

MEIGS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR POLICY HANDBOOK



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Athletic and Extracurricular Handbook

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Statement of Meigs Athletic and Extracurricular Philosophy

The Meigs Local School District's Athletic and Extracurricular Program will provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in student-athlete that will prepare them for adult life. This program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. While the program takes pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost!" and discourages all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times the athletic and extracurricular endeavor must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAM GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Our Goal

The student-athlete will become a more effective citizen through their experiences in such activities.

Our Specific Objectives

The student-athlete shall learn teamwork. To work with others in society, a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. *Student-athlete must place the organization and its objectives higher than personal desires.*

- **To be Successful** – Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
- **Sportsmanship** – To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability, and discipline.
- **To Improve** – Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and, in those characteristics, set forth as being desirable.
- **Enjoy Participation** – It is necessary to acknowledge all the personal rewards we derive from participating and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
- **To develop desirable personal health habits** – To be an active contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of mental and physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop a desire to maintain this level of personal fitness.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

Guidelines are considered essential and the violation of any of them may result in disciplinary action by the director/coach/advisor.

- No profanity
- Attendance – each participant is expected to attend all meetings, functions, practices, contests, competitions, etc. Each director/coach/advisor will determine what is acceptable for absences for their activity. A student-athlete who has accumulated two (2) or more consecutive unexcused absences must, with his/her parent/guardian, attend a mandatory meeting with the coach, athletic director, and principal (or his/her designee) prior to being reinstated to the squad/team. A coach may establish more stringent attendance requirements which could include a denial of playing time or even dismissal from the team/squad.
- Each participant shall be well-groomed, neatly dressed, and hair must be neat and well-trimmed as determined by each director/coach/advisor.
- A student-athlete may feel that a chosen sport is not a good fit. If this happens, the athlete may choose to try another sport within a certain window of time. The student-athlete may choose to try another sport if approved by the coach of the new sport and the athletic director and if this decision is made prior to the second scrimmage. If the chosen sport does not have scrimmages, then the decision can only be made prior to the second official contest.
- A student-athlete may try to participate in two (2) sports within one season only if this is approved by both coaches. If such an agreement is made and it is felt that the athlete can be successful at both sports without jeopardizing the integrity of either sport, it must be made prior to the first official OHSAA sanctioned contest in either sport.
- All directors/coaches/advisors have the right to make rules and regulations beyond those stated in this handbook. Participants who violate the handbook rules or any of the rules and regulations established by the coach may be denied the privilege of participation or practice and may be assigned extra duties by the director/coach/advisor.
- This handbook is designed to provide minimal standards of conduct for participation as a Meigs High School/Meigs Middle School student-athlete and extracurriculars. Each individual coach/advisor has the right to make training and participation rules more stringent than this policy. These guidelines will be presented at the mandatory OHSAA preseason meeting to be attended by both student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian.

ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR RESPONSIBILITIES – FORMS

Each athlete must meet the following basic requirements to be eligible for participation in athletics.

- Each student-athlete must provide the Head Coach or Advisor with a completed and signed athletic-extracurricular participation card. This must be done prior to any practice or competition. This card must be signed by the student-athlete, parent/guardian and physician who certify that the student-athlete is physically able to participate. Only one physical examination is required per year.
- Each student-athlete and extracurriculars must be enrolled in school insurance program or have a waiver signed by the parent/guardian before practice or competition is permitted. ** enrolled in the

school insurance program and participating in football should be aware that football requires an additional coverage under the school district's current insurance plan.

- Each student-athlete must have a completed and signed emergency authorization form on file with the Head Coach/Advisor before practice or competition is permitted.
- Each student-athlete must have a completed and signed risk of injury form on file with the Head Coach/Advisor before practice or competition is permitted.
- Each student-athlete and parent/guardian must read and sign an Ohio High School Athletic Association Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin. The signed bulletin shall be returned to the Head Coach- Advisor before practice or competition is permitted.
- Each a student-athlete and parent/guardian must read the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Student-athletes, included in this handbook. After reading, both the student-athlete and parent/guardian must sign the "Consent to Perform Urinalysis for Drug and Alcohol Testing".
- Each student-athlete and parent/guardian shall read and sign the "Handbook Acknowledgment" form. *** Forms and information for items above shall be provided by the Head Coach/Advisor of the sport.
- Each student-athlete shall abide by, without exception, all the regulations as set forth by this handbook and rules governing participation as set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR RESPONSIBILITIES – ELIGIBILITY

All student-athletes participating in athletics and extracurriculars must be declared eligible under BYLAW 4 – Student-athlete Eligibility – of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Each student-athlete shall meet ALL the requirements under BYLAW 4.

Listed below are some of the most frequently used sections and items by BYLAW 4. A complete copy of the Constitution, Bylaws and Sports Regulations is available for viewing at Meigs High School or by contacting the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

SECTION 2 – AGE LIMITATION

- If a student-athlete enrolled in high school attains the age of 20 before August 1, the student-athlete shall be ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.
- If a student-athlete enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student-athlete shall be ineligible to participate in 7-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.
- A student-athlete shall become eligible for high school athletics when the student-athlete attains the fifteenth birthday before August 1, or when the student-athlete attains ninth grade standing. The student-athlete is eligible at the school where the student-athlete is expected to enroll at the ninth-grade level.

