Pickerington SCHOOLS

EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW

2026-2027

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Pickerington High School Central
Central Junior High
Pickerington High School North
Lakeview Junior High

We Are PICKERINGTON

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Message to Parent/Guardian(s) and Student Athletes

Pickerington Local Schools (PLSD) is a special place where students, staff, and the community take great pride in our school district and its rich traditions. We have a long tradition of community support for our school district. The families of our community are active and highly engaged, as evidenced by healthy spectator support at all of our student events. Being a PLSD athlete is second to being a PLSD student. When students put on a PLSD uniform, they agree to represent the entire community, families, staff, and the Board of Education. The uniform is a symbol of honor, pride, and responsibility. Not everyone can wear the uniform; before you and your child make any athletic decisions, review the handbook to understand the guidelines by which all PLSD student athletes are governed. After you have reviewed the handbook and feel you can commit to being a PLSD student athlete, please sign the handbook and welcome to PLSD athletics.

Have a great season,

Charles Smialek, Ed.D.
Charles Smialek, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

This handbook is made available to you because your student has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit them to compete. We are pleased with your interest in the athletic program. We believe that a comprehensive program of student activities is vital to the educational development of our students.

Participating in an athletic program is a privilege. As an athlete, you are held to higher standards in the classroom, on the field, and in the community. You are representing many people, including past athletes, your family, the community, the school, your coaches, and fellow athletes. Your involvement in athletics can be very rewarding.

As an athlete, you have to carry yourself with tremendous pride. You must wear the uniform proudly. Your actions constantly reflect on others. You must realize that you are a role model for the younger members of the community. As an athlete, you have an opportunity to set a good example for those who follow you.

As students elect to participate, there are many questions that both you and your student may have regarding the athletic program. The purpose of this handbook is to answer as many questions about the policies of the program as possible (i.e., keep students and parent/guardian(s) as informed as possible in order to assist in making the athletic experience a positive one for our student athletes). We are hopeful that this handbook will be of assistance to you as your child participates in the athletic program.

Sincerely,

Colin Beemiller, Athletic Administrator
Pickerington High School North

Lisa Morelli, Athletic Administrator
Pickerington High School Central

Kelly Winter, Asst. Athletic Administrator
Lakeview Junior High

Evan Doughty, Asst. Athletic Administrator
Central Junior High School

Statement of Pickerington Athletic Philosophy

The Athletic Department and coaching staff of Pickerington Central and North High Schools are dedicated to the development of the complete student athlete. The planning and implementation of the Pickerington Athletic Programs involve the conscientious consideration of the physical, mental, social, intellectual, and emotional growth of each young person.

As professionals, the Central and North athletic staff are keenly aware of the developmental needs of individual student athletes, as well as the social implications and importance of creating an environment in which individuals learn to become contributing members of a team. Along with the privilege of participation in athletics, Central and North provides committed students with an opportunity, through extensive training and quality instruction, to set attainable, individual and team goals while striving to maximize their own athletic growth.

Both athletic staffs, as part of the District's total educational experience, are committed to a goal of developing hard working young men and women who are proud to have been participants in both the Tiger and Panther athletic programs and have the capacity to become successful, contributing citizens in a highly competitive society.

Our athletic programs are founded on the following principles:

- Athletic participation provides an ideal environment in which to educate the whole student in that it provides a unique opportunity to integrate mind and body in the pursuit of excellence.
- That a sound program of athletics makes an important contribution to the sense of community that exists within the schools and among its various stakeholders.
- Participation in athletics enhances the personal and social development of the student.
- Participation in athletics often provides student athletes with opportunities to experience the world beyond the school boundaries that contributes to their total growth and development.
- While respecting the individual achievement, there is an inherent value in the pursuit of team accomplishments.
- Our coaches can, and often do, serve as primary counselors or adult mentors to our students.

