 - 1. Boys - a four-inch, royal blue letter “M” with gold border embroidered with “WEST” in gold letters.
 - 2. Girls - a four-inch, gold letter “M” with royal blue border embroidered with “WEST” in royal blue letters.
 - 3. Athletes will receive this award one time during their athletic career
- H. Middle School
 - 1. Certificate of Participation

V. Procedure for Granting Awards

- A. At the close of the season, coaches should turn in to the Athletic Director a list of students who are considered members of the team along with their award recommendations.
- B. The award should be based on:
 - 1. Requirements as established by the sport
 - 2. Return of all athletic equipment
- C. If the situation arises concerning whether an award will be presented, the matter should be reviewed with the Athletic Director, Building Administrator, and the Head Coach. They, together, will make the final decision.

VI. Service Awards

Coaches may recommend students for senior awards. Any student-athlete who has been a member of a team in good standing for two years but has not met the above requirements is given a first-year award in his/her senior year. If the Head Coach believes an athlete has done an outstanding job the two-year requirement may be waived.

- A. All senior athletes will earn a varsity letter if they complete the season in good standing.

VII. Managers and Trainers

Awards will be based on the requirements of the various sports and will not be subject to the actual participation rule.

VIII. Number of Awards

Only one varsity and reserve letter will be given to each player earning an award. Certificates and designated sport insignias will be granted if other letters in the same or different sports are earned.

IX. Special Awards

- A. League Champions and Tournament Champions will be recognized in the gymnasium. Each team member will receive a small felt insignia, indicating his or her accomplishment.
- B. Student-athletes placing in the state finals competition or being selected as a member of an All-Ohio Team will have their names placed on the All-Ohio Board.
- C. Coaches may present trophies for excellence in certain categories. Arrangements for these should be reviewed with the Athletic Director.

X. Varsity Jackets

Student-athletes are eligible to purchase a varsity jacket after a student-athlete has earned a varsity letter.

XI. Special Situation

- A. Student-athletes removed from a team for disciplinary reasons or who leave by their own choice, forfeit all awards for that sport.
- B. Transfer student-athletes must earn awards as per requirements in the various sports for the WMSD, before they would be eligible for a WM varsity jacket.

XII. Presentation of Awards

A. Each high school sport is required to have an end of the year banquet.

XII. Banquets

- A. Athletic awards will be given out to student-athletes at the end of the season banquet.
- B. Student-athletes are required to attend the end of the season banquet to receive their athletic awards. If a student-athletes does not attend the post season banquet, they will not receive their athletic awards unless they have notified the head coach prior to the banquet their reason for their absences. If the reason is not excusable, the student-athlete will not receive their award(s).

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

I. Financial Support

There will be one athletic account for both the Middle School and High School.

II. Equipment

- A. The Athletic Director, Head Coach of the varsity sport, and the Middle School Coach will meet prior to the season and determine the equipment needs for that sport.
- B. The Athletic Director will meet with the Middle School building Administrator to review the needs for the program.

III. Schedule

Schedules for football, volleyball, basketball, track, and wrestling will be set up by the Athletic Director after reviewing with the Middle School Administrator and Coaches.

IV. Officials

The Athletic Director will hire all officials.

V. Transportation

The Athletic Director will arrange transportation for Middle School contests played at the facility of the opposing school.

VI. Awards

- A. Students will receive participation certificates for each sport in which they participate.
- B. 8th Grade
Same as Varsity with one exception: there will be no requirements as to the number of quarters, meets, matches, or innings the student-athlete participates in
- C. 7th Grade
Same as Varsity with one exception: there will be no requirements as to the number of quarters, meets, matches, or innings the student-athlete participates in.

VII. Home/Athletic Contests

- A. Personnel for home athletic contests will be arranged by the Athletic Director or Assistant to the Athletic Director and the coach for that sport, including:
 - 1. Supervisory personnel
 - 2. Ticket sellers
 - 3. Scorekeepers
 - 4. Timers
 - 5. Chain crew
 - 6. Arrangements for visiting teams
 - 7. Any other details for the contest
- B. The Athletic Director will be responsible for depositing gate receipts and payment of officials.

VIII. Practice/Game Sites

- A. Football - practice on the Middle School field home games will be played on the High School varsity field.
- B. Basketball - will practice and play their home games at the Middle School gym, exceptions will be reviewed by circumstances.
- C. Track - will practice and have their home meets on the varsity track at the High School.
- D. Volleyball - practice and home games will be at the Middle School gym.