SECTION 3 – ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

- All student-athletes on a high school athletic squad shall be enrolled in the high school sponsoring the squad and living in the high school attendance area.
- All student-athletes on a 7-8th grade school athletic squad shall be enrolled in the 7-8th grade school sponsoring the squad and living in the 7-8th grade school attendance area.
- To be eligible for participation in interscholastic contests, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in a school by the 15th calendar day of the credit grading period (quarter, trimester, semester). Enrollment shall be continuous after a student-athlete has officially enrolled in a school until the student-athlete is officially withdrawn.

- After a student-athlete completes the eighth grade, the student-athlete shall be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student-athlete participates or not. A student-athlete in grade 7 or 8, who attains the age of 15 before August 1, shall be eligible only at the high school level for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student-athlete participates or not.

SECTION 4 – SCHOLARSHIP

- In order to be eligible in grades 9 – 12, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. ***During the preceding grading period, the student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of FIVE one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation.***
- The eligibility or ineligibility of a student-athlete continues until the start of the ***fifth school day of the next grading period***, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.
 - ***Exception 1: Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season.***
 - ***Exception 2: A student-athlete coming off the “ineligible status” may become eligible 24 hours after the mandatory grade reporting date (a date established by Board policy which cannot be the same day as the end of the grading period) established by the Board of Education or other similar governing body for that school’s district, provided said grade reporting date is applicable to all student-athletes in that district.***
- A student-athlete enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student-athlete was enrolled.
- A student-athlete enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, to be eligible, a student-athlete in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student-athlete received grades.
- Summer school grades as well as credits earned by Online Credit Recovery ***MAY NOT*** be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.

SECTION 5 – CONDUCT, CHARACTER, DISCIPLINE

- In matters pertaining to the personal conduct in which athletics are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student-athlete may participate in athletics/extracurriculars.

SECTION 6 – RESIDENCE

- A student-athlete is eligible at the school located in the district where the parent resides. If, however, the student-athlete is a ward of a court appointed guardian, the student-athlete is eligible at the school located in the district where the guardian resides provided the student-athlete lives with the guardian. A student-athlete may be eligible at only one school.

ATTENDANCE

Student-athletes wishing to participate in an activity must be in attendance at school all day to be eligible to participate in that day’s activity. Advanced permission from the administration must be attained for doctor’s appointments, etc. to be able to participate. An unexcused absence will result in student-athlete being denied the

right to participate. Each case will be determined on an individual basis by the appropriate administrative personnel.

Any participant who must be absent from any activity shall notify the director/coach/advisor in advance. In emergency situations the participant shall notify the director/coach/advisor as soon as possible after the absence.

BANQUET RULES

All athletes must attend their scheduled banquet. If attendance is not possible, arrangements must be worked out with the coach and athletic director **PRIOR** to the banquet. Failure to attend the awards banquet will result in the student-athlete not receiving an award. If an emergency arises the coach and athletic director must be notified as soon as possible and will determine if the absence from the banquet is acceptable. Any athlete failing to attend a scheduled banquet, for which they are not excused, may be required to pay for an award which was prepared for them, and which is not reusable.

To receive a varsity letter, an athlete must meet certain participation requirements. A sport that is measured by quarters or innings, the athlete must play, in any capacity, in at least one half of these quarters or innings. If the sport has matches/meets, the athlete must participate in at least one half of these events. In the event of an extenuating circumstance that would prohibit an athlete from earning a varsity letter, the head coach has the prerogative to bring the matter in front of the Meigs Local Athletic Council for a decision.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CONDUCT

- All participants of extracurricular activities are expected to act in a manner which will reflect maturity and pride. Pride in themselves, their family, school and community.
- When rules governing our society are broken, penalties are inevitable. If rules of conduct, as designated in their handbook and by the director/coach/advisor of the activity are broken, it is assumed that you are also willing to pay the price for the infraction.
- To force student-athletes to obey rules defeats our purpose. We sincerely hope each student-athlete feels a sense of responsibility toward maintaining them. The staff does not want to serve as “watch dogs” for inappropriate behaviors. Parents should join with the staff to ensure that their child understands the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors by modeling these behaviors themselves. The student-athletes and parents should further show an appreciation for and support the types of behaviors each staff wishes to have exhibited.

There are advantages and disadvantages to participating in extracurricular activities. You are already aware of many, but others more subtle, will be realized by you as you mature.

In addition to the rules governing participation each participant must determine for themselves if he or she is willing to:

- Meet the commitments and obligations of time, expense, and transportation required for the duration of the season. Employment and recreational obligations are secondary to those required of the participant once the season begins.
- Work hard and possibly never become a starter.
- Work hard, even though the work may be hard, tiresome, monotonous, and undesirable.
- Accept training rules which may “cramp” their social style.
- Be individually responsible for all equipment issued to them. It is to be worn and cared for as if it were their own. Loss or damage, which is determined to be in excess of normal for the activity,

of issued equipment shall result in the participant having to pay for the equipment at the current replacement costs.