10 Things that Require Zero Talent

- Academic Focus
- Being on time
- Work Ethic
- Body Language
- Energy
- Attitude
- Passion
- Being Coachable
- Doing Extra
- Being Prepared

Parent/Guardian Expectations

A. Parent/guardian(s) will communicate openly and freely with coaches and administrators.
   - Parent/guardian(s) will communicate with respect.
   - Parent/guardian(s) will be honest.
   - Parent/guardian(s) will communicate issues and concerns in a timely manner, including those of student's physical and emotional well-being.
   - Parent/guardian(s) will follow an appropriate chain of command:
     - Parent/guardian – Position Coach or Head Coach of the level of play *(7th, 8th, Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity)*
     - Parent/guardian – Head Coach of the program *(Varsity Head Coach)*
     - Parent/guardian – Athletic Administrator *(JH: Assistant AA / HS: AA)*
     - Parent/guardian – Building Administrator / Assistant Building Administrator of the specific school *(JH or HS)*
     - Parent/guardian - Superintendent
   - Parent/guardian(s) will be expected to complete their preseason meeting online and acknowledge necessary forms through Final Forms.
   - Playing time is not guaranteed by paying the participation fee and may only be discussed with the coaches.

B. Parent/guardian(s) will display good sportsmanship and behavior by doing the following:
   - Understand the game is for the students, not the adults
   - Recognize that student participation is a privilege
   - Displaying good sportsmanship as a spectator, and conducting yourself in a manner that reflects positively on both the team and school
   - Promoting the team by being supportive and positive when helping the program
   - Respecting the officials, opponents, coaches, and players
   - Refraining from coaching from the stands
   - Understanding that the student has an obligation to attend all practice and games

C. Parent/guardian(s) will create a positive and supportive environment to promote your student-athlete's well-being by:
   - Supporting good conditioning and a healthy lifestyle
   - Placing the emotional and physical well-being of your student ahead of any personal desire to win
   - Expecting your student to play in a healthy and safe environment
   - Supporting your student to be successful in the classroom given the demands of training and practices
   - Being a role model for other parent/guardian(s) by remaining positive at sporting events
   - Getting involved and staying involved in a positive manner as you support your student is critical to the success of the team (i.e., concessions, game support, fundraisers, banquets)

D. Failure to follow the standards and expectations of Pickerington Local School District and the Athletic Department may cause you to forfeit your right to support your student and the team.
E. Parent/Guardian Consequences for Unsporting Conduct

FIRST OFFENSE

Any fan ejected or disqualified from an interscholastic contest for unsporting conduct shall be suspended from all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the fan shall be suspended from attending contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection. In addition, the fan shall take the National Federation of State High School Association's "Sportsmanship" course, which must be completed before returning to athletic contests and can be taken at http://www.nfhslearn.com/. A letter will be sent by the Athletic Administrator of the respective school to the spectator in question notifying them of the ejection and the dates of their suspension.

If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the fan shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the same sport during the following season in the next school year.

On the day of the ejection, a fan who has been disqualified shall be ejected from the vicinity of the playing area and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, with team members, managers, coaches, and contest officials during the remainder of the contest. No refund will be given.

SECOND OFFENSE

A fan who is ejected or disqualified a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A fan who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contest subject to the discretion of the Athletic Administrator. In addition, the fan shall take the National Federation of State High School Association's "Positive Sport Parenting" course, which must be completed before returning to athletic contest and can be taken at www.nfhslearn.com. A letter will be sent by the Superintendent / Designee to the spectator in question notifying them of the ejection and the dates of their suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE

A fan who is ejected or disqualified a third time shall be suspended from all athletic contests *for one calendar year from the date of the ejection.* A letter will be sent by the Superintendent / Designee notifying the spectator of the ejection.

Requirements for Participation

You are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following are completed:

A. Prospective athletes must meet with the Athletic Administrator and/or coach prior to the first day of participation to cover rules and regulations found in the athletic handbook.

B. Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment Form/Student Data Sheet (can be found on your respective schools' Athletic website) must be on file and signed by parent/guardian and the athlete verifying that both have fulfilled the OHSAA rules meeting requirement.

C. A current physical must be on file in the athletic office prior to tryouts.

D. Emergency Medical Form needs to be completed and can be found on your respective school's athletic website.

E. Academic eligibility requirements must be satisfied.

F. All uniform and other fees including "Pay to Participate" fees need to be paid (if applicable). Participation Fee Regulation Policy 2432.04 AG can be found on your respective schools' Athletic website via online registration.

G. A student with outstanding Pay to Participate fees from a previous season or a previous year cannot try out for a team until all past due fees are paid in full.

