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Dear Bowling Green City Schools Families,

A court ruling in Ohio earlier this fall has prompted the OHSAA to change its NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) rule to allow NIL compensation for student-athletes. This ruling requires immediate updates to OHSAA guidelines, which are still being finalized, but we want to ensure our students, families and coaches are aware of the changes.

Here is the [OHSAA NIL Resource Center](#).

Here are the [OHSAA NIL Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Please review these carefully, as there are several situations where a student or team could become ineligible or forfeit contests depending on how NIL is used. For example, OHSAA has nine requirements that students must follow (also listed below), and the student **must** disclose any NIL agreement to OHSAA within 14 days of entering the agreement.

As outlined in the FAQ, schools cannot pool donations or fundraising to create NIL opportunities for students. However, we want to support students by making sure they follow procedures to avoid violations or eligibility issues. Please contact your coach or our athletic director, Michele Wolf (mwolf@bgcs.k12.oh.us), **before** entering any agreement. This is not to limit opportunities, but to protect the eligibility of both the student and the team.

While we want to help families navigate this new NIL landscape, OHSAA clearly states the responsibility lies with families to follow these guidelines fully. Failure to do so may put a student-athlete's eligibility at risk and leave the entire team vulnerable to forfeits.

Here is a list of the current OHSAA NIL requirements:

- a. The student may not use the name, logos, mascots or trademarks of the OHSAA or the member school with which they are enrolled while executing the requirements of their contract.*
- b. The student may not engage in an agreement that is provided by the member school or an agent of the school (i.e., collectives, boosters, foundations, coaches, etc.).*
- c. The student may not engage in any personal branding activities during school hours, while traveling to or from an OHSAA event, or during any official team activities.*
- d. The student may not receive compensation based on specific athletic performance or achievement.*
- e. The student may not engage in an agreement that is intended to induce their enrollment at a particular school.*
- f. The student may not display the sponsor's product or otherwise advertise for a sponsor during official team activities.*



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g. The student may not provide money, merchandise or services of value directly to the student's school or team.

h. The student may not engage in an agreement associated with gambling, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, illegal substances, adult entertainment or firearms.

i. The student is responsible for determining what effect the agreement may have on their eligibility with the NCAA, NJCAA or NAIA.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Yours in athletics,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Wolf".

Michele Wolf
Athletic Director
Bowling Green High School