- Assure that ample amount of time is spent on studies and maintaining high academic standards.

TRANSPORTATION

- All members must ride to and from all extracurricular activities (concerts, contests, festivals, games, etc.) on school conveyance when it is provided. A student-athlete may be released to ride with a **parent** by means of handwritten, signed note, which must be given to the advisor/director/coach on the day of the event. Each individual advisor/director/coach has the right to establish their own policy if they so desire.
- All student-athletes, managers, and coaches/directors are expected to be prompt in regard to departure times.
- All student-athlete, managers, and coaches/directors will follow the Meigs Local School District's bus Discipline Guide rules and will be subject to those rules on any trip.
- Buses will not stop on return trips for meals without noting this on the pre-trip itinerary submitted prior to the away trip.

FIELDHOUSE USE

The Meigs High School Athletic Fieldhouse is just that, an athletic facility. The Fieldhouse will be available only to MHS/MMS athletes. These student-athletes must be under the guidance of their respective coach. No student-athlete will be allowed to lift without the proper supervision of the appropriate coaching staff or his/her designee. The Fieldhouse is not open to non-student-athletes at any time nor is it open for public use.

ATHLETEIC/CHEERLEADING/EXTRACURRICULAR DRUG & ALCHOL POLICY

It is widely recognized that the use of alcohol and drugs inhibit human performance. Therefore, any participant of athletic, cheerleading, and marching band activities proven to be in possession of, under the influence of or using alcohol or drugs during the season shall be subject to the following:

FIRST OFFENSE - A conference will be held with the following to be in attendance:

1. Student-athlete
2. Parent/Guardian of the Student-athlete
3. Coach/Advisor/Director of the Activity
4. Principal
5. Others as deemed necessary by the Principal

At this conference, the infraction will be discussed and the student-athlete participant, if deemed to have violated the training rule, will be required to complete 20 hours of community service, not be allowed to participate in the activity for seven calendar days, and be required to enroll and participate in an assistance program. Community service will be assigned by the Principal upon consultation with the Director, Coach/Advisor and Parents. Should the infraction occur at a time that the student-athlete participant cannot fulfill the seven-calendar day suspension from play, the amount of community service will become 30 hours and all awards and recognition, up to an including participation in graduation ceremonies, will be withheld until completion of the community service.

The first offense will apply for the entire school career beginning with the student-athlete's enrollment/participation in athletics, cheerleading, or marching band under the control of the Meigs Local Board of Education.

SECOND OFFENSE - A conference will be held with the following to be in attendance:

1. Student-athlete
2. Parent/Guardian of the Student-athlete
3. Coach/Advisor/Director of the Activity
4. Principal
5. Others as deemed necessary by the Principal

At this conference, the infraction will be discussed and the student-athlete participant, if deemed to have violated the training rule, will be required to complete 20 hours of community service, not be allowed to participate in the activity for 45 school days, and be required to enroll and participate in an assistance program. Community service will be assigned by the Principal upon consultation with the Director, Coach/Advisor and Parents. Should the infraction occur at a time that the student-athlete participant cannot fulfill the suspension from play, the amount of community service will become 30 hours and all awards and recognition, up to an including participation in graduation ceremonies, will be withheld until completion of the community service.

THIRD OFFENSE - Any student-athlete who has a first and second offense and has been permitted to participate again and who violated the alcohol and drug policy for the third time will be denied participation in any extracurricular activity for the remainder of their high school career.

SOCIAL PROBATION

Social Probation is a ban on student-athletes attending or participating in school sponsored extra-curricular activities (i.e., athletic competition, school dances, clubs, plays/performances, sporting events, etc.) When a student-athlete is placed on social probation, they are not permitted to be on school grounds or at any school event outside of normal school hours for the duration of the probation. **A student-athlete can be placed on Social probation due to behavior issues or after accumulating 20 or more absences from school.** The length of the probation will be determined by administration and will be reviewed every two weeks. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis and administrative discretion will be applied. Student-athletes who are placed on social probation can appeal this decision by submitting a letter of appeal explaining their absenteeism/tardiness, and/or behavior infractions. Administration will review the appeal and the student-athlete will be notified of their decision in a timely manner. Violating social probation will be considered trespassing.

DRUG TESTING

In order to participate in athletics, cheerleading, and marching band in the Meigs Local School District, student-athletes will be required to submit to random drug testing. This plan is an opportunity for the school to intervene before a behavior becomes so problematic that solutions are extremely difficult or impossible to accomplish. A procedure for the selection of athletes and timing of the test will be developed by the Board of Education. The Board of Education will also select the test provider and will assume all costs associated with the testing. With any violation found, the athlete/cheerleader will be accountable to the violation offenses as listed under training rules as well as supplemental rules as may be developed by the coach/director/advisor.

