



BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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2026-2027

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
STUDENT HANDBOOK
GRADES 7-12**

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www.bigwalnutathletics.net

“Home of the Golden Eagles”

Dr. Nicole Carter, BWHS Principal

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Josh Frame, BWMS Principal

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Mission of Big Walnut Athletics

“Communication, Development, Success”



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MISSION AND VISION

Big Walnut Athletics is committed to creating a culture focused on "Success" through efficient and effective communication while developing an athlete's growth mindset, mental toughness, and leadership qualities.

COMMUNICATION

Mission / Vision
Core Values
Principles
Positive Public Relations
High Expectations
Team First
Logistics

DEVELOPMENT

Positive Culture
Growth Mindset
Leadership
Challenged
Skill
Athleticism
Grit & Mental Toughness

SUCCESS

Championships
Visual and Measurable Growth

Big Walnut Athletic Core Principles

Our athletic program shall promote the development of:

Positive Culture	Scholarship
Sportsmanship	Character
Leadership	Competition
Growth Mindset	Grit
Mental Toughness	Athleticism

Athletes First, Winning Second!

REQUIRED ATHLETIC FORMS AND NATIONAL TESTING DATES (ACT/SAT)

This Athletic Handbook applies to any student or parent of a student who tries out for or becomes a participant in any interscholastic athletic program as an athlete or student trainer at Big Walnut High School or Middle School.

Each student participating in the interscholastic athletic program must complete these forms by the first day of the season: (Failure to complete required paperwork by the start of the season will result in the athlete being denied participation.)

1. Acceptance of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and Big Walnut Eligibility and Authorization Statement Information
2. Pre-participation Physical Evaluation
3. Emergency Medical Form
4. Please complete all forms online at www.bigwalnut.finalforms.com

Student trainers are not required to have physical examinations, but need to complete the athletic forms online referred to in #4 above.

2026-2027 National Testing Days **(Offered at Big Walnut High School)**

Links:

<https://bit.ly/4tQ0TMx>

PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Privilege of Athletic Participation

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Students may participate and receive awards only if they meet and continue to meet the standards set by the school.

Athletic Participation Responsibilities

The tradition at Big Walnut has been to win with honor and is worthy of the best efforts of students and staff. Being able to participate in the Big Walnut athletic programs, like any other privilege, carries with it a number of responsibilities.

To Oneself

A most important responsibility is to broaden yourself and to develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your high school experiences. Your academics, which should receive first priority, and your participation in extracurricular activities both prepare you for your life as an adult.

To Your School

Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Our school cannot maintain its position as an outstanding high school unless you do your best in whatever activity you engage in. Performing to the maximum of your ability will contribute to the reputation of your school.

To Your Community

You automatically assume a leadership role when you participate on an athletic squad. The student body and your school will be judged by your conduct, appearance, and attitude, both on and off the field. Your exemplary behavior will contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.

To Your Family

You have responsibilities to your family. Always attempt to live up to these ideals and make them proud of you. When you know that you have lived up to all the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability, and that you have played the game “all out”, you can then keep your self-respect, and your family can be justly proud of you.

OHIO CAPITAL CONFERENCE (OCC) AFFILIATIONS

Big Walnut Local Schools are a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). The rules and regulations developed by the OHSAA are designed to protect the safety and welfare of the athletes and to ensure fair play. These rules and regulations are voted on by principals of schools across the state of Ohio.

Big Walnut High School is one of the 33 schools in the OCC, and as members, we agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the conference. Principals, acting upon recommendations of coaches and/or athletic directors, vote on each regulation with the best interest of the student-athletes and member schools in mind.

There are five divisions within the OCC: Ohio, Central, Cardinal, Capital, and Buckeye.

Buckeye Division	Ohio Division	Central Division	Capital Division	Cardinal Division
Canal Winchester	Central Crossing	Dubin Coffman	Big Walnut	Dublin Jerome
Logan	Gahanna Lincoln	Hilliard Bradley	Delaware Hayes	Hilliard Darby
Teays Valley	Grove City	Hilliard Davidson	Dublin Scioto	Marysville
Groveport Madison	New Albany	Olentangy Liberty	Westerville North	Olentangy
Lancaster	Pickerington North	Olentangy Orange	Westerville South	Olentangy Berlin
Pickerington Central	Westerville Central	Upper Arlington	Westland	Thomas Worthington
Reynoldsburg			Worthington Kilbourne	

BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Boys Lacrosse
Cheerleading-Football	Cheerleading-Basketball	Girls Lacrosse
Football	**Boys Bowling	Softball
Boys Golf	**Girls Bowling	Boys Tennis
Boys Soccer	Gymnastics	Boys Track and Field
Girls Soccer	*Boys Swimming and Diving	Girls Track and Field
Girls Tennis	*Girls Swimming and Diving	Boys Volleyball
Girls Volleyball	Boys Wrestling	
Girls Golf	***Competition Cheerleading	
	***** Indoor Track	
	Girls Wrestling	

BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Boys Lacrosse
Cheerleading-Football	Cheerleading-Basketball	Girls Lacrosse
Football	Boys Wrestling	Softball
Boys Golf	Diving (Club)	Boys Track and Field
Girls Tennis	Indoor Track (Club)	Girls Track and Field
Girls Volleyball	Girls Wrestling	Boys Tennis
Girls Golf	Competitive Cheer	

* Swimming and Diving will pay an additional \$100 Extenuating Circumstance Facility Fee

** Bowling will pay an additional \$50 Extenuating Circumstance Facility Fee

*** HS/MS Indoor Track (\$50 fee) Extenuating Circumstance Facility Fee

***** High School Boys and Girls Golf will pay an additional \$100 Extenuating Circumstance Facility Fee

Please note that all Ohio High School sports are designated as “Boys” and “Girls.”

Collegiate sports are designated as “Mens” and “Womens.”

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The following rules and regulations are in accordance with and in the spirit of those of the OHSAA and the Big Walnut Board of Education.

Nine-Week Eligibility (High School)

Academic eligibility will be determined at the end of each nine (9)-week grading period. Students must maintain passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts towards graduation. OHSAA by-laws state that any student not passing the necessary 5.0 credits at the end of each nine (9) week grading period will be ineligible during the next nine (9) week grading period. No special recitations or tests are to be given for the purpose of making a student academically eligible. It shall be the responsibility of the Athletic Director to devise and operate procedures for gathering information on student academic eligibility. Semester averages, exams, or yearly grade averages have no effect on eligibility.

Nine-Week Eligibility (Middle School)

Academic eligibility will be determined at the end of each nine (9)-week grading period. Students must maintain passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes of all subjects carried. OHSAA by-laws state that any student not passing the necessary four (4) subjects at the end of each nine (9) week grading period will be ineligible during the next nine (9) week grading period. No special recitations or tests are to be given for the purpose of making a student academically eligible. It shall be the responsibility of the Athletic Director to devise and operate procedures for gathering information on student academic eligibility. Semester averages, exams, or yearly grade averages have no effect on eligibility.

Course Load

To be academically eligible for any given grading period in grades 9-12, the student must be enrolled in at least five (5) credits of courses.

Courses That Do Not Count for OHSAA Eligibility - (HS Only)

Academic Assist	Physical Education
Jazz Band	Student Council
Pep Band	Student Support Time
Teacher Aide/Office Aide Assignments	

Any course or activity accepted for credit by the BWHS Educational Options Committee

Edmentum

Students must reach the necessary benchmark that would signify adequate progress in the course and would earn a "P" for the quarter (25% completion for a 1 credit course and 50% completion for a .5 credit course).

GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the OHSAA, to be eligible for any interscholastic extracurricular activity, a student must have maintained at least a 1.5 GPA grade-point average of the following at each grade level for the grading period before the grading period in which he/she wishes to participate:

If a student who becomes ineligible under these standards improves his/her grade point average during the current grading period to meet the eligibility standard, the student may be reinstated at the beginning of the next grading period.

Students identified as disabled under R.C. 3323 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their Individualized Education Program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a grade will be determined for (a) course(s), given the student's individual disability.

Student-athletes are permitted a "one-time" waiver of the GPA requirement during 7th or 8th grade years and the 9th through 12th grade years.

The GPA and grades of student-athletes are closely monitored by the athletic director and head coach. Parents and student-athletes are encouraged to monitor grades through PowerSchool and contact the Athletic Director with athletic eligibility questions.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students, as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the OHSAA that are consistent with State and Federal law, and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of time to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Failure to comply with these eligibility requirements will result in the denial of participation and awards for the nine-week grading period. The appeals procedure outlined in the student code of conduct does not apply.