H. You must be officially enrolled with the Welcome Center or Fairfield County Educational Service Center for home educated, private school, and charter school athletes and have the proper paperwork on file. Once that process has been completed, you should contact your school's Athletic Administrator.

I. Managers/Mascots will be required to complete all paperwork in order to participate but will not be required to pay the participation fee.

Athletic Department Policies

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment of Athletic Policies:

At the beginning of each school year, the Athletic Handbook and all necessary forms and Information for participating athletes can be found on your respective schools' Athletic website via Final Forms.

Physical Examination

Each athlete must have completed the registration on their Final Forms account and have a valid OHSAA physical on record with the athletic department. These forms necessitate the physician's certification of the individual's physical fitness. In accordance with Bylaw 3-5-1, the preparticipation evaluation is required to be completed once every 13 months. However, there is one exception and it reads: if the preparticipation evaluation is conducted between May 1 and June 1, the preparticipation evaluation, signed by the medical examiner, is valid for one calendar year plus the remainder of that current school year's spring sports season (i.e. through mid-June). Students are encouraged to get their physicals during the summer months (the physical form can be found on your respective schools' Athletic website via Final Forms).

Scholastic Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, grades 7-12, all students will be required to meet certain standards established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Pickerington Local School District Board of Education. These standards are as follows:

A. **Pickerington Local School District Eligibility - Maintain a 1.75 GPA per Grading Period:**

1. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by the grades received the preceding grading period.

    a. A student regaining their eligibility becomes eligible no sooner than **five (5) calendar days** after the conclusion of the preceding grading period as long as the grades can be verified. If the verification is not possible, the students' ineligibility status continues until such time as grades can be verified.

    b. The ineligibility of a student begins on the **fifth school day** of the next grading period. A school day includes faculty in service days, professional development day, calamity days and regular attendance days, but not holiday or school break

2. A student who fails to earn a 1.75 grade point average per grading period, shall be granted one period of probation during their junior high career, provided they are passing five (5) credits, and one period of probation during their high school career, provided they are passing the five (5) credits set by OHSAA at the high school level. A period of probation is defined as one grading period.

   Example: A student who fails to meet the 1.75 GPA, will receive one grading period of probation, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.

3. Students for whom an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan is on file, at the time they would be declared ineligible under the above standards (minimum GPA) shall automatically be afforded a review of their case. The review shall be conducted by the Building Administrator or designee, Athletic Administrator, the student's guidance counselor, and the student's special education/regular education teacher. This review committee shall have the right to waive the eligibility requirement if, in their professional judgment, the student has made a reasonable effort to meet the standard.

B. **Pickerington Local School District Eligibility - Interims**

All student athletes, 7-12, shall have their grades checked at interim and at the end of the grading period.

1. Student athletes must be passing 5 credits (grades 9-12) and 5 classes or equivalent credits (grades 7-8). Athletes in Grades 9-12 need to schedule 1 additional class if they choose a Physical Education class which is .25 credits.

2. For the purpose of determining a student athlete's grades, teachers shall use grades from the current grading period only (i.e., grades are not accumulative from one grading period to the next).

3. A student athlete who is ineligible under the interim standard cannot be in uniform but may practice, travel and sit on the bench with the team by mutual consent of the parent/guardian(s) and coach.

4. Eligibility can be restored once the student athlete is passing five (5) credits at the High School or five (5) classes or equivalent credits at the Junior High.

5. Due date of interims and the conclusion of each nine weeks will be established on a yearly basis as determined by the school calendar.

6. The teacher's grades not posted on time will not be used to calculate eligibility or ineligibility for interim grades.

7. There is no probationary period permitted for this standard.

8. Those students taking post-secondary courses, College Credit Plus Courses, attending a career center or who are home educated, attending private schools or those attending a community school are responsible for submitting their grades to the Guidance Office and the Athletic Administrator in a timely manner, to determine eligibility at the time interim grades are checked.

9. Students enrolled in courses through College Credit Plus must enroll in a minimum of five (5) high school credits as determined by Rule 3333-1-65.2 of the Ohio Administrative Code per school year. A College Credit Plus course transcripting three (3) or more semester credit hours shall count as one (1) full high school unit. A College Credit Plus course transcripting less than three (3) semester hours shall count as the proportional fraction of a high school unit. For more information, the OHSAA CCP/Non-Enrolled Student Grade Report sheet can be found at this link.