VOLUNTARY REFERRAL

Voluntary referral is when athletes voluntarily request assistance when no violation has been detected by school officials and prior to being selected for testing. Such a referral will result in no negative consequences provided the assistance program requirements are followed and completed. A person with a concern regarding his/her personal use of an addictive substance should, under his/her own initiative, approach a school representative and ask for help. School officials are the coach, counselor, principal, assistant principal, athletic director, teacher, etc.

School personnel will at all times maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality, sharing relevant information with only those involved as needed to assist the student-athlete.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Assistance programs are those programs that may include:

- Group counseling/education sessions related to the violation.
- Individual and/or family counseling using outside agencies.
- Chemical use assessment by a certified drug/alcohol counselor or licensed physician trained in chemical dependency or other professional recommended by school officials.

The fees involved with the assistance program will be the responsibility of the athlete and/or the athlete's family.

SELF-REFERRAL

The person with a concern regarding his personal use of an addictive substance approaches, under his own initiative, a school representative* and asks for help.

*Coach, Counselor, Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, Teacher, etc.

School personnel will always maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality, sharing relevant information with only those involved as needed to assist the student-athlete.

MEIGS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

To provide for the health and safety of the individual student-athlete and others, as well as providing a legitimate reason for the student-athletes to say "NO" to drug and alcohol use and providing an opportunity for those taking drugs or using alcohol to receive help in locating programs which can provide assistance, the Meigs Local School District is conducting mandatory drug and alcohol testing for all student-athletes participating in athletics, cheerleading, and marching band. The program is not punitive. It is designed to create a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment for student-athletes and assist them in getting help when needed.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1.** "Student-athlete" or "Athlete" – any player participating in high school or junior high school athletic programs and/or extracurricular events and contests under the control and jurisdiction of the District and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).
- 1.2.** "Random Selection" – a mechanism for selecting athletes for drug/alcohol testing in which each student-athlete shall have an equal chance of being selected for testing each time selections are made.
- 1.3.** "Reasonable Suspicion" – means a suspicion based on specific contemporaneous, articulable personal observations including, but not limited to, appearance, speech, body odors or behavior of a student-athlete- athlete. In the context of performance-enhancing drugs, reasonable suspicion specifically includes unusual increases in size, strength, weight, or other athletic abilities.
- 1.4.** "Illegal Drugs" – any substance, as included in schedules I through V of 21 USC 802(6) which an individual may not sell, offer to sell, exchange, give, possess, use, distribute, or purchase under State or Federal Law. This definition also includes all prescription drugs obtained without authorization, and all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used in any way other than for medical purposes in accordance with the directions for use provided in the prescription or by the manufacturer.

- 1.5. "Alcohol" – means intoxicating liquor, alcohol, wine, beer, mixed beverages, malt liquor, and malt beverages as defined in the Ohio Revised Code Section 4301.01. The term "alcoholic beverages" also means any liquid or substance, such as "near beer" intended for use as a beverage, used as a beverage, or capable of being used as a beverage, which contains alcohol in any proportion or percentage. The term "alcoholic beverage" does not include a substance used for medical purpose in accordance with direction for use provided in a prescription or by the manufacturer and in accordance with school district policy and rules related to the use of prescription and non-prescription drugs so long as the substance is (1) authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container, which container shall state the student-athlete's name and directions for use or (2) an over-the-counter medicine, kept in the original container, which container shall state the directions for use.
- 1.6. "Positive" – the presence of alcohol or an illegal drug.
- 1.7. "Self-Referral" – the athlete realizes and admits he or she has a problem and needs help with a drug/alcohol program and seeks help before he or she has been selected for testing.

2. PROCEDURES

- 2.1. Each student-athlete shall be provided with a copy of the "Meigs Local School District Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Student-athletes" and "Student-athlete Consent to Perform Urinalysis for Drug/Alcohol Testing" which shall be read, signed, and dated for the student-athlete to be eligible for athletic and extracurricular participation. The parents and/or guardian is also required to sign the "Parent/Guardian Consent to Perform Urinalysis for Drug/Alcohol Testing" for the student-athlete to be eligible for athletic and extracurricular participation.
- 2.2. The consent shall be to provide a urine sample for drug/alcohol testing:
 - 2.2.1. As chosen by the random selection basis
 - 2.2.2. As chosen because of reasonable suspicion.
- 2.3. Random selection of 25% of the team/group shall be obtained two times during the regular season. The athletes selected will be notified and tested with the time parameters established by the district and testing lab.
- 2.4. Prior to the testing procedure, the student-athlete will be given a form on which the student-athlete may list any prescriptions or medications he/she has taken during the preceding 72 hours.
- 2.5. The samples will be taken under guidelines established by the collection agency. For random and reasonable suspicion testing, the student-athlete will be taken to the site designated by the District for specimen collection.
- 2.6. The samples will be labeled and sealed and maintained under strict security by the collection agency so as to maintain proper chain of custody and safeguard the rights of the student-athlete.
- 2.7. The samples will be sent to a certified independent laboratory, where the testing will be done to include amphetamines, opiates, phencyclidine cocaine, marijuana, and alcohol using the GCMS (Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry) method. The sample will be split into two specimen vials, A and B. The District may ask the laboratory to test for additional drugs.
- 2.8. The laboratory administrator will communicate written test results only to the school administration.