OTHER OHSAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Age

High school students (grades 9-12) who turn 20 years old will be immediately ineligible to participate in High School Athletics.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students who turn 15 years of age prior to August 1, 2026, are ineligible for 7th-8th grade athletics but are eligible to participate in high school athletics.

There are exceptions to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your athletic administrator to review these exceptions.

Semester Eligibility

Athletes are permitted a max of eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility for HS and four (4) semesters of eligibility for MS.

- The semesters are taken in order of attendance once ninth-grade eligibility has been established.
- The semesters are taken in order of attendance for middle school, beginning in 7th grade.
- Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not.

Awards

You may receive awards valued at \$200 or less as a result of athletic participation in interscholastic athletics from any source. You may never accept cash awards, including but not limited to gift cards, clothing, and technology devices.

Non-School Teams

A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) may not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of team or group training or practices on or with a non-school squad in a team sport in the same sport during the school's interscholastic season.

- In individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling, however, individuals may practice and try out for a non-school team but may not compete in a contest.

A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball) may try out, practice, and compete on non-school teams before and after the school season, provided:

- The number of students from the same school on the roster of the non-school team is limited to five (5) students in the sports of soccer, field hockey, and ice hockey; four (4) students in the sports of baseball and softball; three (3) students in the sport of

volleyball, and two (2) students in the sport of basketball. School football team members are prohibited from competing on non-school teams, except from June 1 to July 31.

- Seniors are exempt from these limitations after the conclusion of their sport's season. In addition, there is no limit on the number of students from the same school team that may participate on the same non-school team from June 1 to July 31.

Note: Check the OHSAA Sports Regulations (available on the OHSAA website) for the date you must cease participation on non-school teams in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition, along with penalties for non-compliance with this date.

SPORTING BEHAVIOR/EJECTIONS

Athletes

You are expected to accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community while participating in interscholastic athletics. You are expected to:

- Treat opponents, coaches, and officials with respect.
- Display no behavior that could incite fans or other participants in the contest or which is intended to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others under any circumstances, including on the basis of race, religion, gender, or national origin.
- Remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving your skills, making friends, and doing your best are also important.

The OHSAA has established a policy for students ejected or disqualified for unsporting behavior or flagrant fouls. If you are ejected or disqualified:

- You will be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day, and
- You will be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football).

If you are ejected or disqualified a second time in a season, you are subject to additional penalties, including suspension from play for the remainder of the season in that sport.

The ejection will be reviewed by the Athletic Director to determine if additional consequences will be awarded. The Athletic Director reserves the right to add additional school consequences and/or deny participation.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in athletics is an honor and privilege that must be earned. As a participant, you should expect no special favors or considerations. You are expected to contribute more than the average student to your school and community. By being a participant in this program, you are indicating that you will work harder than the average student and display self-discipline.

All students must, besides remaining eligible for the interscholastic athletic program, remain in *good standing* during the particular sport season. A season is defined as beginning with the first practice and ending after the sport's banquet or final contest, whichever is last.

To assist in maintaining the standards necessary to promote a good program, the following Code of Conduct has been adopted. Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in loss of *good standing*. This may mean denial of participation on a team for a specified period of time, and/or the denial of awards, and/or removal from the team.

Athlete's Responsibility

All athletes should conduct themselves with pride and respect at all times so as not to discredit themselves, their coaches, or the school that they represent.

Should an occasion arise where an athlete has a concern that relates to the actions of a coach, it is strongly encouraged that the athlete, in a timely manner, request a meeting with the coach at an appropriate time and place. If the student athlete does not feel comfortable in this type of situation or setting, then the meeting could certainly involve the parent, student, and coach. It is the desire of the Board of Education that athletes and coaches seek to rectify any misunderstandings by direct discussions of an informal type among the interested parties. It is only when such informal meetings fail to address the concerns or resolve the situation should more formal procedures be employed, starting with the involvement of the Athletic Director.

REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Expectations of Athletes

- Maintain athletic and academic eligibility
- Display proper behavior both in and out of school.
- Model a strong commitment to abstain from tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and other illegal drug use. (365 days)
- Respect authority - parents, officials, teachers, coaches, administrators, and others. Demonstrate a dedication to high standards in the classroom and a dedication to hard work and training.

Participation

Any player who quits a team without a valid administrator's approval for quitting the team is not permitted to start the next season until the current season is completed.