CHEERLEADERS

I. Purpose

The West Muskingum Cheerleading program will be a dynamic program with a positive emphasis on sportsmanship, school spirit, and the awareness of cheerleading as a sport. Cheerleaders will support all athletic programs of our school.

Cheerleaders shall attempt to direct crowd involvement toward positive cheers and by doing so help build relationships between schools.

II. All West Muskingum Cheerleaders will adhere to and be governed by the West Muskingum Local School District Athletic Policy. The policies listed below are additional items specific to cheerleading.

III. Seasons

West Muskingum High School and Middle School cheerleading programs will be divided into a fall and winter season.

IV. Squads Selected

A. West Muskingum High School will have squads selected for the following:

1. Fall - football
2. Winter - boys basketball

B. West Muskingum Middle School will have squads selected for the following:

1. Fall - football.
2. Winter - boys basketball.

C. Additional squads may be added if it was considered to be an asset to the school and the program. The Cheerleader Coach and the Athletic Director will determine these additions.

D. All cheerleaders will begin their season after try-outs with conditioning and basics, and will continue with summer practices, camps, and games until that student-athlete's season is completed. This will include pre-season, regular season, and post season games.

V. Selection Procedures

- A. Try-outs will be held in the spring (March – May) for all seasons.
- B. Additional tryouts will be held at the discretion of the cheer coaches and Administration. Current cheerleaders will not be affected by an additional try-out.
- C. Try-outs will be held so as not to conflict with those student-athletes that participate in additional sports.
- D. The try-out and practice schedules will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

VI. Method of Selection

- A. The Head High School cheer coach will decide the criteria for the selection process for varsity and jv squads.

VII. Squad Membership

- A. Size and make up of varsity and JV squads will be determined at the discretion of the high school cheer coach.
- B. Size make up of middle school squads will be determined at the discretion of the head high school and head middle school cheer coaches

VIII. Cheerleading Squads

- A. Prior to final try-out selections, students will have the opportunity to select the season(s) they prefer.
- B. First and second choices will be indicated for the fall and winter season. The coach will place the students according to their choices and final ranking.
- C. Fall Sports Squads
 - 1. Varsity Football 2. JV Football 3. Freshman Football
- D. Winter Sports Squads
 - 1. Varsity Basketball 2. JV Basketball 3. Freshman Basketball
- E. The coaches shall select, or direct a selection process, for squad captains for each squad. The coach shall also select any squad combination needed for camps.

IX. Practice Sessions

- A. The coach shall set up a schedule for regular practices, both during the summer and the school year.
- B. Cheerleaders are expected to attend scheduled practices and should notify the coach or school, if possible, when going to be tardy or absent.

X. Cheerleading Awards

A. Awards Requirements

- a. Attend practices, camps, clinics, games and meeting unless excused.
- b. Complete the season in good standing.
- c. Maintain eligibility.
- d. Must meet requirements of sportsmanship, citizenship and policies of the school and athletic program.
- e. All uniforms and equipment issued to the student-athlete must be returned to the school, or compensation must be made.
- f. Attend awards banquets unless excused.

B. Varsity Letter Requirements

1. Cheerleaders must participate in half of the varsity games to earn a varsity letter.
2. If a student-athlete fails to meet the award/participation requirements and the coach believes the individual has made an outstanding contribution to the team, after reviewing the situation with the Athletic Director, the coach may recommend the student-athlete be granted an award.
3. A certification of participation will be issued to individuals not meeting the award/participation requirements for an athletic letter.

C. Cheerleading Awards

1. Varsity - 1st Year

- a. Six inch gold letter "M"
- b. Insert indicating the sport
- c. Varsity certificate
- d. Megaphone Letter with graduation year

2. Varsity - 2nd Year

- a. 2-year varsity certificate and metal bar insert

3. Varsity - 3rd Year

- a. 3-year certificate and metal bar insert

4. Varsity - 4th Year

- a. 4th year award plaque and metal bar insert

5. Reserve

- a. Certificate of Participation

6. Freshmen

- a. Certificate of Participation

- After a cheerleader has completed their first year of participation they will receive a 4 inch WM Letter. They will receive this award only one time in their high school career.

Closing Statement:

At West Muskingum, we take great pride in our athletic programs and the values they instill in our student-athletes. This handbook serves as a guide to ensure that all participants understand the expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities that come with being part of our athletic community.

We encourage all athletes, coaches, and parents to uphold the principles of sportsmanship, integrity, and teamwork. By adhering to these policies, we can create a positive, competitive, and respectful environment that benefits everyone involved.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence both on and off the field. Together, we will continue to build a tradition and culture of success at West Muskingum.

Go Tornadoes!