3. POSITIVE RESULTS AND VIOLATION

- 3.1. If the student-athlete's test indicates positive results, the laboratory selected by the District for testing will retest another sample from the same specimen vial used for the first test (vial A). If the second test of vial A is also positive, the result will be reported to the school administration as positive. If the second test is negative, no further action will be taken. If the result is reported to the District as positive, the following action will be taken:
 - 3.1.1. Random Testing or Reasonable Suspicion Offenses:

If the random or reasonable suspicion drug/alcohol test sample is positive, the athletic director and advisor will contact the parents.

The parents and student-athlete may, at their own expense, elect to have vial “B” tested by the District’s laboratory or by an independent certified laboratory of the student-athletes and parent’s choice. The District’s lab will send vial “B” to any independent laboratory selected by the parents.

3.1.2. Consequences for Random Testing or Reasonable Suspicion Offenses:

Any athlete who tests positive shall be subject to the violations and consequences as listed in the Training Rules section of the Athletic and Extracurricular Handbook.

Consequences for a positive random or reasonable suspicion test will be applied if the drug/alcohol test was reported by the District’s lab as positive. Consequences will remain in place until (1) vial B is tested and comes back negative or (2) all consequences as imposed by the District have been satisfied.

This policy is intended to supplement and complement all other policies, rules, and regulations of the Meigs Local School District regarding possession, use or other violation regarding alcohol or illegal drugs.

4. REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING

If a participating athlete refuses to submit to an alcohol/drug use test authorized under this Policy, such student-athlete shall not be eligible to participate in the athletic program for that sport for the rest of the season.

5. SELF-REFERRAL

- 5.1. Self-referral must occur before the student-athlete has been selected for testing.
- 5.2. Each self-referral may be considered, discussed, counseled by the head coach advisor, school counselor, and/or school administrator and appropriate action may be taken.
- 5.3. Self-referral may be used only once in a student-athlete’s lifetime.

6. OTHER

- 6.1. Test results will be maintained by the District until the athlete is no longer enrolled in the District. Results may be destroyed within one year from that time unless destruction of such records is prohibited by law or the maintenance of a record or records is necessary for the District.
- 6.2. Disclosure of positive test results will generally be limited to the athlete, parents, team physician, athletic director, head coach, and school administrators and will be on an “as need to know” basis.

Weather Closure Guidelines – Early Dismissal

If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, **ALL** extra-curricular activities including practices will be canceled and rescheduled (as permitted).

In the event of early dismissals when games are scheduled, the superintendent or his/her designee will decide the participation based upon the weather conditions anticipated at the time of the event (competitions only).

When school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, or any time changing weather conditions warrant, the administration of the school in conjunction with the administration of the opposing school (when warranted) will jointly consider the following factors in determining if a meeting, engagement, or contest will be held:

- The possibility of rescheduling the event
- Road conditions between schools and players’ routes to and from school,
- Parking lot conditions at both schools
- Weather forecasts
- No student-athlete will be penalized for missing practice due to inclement weather.

It is the intention of these guidelines to ensure personal safety of all individuals involved in the sports programs. Consistent application of these procedures in all districts allows all teams to compete on an even basis.

Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility

Produced By The Ohio High School Athletic Association

For School Counselors

Revised 5/16



Virtually every scholarship appeal that comes to the OHSAA office places sole responsibility on you, the school counselor, for a student's failure to meet the requirements of the applicable scholarship bylaws found in 4-4. Even though that notion is absolutely incorrect and OHSAA rules make reference to the fact that scholastic success is a shared responsibility with parents and students expected to shoulder most of the load, the Commissioner's Office has prepared this document to inform you of the crucial information you need to know in order to advise students appropriately.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO KNOW

HIGH SCHOOL

1. All high school students **MUST** be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** (or the equivalent) each and every grading period to have continuing eligibility.
2. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of five one-credit courses each grading period.
3. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
 - a. Are you a student athlete?
 - b. What sports do you play?
 - c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
4. Do not allow the student to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below five one credit courses unless you receive a form from a senior administrator a template of which can be accessed here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf>
5. The required Physical Education Course is not a full credit course. Do not count this course as one of the five full credit courses.
6. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.
7. The OHSAA has **no** minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the GPA is of concern are strictly a local school district matter and **not** an OHSAA matter

Grades 7-8

1. All 7-8th grade students **MUST** be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of five courses each and every grading period to have continuing eligibility..
2. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of five courses each grading period.
3. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
 - a. Are you a student athlete?
 - b. What sports do you play?
 - c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
4. Do not allow the student to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below five courses unless you receive a form from a senior administrator a template of which can be accessed here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf>
5. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.

NOTE: "Grading period" is defined as your school's board-adopted calendar. In most school districts, this is a nine-week period, while some districts use six- or 12-week periods or semesters. It should also be noted, however, that interim, biweekly or weekly evaluations are not considered "grading periods," and restoration of eligibility is **NOT** permitted after such evaluations.