Tryouts

It is possible that a roster may be limited in size. Each athlete trying out for a team must be given two full days of tryouts before being “cut” from the team. The head varsity coach or middle school coach will be responsible for making the final decision with respect to his/her team. When athletes are “cut” from a team, that decision is final.

Recruiting of Athletes

Athletes may be ineligible if recruited by a person or group of persons to change schools. It may also affect the eligibility of the school's athletic teams.

Injuries

If an athlete is under the care of a physician for an injury, the athlete must have a written release from the doctor to practice or play in a contest.

Equipment and Uniforms

It is the responsibility of the athlete to return all loaned equipment and uniforms. Athletes will be charged a fee for unreturned items.

Absences from School

Guidelines for athletic participation in practice and contests as a result of illness or other absences are as follows:

Practice - If an athlete is ill and comes to school, he/she is to be present for at least 3 periods in the HS/MS in order to practice. If an athlete leaves school anytime during the day as a result of illness, he/she is not to return for practice that evening.

Practice - If a student-athlete is unexcused from school, he/she is not permitted to practice.

Game - Athletes must be in school for at least 3 periods in the HS/MS of the school day on the day of an athletic contest. If a student-athlete is unexcused from school, he/she is not permitted to practice.

Tardiness to School - Arriving home late on a school night because of an athletic event or practice is no excuse to be late to school on the following day.

Head Coach

Each head coach has the right to determine reasonable team rules (approved by the Athletic Director) and reasonable expectations of conduct for his/her team. The coach has the right to determine the consequences for the violation of the team rules and/or for the expectations of conduct. These rules, expectations, and consequences will apply to each athlete who is a member of the team. ***The rules must be reviewed every season with the Athletic Director for approval.***

Violations of team rules and/or the expectations of conduct by an athlete may result in, but not be limited to, an indefinite denial of participation and/or removal from the team.

Due Process When a Coach is Recommending a Denial of Participation

1. The student-athlete will be informed of the potential denial of participation/removal and the reasons for the proposed action in a timely manner.
2. The student-athlete will be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended denial of participation/removal and to explain his/her actions in a timely manner, but not on the same day as the initial incident.
3. The coach will reconsider if the denial of participation/removal is still necessary and, after discussing the issue with the coaching staff, will come to a final decision. The coaching staff will then confer with the Big Walnut High School Administrative team, which includes but is not limited to the Athletic Director and Principal, before a final decision is made.
4. Parents or guardians will be notified when a decision is made.
5. If denial of participation or removal from the team is recommended by the coach, the coach will confer with the Athletic Director or Administrative Team (Principal or designee) before a final decision is made. Once a decision is made, there will be no opportunity for appeal.

Note: Denial of participation remains in effect throughout the above process.

The following offenses are specifically prohibited at any time (365-day policy):

1. Use or possession of any tobacco or smoking products, including snuff.
2. Drinking or possession of any alcoholic beverages.
3. The use or possession of any illegal drug, narcotic, or substance termed illegal by the laws of the State of Ohio, unless directly prescribed by a licensed physician.

First Violation (Alcohol or Illegal Drugs)

Drinking or possession of any alcoholic beverages or the use or possession of any illegal drug, narcotic, or substance termed illegal by the laws of the State of Ohio, unless directly prescribed by a licensed physician – The athlete will be denied to participate in 40% of the sport season as defined by the OHSAA. The number of contests will be rounded down to the next nearest whole number. Athletes who choose to participate in a drug screening will have their suspension reduced 10%. In addition, athletes who complete 16 hours of community service or 8 hours of drug/alcohol abuse training will have an additional 10% reduction.

First Violation (Vapes)

No student shall possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any “Vape” device or any handheld electronic device that works by heating a liquid which generates an aerosol, or "vapor", that is inhaled by the user or any other paraphernalia normally associated with vaping. This includes but is not limited to: “Juuls” or other pod vapes, vape pens, box mod kits, or e-cigarettes.

The athlete will be denied participation in 40% of the sport season as defined by the OHSAA. The number of contests will be rounded down to the next nearest whole number. Athletes who choose to participate in a drug screening will have their suspension reduced 10%. Furthermore, athletes may have an additional 10% reduction by completing requirements assigned by the athletic director, such as community service, drug abuse training, etc.

First Violation (Tobacco)

Tobacco use or possession of cigarettes/chewing tobacco/snuff. The athlete will be denied to participate in 40% of the sport season as defined by the OHSAA Handbook. The number of contests will be rounded down to the next nearest whole number. Athletes who complete 4 hours of tobacco intervention/education program will have their denial of participation reduced to 10%. Second and third violations will be aligned with the drug/alcohol consequences.