C. **Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Bylaws**

1. High School

   a. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses, or the equivalent, which count toward graduation.

      i. Students enrolled in courses through College Credit Plus must enroll in a minimum of five (5) high school credits as determined by Rule 3333-1-65.2 of the Ohio Administrative Code per school year. A College Credit Plus course transcripting three (3) or more semester credit hours shall count as one (1) full high school unit. A College Credit Plus course transcripting less than three (3) semester hours shall count as the proportional fraction of a high school unit. For more information, the OHSAA CCP/Non-Enrolled Student Grade Report sheet can be found at this link.

   b. A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five (5) credits of all subjects carried the preceding grading period (the last grading period of the 8th grade) in which the student was enrolled.

2. Junior High

   A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order

to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five (5) classes or equivalent credits of all subjects carried.

3. High School and Junior High

   a. A student regaining their eligibility becomes eligible no sooner than **five (5) school days** after the conclusion of the preceding grading period as long as the grades can be verified. If the verification is not possible, the student's ineligibility status continues until such time as grades can be verified.

   b. The ineligibility of a student begins on the **fifth school day** of the next grading period. A school day includes faculty in service days, professional development day, calamity days and regular attendance days, but not holiday or school breaks.

   c. Summer School grades and other educational options may not be used to substitute for failure to meet the academic standards during the last grading period of the school year.

D. **NCAA Eligibility Center**

For an accurate list of NCAA eligible courses please see the NCAA eligibility center at: www.eligibilitycenter.org.

Code of Conduct – 12 Month Rule

All athletes shall abide by a code of conduct which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, hazing, disrespect, immorality, inappropriate touching, bullying, or violations of the law tarnish the reputation of the school, athletic team, district, or everyone associated with the athletic programs will not be tolerated. This code shall be in effect for 12 months a year, 24 hours a day, for those who made the team. The code of conduct applies for one calendar year after the conclusion of the last sports season in which the athlete participated.

Penalty: The penalty shall range from a minimum of 10% prohibition of participation for the season or succeeding season to a maximum of permanent prohibition of participation.

Student Athlete Behavioral Expectations - Curricular Settings and 2432.03 AG Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities (Discipline)

All student athletes are expected to interact and communicate with teachers and peers in positive and productive ways during the school day. Student athletes are expected to make good decisions, both in the classroom and in the athletic setting. Student athletes must remember that they are students first. As a student athlete, you must represent yourself, your

parent/guardian(s), your school and the Pickerington Community in a positive manner at all times and in all settings, most importantly while in the school setting.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Student athletes must recognize the daily commitment to the following in all settings, including the classroom and in school:

- Striving to improve skills and improving oneself and the team as a whole
- Working to represent oneself and the school in a positive manner at all times
- Promoting honor, integrity and good sportsmanship as keys to success both on and off the field

All Pickerington Student Athletes are expected to follow the 12-month Student Conduct policy outlined in this Pickerington Local School District Athletic Handbook. Additionally, student athletes are expected to uphold the highest levels of behavior in the classroom and in the daily school setting by complying with the Pickerington Schools Student Code of Conduct.

If student athletes do not meet the standards of the PLSD Athletic Handbook or of the Student Code of Conduct, consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Conference with parent/guardian(s)
- Loss of practice or playing time
- Community service agreement
- Suspension from athletic events
- Removal or expulsion from the team
- School Consequences (Behavior Matrix)

The assigned consequence/discipline will be determined by the Athletic Administrator and/or Building Administrator.

All penalties will begin with the first athletic event (scrimmage, game or practice) following the violation. If an offense takes place and no athletic events remain, the Athletic Administrator may impose penalties in a subsequent season or determine an alternate appropriate penalty.

These consequences may continue to be enforced until the student athlete is in compliance with the expected behavioral standards in all settings.

Teachers and other school officials have been asked to immediately notify the Athletic Administrator and/or Building Administrator if there are any problems or incidents that arise during the school day with a student athlete.

If a teacher or other school official notifies a Building Administrator that a student athlete is not complying with behavioral expectations, the Building Administrator, at their discretion, may notify the Athletic Administrator and/or the coach. The Athletic Administrator may also, at their discretion, intervene in any situation in which they become aware of a student athlete who is not complying with expectations in the school setting. The Athletic Administrator, Building Administrator and/or the coach may, as soon as possible, have a conference with the student

athlete to allow the student athlete the opportunity to provide an explanation for their behavior and/or to address the noted issue(s).