In addition, students who have not met the high school or 7-8th scholarship requirement are not "substantively eligible;" and a student who fails to register for enough credit hours, fails a class(es) or drops a class that lowers the student below the requisite number of credits, always has a shared responsibility for this shortcoming thus disqualifying such shortcoming from the "due solely to an administrative error" category. Therefore, the administrative error bylaw shall never be used in conjunction with Bylaws 4-4-1 or 4-4-5.

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 9-12

Passing grades must be received in a minimum of **five one-credit courses**, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. To determine credit equivalency, multiply full-year courses by a factor of 1; semester courses by a factor of 2; twelve-week courses by a factor of 3; and nine-week courses by a factor of 4.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Spanish I	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Health	B	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Algebra	F	1 - all year	1	0
Computers	C	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Social Studies	C	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
O.W.E.	F	2 - all year	1	0
O.W.E.	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
History	B	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Health	B	1/4 - semester	2	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
Typing	C	1/4 - 4th 9 weeks	4	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year

Post-Secondary Option – College Credit Plus – New for 2015-16

Note: If a student is taking all course work at the post-secondary institution under the College Credit Plus program, the calculation of equivalency has changed. Please note that in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, all courses taken in College Credit Plus must count toward high school graduation.

In addition, students electing to enroll in CCP must be certain that 1.) The faculty members at the post-secondary institution understand that they will need to provide grades or a progress report at the time when the high school's grading period is over, and 2.) The student-athlete is taking enough course work at the post-secondary institution exclusively or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to five one-credit courses. Calculating equivalency of credits in the post-secondary institution is conducted in the same manner as in the high school, based on the Carnegie unit. College courses for which three or more semester hours of credit are earned shall be awarded one Carnegie unit. Fractional Carnegie units will be awarded proportionately. Examples of CCP options:

-1-

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
History	High	1 (year course)	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Literature	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Calculus	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Biology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Total Credits			7 = eligible for 2nd grading period provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system.

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
French	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Sociology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Computers	CCP	2 semester hours	$.67 \times 2 = 1$
Geology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Total Credits			7.34 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system. Note that this student is taking all courses at the post-secondary institution, which is acceptable.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling or double blocking of courses does not change the calculation of credit equivalencies as required in OHSA bylaws. Courses taken over one semester or one quarter (9-week period) carry a factor of 2 and 4, respectively. Therefore, if a student takes an English course during the first semester only and receives one credit for passing that course, that class carries an equivalency of 2 (1 credit x the factor for a semester course (2) = 2). Examples of block scheduling:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Spanish 2	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Health	B	1/4 - 1st 9 weeks	4	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
Calculus	B	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
French	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Phys. Ed	A	1/4 - semester	2	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 4th grading period

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 7-8

Passing grades are required in a minimum of five subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period. All courses, regardless of how many times per week the course meets, in which a student receives a grade count toward this eligibility requirement.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	B
Home Economics	B
Computers	C
Music	C
Health	F
Credits Passed	4 of 6 classes = NOT eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	D
Industrial Arts	C
Music	B
Computers	B
Physical Education	B
Credits Passed	5 of 6 classes = eligible for 4th grading period

NOTE:

For additional information, contact:

Ohio High School Athletic Association
Office Hours: Monday, Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Telephone: (614) 267-2502 • Fax: (614) 267-1677 • Website: ohsaa.org

The complete text of the Bylaws and Regulations is published in the OHSA Handbook, which is mailed to your school each summer and is posted on the OHSA website.



THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Information for Preseason Athletic Season

Why Interscholastic Athletics & OHSAA Beliefs

Participation in interscholastic athletics programs:

- Complements your school experience.
- Fosters a sense of community and teaches lifelong lessons of hard work, teamwork, citizenship and discipline.
- Promotes a lifetime appreciation for sports and healthy lifestyles.

Participation in interscholastic athletics programs:

- Helps prepare you for the next level of your life as a responsible adult and productive citizen.
- Interscholastic athletics programs are not designed to prepare you for the next level of sports.

The educational components of participation in interscholastic athletics programs make it unique.

This is unlike many other non-school organizations that promote free player movement, the athletic development of the individual and provide a showcase for those individuals.

Participants in interscholastic athletics programs should engage in a well-rounded experience that includes participation in a multitude of extracurricular activities.

In interscholastic athletics:

- Student-athlete academic achievement and success take priority over athletics achievement and success.
- The success of a team is more important than individual awards.

Participation in interscholastic athletics programs is a privilege, not a right.

Basic OHSAA Rules & Regulations

General OHSAA Eligibility Standards

- Eligibility rules exist to help maintain competitive balance in school sports and to promote the purpose of education-based athletics.
- As a student-athlete, YOU are responsible for your compliance.
- Besides OHSAA regulations, your school also has the authority to establish additional academic standards and codes of conduct.

- In order to maintain eligibility, you must be officially enrolled in an OHSAA member school, or participating in accordance with state law, AND you must have both parents living in Ohio (or the parent with custody, due to divorce or having never been married, lives in Ohio).
- You will not be eligible if you are competing under a false name or have provided your school with an incorrect home address.
- You will not be eligible if you have been recruited to attend this school.