Second Violation**(Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Vapes, or Tobacco)**

The athlete will be denied to participate in 50% of the sports season as defined by the OHSAA. The number of contests will be rounded down to the next nearest whole number. No reduction is available.

Third Violation

(Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Vapes, or Tobacco)

The denial of participation is for one year from the date of the third violation. No reduction is available.

Middle School

Any middle school athlete with an alcohol, illegal drug, vape, or tobacco violation during 7th and 8th grade will start high school with zero violations.

Interpretation for Denial of Participation

When participation has been denied by the Athletic Board, practice may be allowed at the discretion of the Athletic Director. The athlete may, at the discretion of the Athletic Director, be allowed to travel and sit with the team, but not be in uniform. When participation has been denied, the participant must follow all rules and requirements of the activity. When denial has not been served due to the conclusion of the season, the remaining percent of time may carry over to the next sports season during which the athlete participates. The athlete must complete that sports season in good standing, or the denial again carries over to the next sports season in which he/she participates.

Student/Parental Self-Referral Policy

If prior to an infraction of the athletic code, a parent, guardian, or student athlete seeks assistance for dealing with tobacco, drug, or alcohol problems through a written self-referral to the athletic director or principal of the building where the student attends and the athlete agrees to participate in an educational or treatment program approved in writing by the athletic director or principal, there shall be no denial of participation. All costs for the program will be the responsibility of the student.

Hazing and Bullying

Hazing in athletic activities is prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation toward any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk for causing mental or physical harm to any person. No student athlete shall plan, encourage, or engage in any form of hazing in practices, competition, or performances. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Board Policy 5516 further defines the expectations regarding the prohibition of hazing.

Bullying and other forms of aggressive behavior (harassment, intimidation, or bullying) toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Harassment, intimidation or bullying is defined as any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment to other

student(s); or violence within a dating relationship. Board Policy 5517 further defines expectations regarding anti-harassment.

Violations may result in the denial of participation for the remainder of the sport season.

Since athletics are a privilege, Big Walnut holds athletes to a higher standard of conduct. Therefore, anytime an athlete is being disciplined by the school administration or charged with a misdemeanor or felony by the legal system, the Athletic Board will review the case to determine what the consequences will be in regards to the athlete's participation. Illegal behavior includes, but is not limited to, theft, vandalism, assault, and the sale of drugs, narcotics, or substances termed illegal by the State of Ohio.

This section of the Code is in effect for the entire calendar year.

Violations Defined

Violations may result in denial of participation in practice and/or games for the length of time the Athletic Board deems appropriate.

ROLE OF PARENTS/SPECTATORS

Parents/Spectators, by their behaviors and reactions, play an important role in their school's reputation for sportsmanship. Everyone should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams. They are expected to be treated as such. Parents/Spectators should be reminded, too, that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that everyone embrace the following:

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

Spectators/Parents/Fans are to refrain from inappropriate behaviors:

- Verbal/physical abuse of officials and coaches.
- Berating players, coaches, or other spectators through chants, signs, and/or cheers.
- Interruption of a contest by behaviors such as throwing objects on the playing area, entering the playing area, and/or disruptive behavior.

Disciplinary actions include

- Removal from the current contest and/or removal from future athletic contests
- Conference/hearing with school officials
- Entering the playing area may result in a suspension from all athletic contests for a period of up to one year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Transportation Guidelines

When leaving school grounds for athletic contests, each coach is responsible for their athletes. If a stat, manager, cheerleader, helper, or athlete wants to ride home with a parent, they must have a signed transportation release form. This form is to be signed by the coach and the parent. A coach will not release a student to ride home with another student. Athletes do not drive to and/or from away games or scrimmages. Forms will be given out on game days by the coach or parent rep.

If parents do take students home from away contests according to the adopted procedure, the students are not covered under the catastrophic insurance policy of the OHSAA.

OHSAA Catastrophic Insurance

Eligibility - All student athletes, student managers, student trainers, student cheerleaders, and other students as participants of an interscholastic sports competition are eligible.

Covered Events - Eligible insured are covered while participating in interscholastic competitions authorized, sanctioned, or scheduled by the OHSAA and governed by the regulations of the OHSAA in sports in which the OHSAA conducts tournaments. Covered events also include: school-supervised tryouts, practice, game day related activities (including award banquets), tournaments, and covered travel, between the starting date and ending date of the respective sports season as determined by the OHSAA.