After providing the student athlete with the opportunity to explain their behavior, the Athletic Administrator and/or the coach may issue consequences for any conduct that fails to meet the expected standards of behavior, including conduct that fails to meet the expected standards of behavior in the classroom or school setting as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

(Note: There may be circumstances in which a student athlete may need to be removed from the extracurricular activity under an emergency removal basis. In such an instance, the student athlete will have an opportunity to explain their behavior following the removal.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

A student may appeal prohibition from participation in extracurricular activities to the Activities Appeal Board. This Board shall be made up of the administrator or designee in charge of appeals and up to four (4) teachers. The appeal shall require the following:

1. The written appeal must be presented to the administrator/designee within three (3) school days following the date of the notice of prohibition from extracurricular activities.
2. The administrator/designee in charge shall mail or otherwise provide a decision, in writing, to the student regarding the appeal.
3. The decision of the appeal board shall be final and not subject to any further appeal.
4. During the time any appeal is pending, all penalties in this policy shall be enforced.

The above consequences are in addition to any consequences that may be imposed by a school official according to the Student Code of Conduct. Students who are suspended out of school or expelled from school or have been subject to emergency removal from school pursuant to a violation of the Student Code of Conduct are also automatically denied participation in extracurricular activities during removal. No additional due process is available to the student regarding their extracurricular participation. Failed drug screens are not appealable.

BULLYING AND HAZING

(Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior) Policy 5517.01 PO & AG

Bullying is an intentional written, verbal, graphic, electronic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for others. This also means cyberbullying through electronically transmitted acts.

(Student Hazing) Policy 5516 AG

Hazing is defined as doing any act of coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation or continuation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a

substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

All students must follow the *Student Code of Conduct and Board Policies 5517.01 AG (see Appendix A) & 5516 AG (see Appendix B) regarding Bullying and Hazing.*

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND NICOTINE

Any student using or possessing alcohol or tobacco, or using, possessing, buying or selling counterfeit drugs, look-alike drugs, including e-cigarettes, vaping/juuling, illegal drugs or any substance represented to be an illegal drug, shall be prohibited from participating in interscholastic athletics.

A. "Illegal drugs" or "drugs"

Any substance as defined by United States Code § 12210 – Illegal use of drugs

The term "illegal use of drugs" means the use, the possession or the distribution of drugs which is unlawful under the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.]. Such term does not include the use of a drug taken under the supervision by a licensed health care professional, or other uses authorized by the Controlled Substances Act or other provisions of Federal law.

The term "drug" means a controlled substance, as defined in schedules I through V of section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 812]

Drug testing is a year-round requirement for all student athletes in the Pickerington Schools (see Drug Testing of Student Athletes in Interscholastic Athletics 2431.02 AG). High School athletes will be in the pool of candidates to be randomly tested for one year from the start of their athletic season. Consequences for a failed test or failure to take a test can be found in *Policy 2432.03 AG, Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities (Discipline) and in Policy 2431.02 AG Drug Testing of Students in Interscholastic Athletics.*

For multiple sport athletes, the year will start for each sport that the athlete participates in.

B. Penalties**:**

1. Self-Referral

    a. Self-Referral applies to drug and alcohol use violations only and carries no penalty. A self-referral may be used only once in a student's career.

    b. Further violations will carry a penalty as a student's first offense. If the violation has

already occurred, the student athlete cannot use the self-referral option.

c. The student/athlete must complete an approved intervention program and provide the Athletic Administrator with verification that the program has been completed. The student athlete will be required to take a drug test at the request of the district or parent/guardian, in season or out of season, for one year from the time of the referral

C. First Violation – Use or Possession of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Nicotine in any form

1. The penalty for a first violation will be prohibition from athletic participation (contests) for a minimum of 50% of the scheduled contests of that sport. Any remaining percentage of the prohibition of participation not served shall be applied toward the next season in which the athlete participates and tested positive in. Any athlete disciplined for the first violation may practice with their team. The athlete may travel with their team and sit on the bench. They cannot be in uniform. All training rules and requirements of the sports team must be followed by the athlete during the period of prohibited participation.