OHSAA Scholarship Standards

- All incoming ninth graders must have received **passing grades in a minimum of five** of the subjects in which they received grades in the immediately preceding grading period.
- To maintain eligibility, high school student-athletes must have received **passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses**, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
- All incoming seventh graders are eligible insofar as the scholarship bylaw regardless of previous academic achievement.
- To maintain eligibility, 7th-8th grade student-athletes **must have received passing grades in a minimum of five of the subjects** in which they received grades in the immediately preceding grading period.
- Student-athletes taking College Credit Plus must comply with OHSAA scholarship standards.
- All student-athletes participating via state law that permits home educated, non-public, community and STEM school student-athletes to participate at public schools must also comply with OHSAA scholarship standards.
- Semester and yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility.
- To attempt to regain OHSAA eligibility, 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.
- **If you drop a course or change your schedule, it is critically important that you contact your principal or athletic administrator to see if this affects your eligibility.**
- The OHSAA has no minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the state-mandated GPA is of concern are strictly a local school district matter and not an OHSAA matter.
- No high school student-athlete will be eligible if he or she has been enrolled in high school for more than eight semesters.
- No 7th-8th grade student-athlete will be eligible if he or she has been enrolled in 7th-8th grade for more than four semesters.
- High school student-athletes will be ineligible whenever they turn 20 years old.

- Seventh- and eighth-grade student-athletes who turn 15 before August 1st are also ineligible for 7th and 8th grade sports but **MAY BE** eligible to participate in high school athletics.

OHSAA Non-School Team & Out-of-Season Standards

- You will be ineligible if you are competing on a non-school team in the same sport during your school team's season (example: club soccer team during school's soccer season).
- Coaches and schools cannot require that you participate in an open gym/open facility OR in a conditioning or instructional program. Violations of this regulation will result in penalties.
- There are certain restrictions regarding tryouts, practices and competitions with non-school teams before, during and after the school season.
- There are also restrictions for instruction you can receive from school coaches outside of your season in an OHSAA team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) and some OHSAA individual sports (cross country, track & field and wrestling).
- There are no restrictions for instruction you can receive from school coaches outside of your season in many OHSAA individual sports (bowling, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving and tennis).
- Before participating with a non-school team or receiving instruction outside the season from your school coaches, **meet with your athletic administrator** or visit the OHSAA website (www.OHSAA.org) to ensure all regulations are being followed.

OHSAA Amateur Standards

- You could lose your amateur status and forfeit your eligibility if you compete for money or other monetary compensation **OR** capitalize on your athletic fame by receiving money, merchandise or services or by entering into an agreement with a professional team or agent.

OHSAA Transfer Standards

- Once eligibility has been established at a member high school, a transfer to a different high school may mean you will lose eligibility for interscholastic athletics for a period of time at your new school. For specifics on the period of ineligibility, visit www.ohsaa.org.
- This regulation has several exceptions, most of which require a ruling from the OHSAA Executive Director's Office.
- Should you have transferred to this school, you must ensure all applicable paperwork has been submitted to the OHSAA **AND** the state office has granted approval for eligibility.
- Immediate eligibility will be granted only if one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation has been met.

General OHSAA Eligibility Standards

- There ARE exceptions to some regulations. If you believe you qualify for an exception or you have questions pertaining to your eligibility or about any of the regulations, **please consult with your school principal or athletic administrator.**
- Ask your school principal or athletic administrator to discuss any unresolved issues with the administrators in the OHSAA office who handle eligibility issues.
- You can also review all OHSAA regulations on eligibility standards by going to the OHSAA website at www.ohsaa.org.

Your Health & Safety

Your Health & Safety

- Before the season's first practice, you must have had a physical examination within the past year AND an examination clearance form must be on file at the school.
- Physical examinations are valid for 13 months from the date of the exam. Exams taking place from May 1 to June 1 are valid for one year plus through the end of the next school year's spring season.
- You and your parents are highly encouraged to work with your certified athletic trainer and/or athletic administrator to complete an electronic preparticipation evaluation form that was developed for the OHSAA by PrivIT and called the PrivIT Profile™. This Profile is now the OHSAA standard. (<http://privit.com/privit-products/privit-profile/>)
- In addition, you will not be eligible unless you and your parents have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form, the OHSAA Eligibility & Authorization Statement and the Ohio Department of Health's concussion form, all of which must be on file at your school. These forms can be e-signed within the PrivIT Profile™.

Concussions

- It is **EXTREMELY** important for everyone involved in school sports to recognize the potential dangers associated with concussions and review their responsibilities in protecting student-athletes.
- Concussions are **NOT** just a problem in football . . . concussions can happen in just about any sport!
- A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal function of the brain. "Dings" and "bell ringers" are **SERIOUS** brain injuries and you do **NOT** have to have loss of consciousness for it to be considered serious. Young athletes are at increased risk for serious problems.
- In Ohio, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion . . . such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems . . . shall be **IMMEDIATELY** removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play that same day.
- Thereafter, the student-athlete shall not return to practice or competition until cleared with **WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION** from a physician or health care provider approved by the local board in accordance with state law.
- Each school is required to review its concussion management protocol with you and your parents.
- In addition, you and your parents must review and sign the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation, and you are highly encouraged to review a short presentation on concussions available at no cost (www.nfhslearn.com).
- While return-to-play policies are very important, parents must also work with school administrators and teachers in developing concussion management guidelines for student-athletes who have been concussed and are returning to the classroom (i.e. Return to Learn).