Eligibility for Participation in College Sports

Many college programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid. The NCAA has three membership divisions—Division I, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members of one or another division according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse was established by the NCAA member institutions in January 1993. The Clearinghouse ensures consistent application of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all prospective student athletes at all member institutions. For more information, contact the guidance department. <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

Out-of-Season Athletic Activities

It is prohibited for a coach to require an in-season athlete to attend activities for another athletic season. If the in-season and out-of-season coaches reach a mutual agreement, the athlete can attend activities related to an out-of-season sport.

Weight Room Supervision

Athletes are not to be in the weight room without the proper supervision of a board-approved coach/volunteer.

Multiple Sports in the Same Season

The Big Walnut Athletic Department supports athletes who have the desire to play two different sports in the same season under the following conditions:

- Athletes and parents must meet with both coaches and have the approval of both coaches to participate in different sports during the same season.
- The athlete will provide a schedule of attendance and a communication plan to keep the coaches informed of their schedule.
- In order for this to be a positive experience for the athlete, there must be clear communication between all stakeholders.

ATHLETIC AND SPECIAL AWARDS SYSTEM

Middle School Awards - All participants will receive a certificate.

- Archie Griffin Award Sportsmanship Award

Freshmen, JV, and Varsity Awards - All participants will receive a certificate.

Varsity Awards - A one-time three-inch numerals indicating their year of graduation, a one-time five-inch interlocking “BW”, and **varsity awards** listed below.

- A bronze medallion is given for the first varsity award
- A silver medallion for the second varsity award
- A gold medallion for the third varsity award
- A blanket for the fourth varsity award

Baseball - participated in one-half or more of the total games played by the varsity team during the entire season. The head coach can make an exception for pitchers or specialty positions.

Basketball - participated in one-half or more of the total games played.

Bowling – participated in one-half or more of the contests played.

Sideline Cheerleading - participated in one-half or more of the total quarters of scheduled varsity games during the entire season. Cheerleaders will receive separate letters for football and basketball seasons.

Competition Cheerleading - participation award

Cross Country - scored in one-half or more of the total meets.

Football - participated in one-half of the quarters of scheduled varsity games. Exceptions can be made for specialists.

Golf - participated in one-half or more of the varsity meets.

Gymnastics - participated in one-half or more of the regularly scheduled meets or competing in the district meet.

Lacrosse - participated in one-half or more of the total halves

Soccer – participated in one-half or more of the total contests played.

Softball - participated in one-half or more of the total games played by the varsity team during the entire season. The head coach can make an exception for pitchers.

Swimming/Diving - point system used

Tennis - participated in one-half or more of matches or placed in the OCC or District.

Track - average two points per meet or place in the OCC or District.

Wrestling - needs 10 total points to letter, earning 1 point per participation.

Volleyball - played in one-half or more of the total number of games played by the varsity team during the entire season.

Specific Situations

- All seniors will receive a letter, even if it was their first year of participating.
- Any athlete who was a starter or played regularly and was thereafter injured may be awarded a letter if, in the coach's judgment, he/she would have met the lettering requirements.
- Head coaches have the flexibility to award a varsity letter to those athletes who might not have met the criteria stated above, with the Athletic Director's approval.

Special Awards

Senior Varsity Plaque - issued to senior athletes who earned three varsity awards in one sport or four varsity awards in any combination of varsity sports. Cheerleaders are issued a varsity plaque by earning three varsity cheerleading letters in three different school years.

Senior Varsity Blanket - issued to senior athletes who earned four varsity awards in one sport or six varsity awards in any combination of varsity sports.

Senior Golden Eagle Award - presented to a senior with a GPA of 3.0 or better, and is based on the following criteria:

40% - character

30% - scholarship

30% - athletic ability

The award is based on the decision of the coaching staff and is at their discretion. It is possible that multiple athletes could earn this award.

Big Walnut Scholar Athlete - issued to all freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior athletes who have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better. For all fall freshman athletes, the first nine-week GPA will be used due to most freshmen not having a cumulative high school GPA. A certificate will be issued each season to an athlete participating in a sport. A **one-time** per school year scholar athlete patch will be issued to an athlete who participated in a sport.