2. The Athletic Administrator, upon request of the athlete, may reduce the prohibition to a minimum of 20% for drug, alcohol, and vaping/juuling violations or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances and 10% for nicotine violations of the athlete's current and/or next occurring season's athletic contests, provided:

   a. For nicotine violations the athlete participates in an intervention program, as approved by Prevention and Intervention Services. This intervention program will be at the expense of the athlete. The program must be initiated prior to resuming athletic competition, with proof of completion sent to the Athletic Administrator. An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation.

   b. For violations involving alcohol, drugs, or other foreign substances, the athlete agrees to complete an intervention program as established by Prevention and Intervention Services. This intervention program will be at the expense of the athlete and must be initiated prior to reinstatement, with proof of completion sent to the Athletic Administrator. An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation.

   c. For violations involving e-cigarettes, vaping/juuling, or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, the athlete must complete a drug screen within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation with a PLSD approved testing facility. Test results must be sent directly to the Athletic Administrator from the testing facility. Upon receipt/review of the results, if the Administrator is able to clearly establish that no illegal substance has been

discovered, the violation is considered a nicotine offense. If a drug screen is not completed, the violation is considered a drug offense.

d. The athlete agrees to revoke any leadership position, such as, but not limited to, team captain and will not hold any leadership positions on athletic teams for one year from the offense.

e. The Building Administrator and Prevention and Intervention Services will be notified that a referral for evaluation has been made and will be sent to them for possible follow up, as needed.

D. Second Violation – Use or Possession of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Nicotine in any form

Upon confirmation of the second violation, athletic participation (contests) will be prohibited for one year from the date of the second positive offense. Any athlete disciplined for the second violation may practice with their team. All training rules and requirements of the sports team must be followed by the athlete during the period of prohibited participation.

E. Third Violation – Use or Possession of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Nicotine in Any Form

The student athlete found in violation of the training rules a third time shall be prohibited from athletic participation for the remainder of their athletic career. After one year from determination of the violation, an appeal can be made to the appeals board for reinstatement contingent upon substantiated rehabilitation, as approved by Prevention and Intervention Services.

F. First Violation – Sale, Distribution, or Hosting of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Nicotine in Any Form

The student athlete found in their first violation of sale, distribution or hosting of alcohol, illegal drugs, vaping/juuling products, nicotine or e-cigarettes, in any form, will be treated the same as a second violation for use or possession. In addition, if the athlete has not completed the intervention program, it must be completed at this time. An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation. The Athletic Administrator will report the offense to the Building Administrator.

G. Second Violation – Sale, Distribution, or Hosting of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Nicotine in Any Form

The student athlete found in their second violation of sale, distribution or hosting of alcohol, illegal drugs, vaping/juuling products, nicotine or e-cigarettes, in any form, will be treated the same as a third violation for use or possession. The Athletic Administrator will report the offense to the Building Administrator.

H. Penalty Definitions for Code of Conduct and Training Rules

1. To calculate the percentage of penalty for prohibition, the number of regular season contests scheduled will be used for each respective sport. When a penalty results in a prohibition of a partial contest, the fraction will be rounded to the nearest whole contest.

   Example: 3.49 contests will be 3 contests
   3.50 contests will be 4 contests

2. A prohibited athlete who has a carry-over penalty into a succeeding sport must complete the season in good standing in order for the prohibition to be credited to that sport.

3. Any sophomore, junior or senior athlete who is serving a prohibition from participation will not be permitted to serve their prohibition by joining a sport for the first time.

4. Eighth grade violations with penalty time remaining will carry over into the 9th grade year.

I. Prohibitions

The superintendent, or other school district administrative personnel, is authorized to prohibit a student from any or all athletics and extracurricular activities for a violation of the athletic code of conduct, the student code of conduct, athletic training rules, OHSAA requirements or any other rules or regulations of the school district, school, coach or advisor that are applied to students, student athletes or students participating in athletics or extracurricular activities.

Prior to any prohibition in athletics, the athlete will be given the opportunity to informally meet with the coach, Athletic Administrator or other school district personnel to challenge the reasons for the prohibition or to otherwise explain their actions. Any prohibition will be determined by the Superintendent or other school district administrative personnel. The provision of the informal meeting, or any other due process, is not applicable in the case of normal disciplinary procedures in which a student is removed from the athletic activity for less than one day of athletic activity.