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the most common cause of death among student-athletes, and dizziness, loss of breath and a racing heart are often symptoms that are overlooked. In many cases, recognizing the signs of cardiac trouble means student-athletes can continue their athletic participation.
- Participants and parents are required to view the Ohio Department of Health's sudden cardiac arrest video that may be shown at your school.
- In addition, participants and parents must review and sign the Ohio Department of Health's "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet" prior to participation.

Additional Health & Safety Guidelines

- The OHSAA does not permit the use of any form of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.
- Besides the health risks involved, use of any of these items will result in student-athletes being disqualified from contests and violators likely facing additional school and legal penalties.
- Another prominent issue is the use of performance enhancing supplements.
- The increased availability of these items allows student-athletes easy access to a wide variety of products aggressively marketed to include promises — endorsed by faulty research claims — of extraordinary weight loss, explosive power or tremendous strength gains.
- It is important for parents to educate themselves about what substances their child may be using and about the potential risks involved with uneducated supplement use.
- Beyond performance enhancing supplements, there are additional issues related to illicit drugs, such as anabolic steroids and some prescription drugs used with the goal of aiding performance.
- Use of these drugs will result in disqualification from all interscholastic athletics.
- The OHSAA website (www.OHSAA.org) provides a wealth of information to assist parents, coaches, student-athletes and anyone interested in learning more about sports medicine and healthy lifestyles.

Sporting Behavior

Respect The Game

- The OHSAA's vision for positive sporting behavior is built on expectations. It calls on the school community — administrators, contest officials, coaches, student-athletes, parents and fans — to strive for positive sporting behavior in everything they do by teaching the values of ethics, integrity, equity, fairness and respect.
- As a student-athlete, you must always remember to Respect The Game!
- That means you are expected to accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community while participating in school sports. You are expected to:
- Treat opponents, coaches and officials with respect.
- Ensure that your actions do not incite fans or other participants or attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean others.

More on the OHSAA

Organization Helping Student-athletes Achieve

- Like the other 820 public and non-public high schools and approximately 800 7th and 8th grade schools, your school has volunteered to become a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
- Ohio is one of the top ranked states in the country with over 350,000 high school student-athletes competing in 26 sanctioned sports.
- For many of you, playing on your school teams may be the last time you will participate in competitive athletics.

- The OHSAA wants to make sure your time as a high school student-athlete is meaningful and memorable.
- Key OHSAA initiatives:
 - Establishing and regulating regular season and tournament standards in order for competition to be fair and equitable.
 - Administering exceptional post-season tournaments.
- Other key OHSAA initiatives:
 - Providing annual scholarships totaling over \$100,000 to student-athletes who excel in athletics and academics.
 - Licensing, registering and training nearly 17,000 contest officials.
 - Ensuring coaches are certified to work with student-athletes through an ongoing coach education program.
- The OHSAA has had a tradition of excellence for over 100 years, with our ultimate purpose to promote lifetime values, good citizenship, academic success, ethics and fair play in safe and sporting environments.
- For more information and additional resources, visit the OHSAA website (www.OHSAA.org) and follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/OHSAASports) and Facebook (facebook.com/OHSAA).
- Have a great season!

4th Board Adoption August 14, 2024

Revised August 14, 2024

Revised September 1, 2018

3rd Board Adopted October 8, 2018

Revised June 27, 2017

2nd Board Adopted August 9, 2017

Original Adoption Date – NOVEMBER 23, 2010

Parents/Student-athletes: Please complete all sections on this page and return this to the school by the OHSAA official start date for your sport.

_____ Grade _____
Student-athlete's Last Name First Name ID #

_____ and _____ have received and
(Parent/Guardian) (Student-athlete)
read the Student-Athlete Handbook.



Meigs High School OHSAA Preseason Information

Parents/Guardians and Student-athlete:

These preseason meetings are an important tool for you to use during your athletic career and states very simply the procedures for athletic eligibility and scholarship. Also, it is mandated by the OHSAA as stipulated in Bylaw 3-1-4.

“No later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season, the principal, through his/her athletic administrator, coaches and such other personnel as deemed advisable by said principal, shall conduct a mandatory, preseason program with all student-athlete-athletes who wish to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents and booster club officers.”

“When it has been verified that the member school has failed to conduct a preseason meeting(s) in accordance with Bylaw 3-1-4, the member school shall be fined \$500 for each violation.” It is also noted that “the OHSAA intends to conduct random audits of compliance with this standard.”

Please complete all sections on this page and return this to the school by August 7, 2025.

Student-athlete Signature
Signature

Parent/Guardian

Sport _____

Grade _____