OCC Scholar Athlete – issued by the OCC to one senior varsity athlete per sport, per season, who has earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better. This award is determined by the OCC and could change per sport based on the OCC bylaws.

Individual Sport Team Awards – particular awards for each sport will be issued at the coach's discretion.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY FEE

The Big Walnut Board of Education has waived all standard extracurricular fees for the 2026-27 school year.

The following fees have not been waived by the district:

- *High School Swimming/Diving – Will have an additional \$100 Extenuating Circumstance Facility Fee*
- *High School Bowling - Will have an additional \$50 Extenuating Circumstance Facility Fee*
- *Indoor Track \$50 fee*
- *High School Boys and Girls Golf will pay an additional \$100 Extenuating Circumstance Facility Fee*

Checks are to be made payable to Big Walnut Athletics or use PayschoolsCentral.com.

TICKET INFORMATION

2026-2027

**At the Gate fees determined by the OCC*

**Big Walnut season ticket prices have remained the same for 8 years*

Senior Citizen Ticket Policy

- Free With Big Walnut Pass
- **Student Price Without Pass**

BWHS/BWMS Home Athletic Events Pass

Full Year Passes

Adult (HS/MS Games)- \$110.00 HS Student (HS/MS Games)- \$40.00 Family (HS/MS Games)- \$270.00
 Adult (MS Games Only)- \$100.00 MS Student (HS/MS Games)- \$40.00 (can go to HS and MS games)

Fall Only Season Pass

Adult (HS/MS Games)- \$60.00 Family - \$130.00
 Adult (MS Games Only)- \$50.00

Winter Only Season Pass

Adult (HS/MS Games)- \$60.00 Family - \$130.00
 Adult (MS Games Only)- \$50.00

Spring Only Season Pass

Adult (HS/MS Games)- \$60.00 Family \$130.00
 Adult (MS Games Only)- \$50.00

Fall Sports Season

*HS Gate fees determined by the OCC

**MS Gate fees determined by MSAD

<u>Football (V)</u>	<u>Football (JV)</u>	<u>Football (Freshmen)</u>	<u>Football (MS)</u>
Adult \$8.00	Adult \$5.00	Adult \$5.00	Adult \$6.00
Student \$5.00	Student \$5.00	Student \$5.00	Student \$5.00

Volleyball (V/JV/Freshmen)

Adult \$8.00	<u>Volleyball (MS)</u>
Student \$5.00	Adult \$6.00
	Student \$5.00

Boys Soccer (V/JV)

Adult \$8.00	<u>Girls Soccer (V/JV)</u>
Student \$5.00	Adult \$8.00
	Student \$5.00

Winter Sports Season

<u>Boys Basketball (V/JV/Freshmen)</u>	<u>Girls Basketball (V/JV)</u>	<u>B/G Basketball (MS)</u>
Adult \$8.00	Adult \$8.00	Adult \$6.00
Students \$5.00	Student \$5.00	Student \$5.00

Wrestling (HS)

<u>Wrestling (MS)</u>
Adult \$8.00 Adult \$6.00
Student \$5.00 Student \$5.00

Spring Sports Season

<u>Track (HS)</u>	<u>Track (MS)</u>	<u>Lacrosse (HS)</u>	<u>Lacrosse (MS)</u>
Adult \$8.00	Adult \$6.00	Adult \$8.00	Adult \$6.00
Student \$5.00	Student \$5.00	Student \$5.00	Student \$5.00

GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT TERMS

Athlete - An athlete is defined by the board as any student who has tried out for or participated in the Interscholastic Athletic Program, either as a player, cheerleader, or student trainer.

Athletic Board - consists of the Athletic Director and the coaches who have been approved by the Board of Education for the current school year.

Big Walnut Club Sport – Board-Approved. No expenses paid through the BWLSD or Athletic Department.

Big Walnut School-Sponsored – Board-Approved partnership. Some expenses are paid through the BWLSD and/or the Athletic Department, but not all.

Days - All references to “days” in this handbook refer to “school days.”

Good Standing - denotes compliance with any provisions of the athletic handbook.

Possession - means either (A) physical control of alcohol, mind-altering chemicals, build-altering chemicals, tobacco, or vape device/paraphernalia or (B) permitting other persons to possess the aforementioned substances in locations (automobile, home, etc.) for which the student has responsibility, in the absence of a responsible adult to exercise meaningful supervision.

Sport Season - begins with the first practice and ends after the awards banquet or final contest (whichever is later)

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