Attendance

Policy 2431.01 AG

Students must be present at least fifty (50) percent of their scheduled school day, in order to participate in that evening's practice or after school event.

Students who are absent from school and determined to be excused by the attendance office may participate in practices and contests. Students who are absent from school and determined to be unexcused by the attendance office may not participate in practice or contests. Blanks (no

designation of excused or unexcused on the attendance report) will be dealt with as unexcused until, and if, determined otherwise. Exemptions will be made for students who were approved by the building administrators for a prearranged absence.

1. Building Administrators have the discretion to make exceptions to this rule and the final authority for infractions.

2. Students absent from school on Friday with a contest the following day (Saturday) will be eligible to participate provided the absence is an excused absence.

Individual Sport Rule

Coaches will establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be designated/handled by the respective coaches (with the exception of prohibitions previously addressed).

Changing Sports / Same Season

Once an athlete attends the first five (5) days of practice of a sport (i.e., football), they may not quit and try out for another sport (i.e., cross country) that is being conducted simultaneously, unless the two coaches (i.e., head football and head cross country) mutually agree to the change. If an athlete is cut from the squad (i.e., football), they may try out for a second sport (i.e., cross country) at the discretion of the coach of the second sport (i.e., cross country).

Dual Sports Seasons

A student may participate in two sports at the high school level (i.e., cross country and golf) during the same season if both coaches (i.e., cross country and golf) agree, and the administration approves, based on whether or not dual participation will result in conflict in the requirements of the two sports.

Financial Obligations and Equipment

A. Uniforms – In several sports, the athlete will be required to purchase their game uniform, or a portion of their game uniform, which will become their property. Those uniforms that belong to the school should not be worn at any time other than the athletic contest unless directed by the coach.

B. Equipment – All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. School furnished equipment/uniforms are to be worn for contests and practice only. All equipment/uniforms not returned in good condition at the end of the season will be subject to a financial penalty.

C. Only uniforms issued and/or approved by the athletic department will be permitted to be worn for contests.

D. Participation fees must be paid in order to participate.

Vacation Policy

Vacations during an athlete's season are discouraged. However, if a vacation is unavoidable:

A. Contact head coach prior to the vacation.

B. An athlete must work with their coach to ensure preparedness to participate in competition.

C. Be willing to assume the consequences related to your status as a starter, 2nd string, 3rd string, etc.

Travel

A. Transportation will be provided in accordance to Board regulation: Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities – Transportation Policy 2432.02 AG.

B. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests.

C. Athletes who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest. If there are extenuating circumstances involved that caused the athlete to miss the bus, the coach may allow the athlete to play only if the athlete's parent/guardian transports them to the contest. The final decision is up to the coach.

D. All regular school bus rules will be in effect, including rules pertaining to food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect for equipment.

E. Any student who has been suspended from school transportation due to behavior or misconduct, will not be permitted to ride the bus for extra-curricular activities.

Travel Releases

Athletes who participate in sports receiving round trip transportation:

Under certain circumstances where it creates an inconvenience to the families, athletes may be excused from riding either to or from an athletic event in school-authorized transportation as determined by board policy for various activities. This privilege is to be kept to a minimum since our philosophy continues to be that an athlete is part of a team in all phases of team activity.

To ride on private transportation:

A. A travel release form must be requested by the athlete / parent/guardian and can be found on your respective school's athletic website.

B. Parent/guardian(s) must make arrangements with the Athletic Administrator in advance of the trip by having the approved travel release form on file in the Athletic Administrator's office on the day of the trip.

C. The athlete will be released to the parent/guardian(s) or designated adult by the coach upon presentation of a copy of the approved travel release form at the contest.

D. Athletes will not be allowed to ride home with a student.

E. In an emergency situation, the head coach may release a student athlete from school transportation requirements, provided the student athlete is released to the parent/guardian(s) or designated adult for travel purposes.

Conflicts in School-Sponsored Extracurricular Activities

An individual who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position to have a conflict of obligations. Students need to be cautious about participating in too many activities where conflicts might occur.

When conflicts do arise, the coach and sponsor of the activity will get together and try to work out a solution so that the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a conflict cannot be resolved, the Building Administrator will make the decision based on the following:

A. The relative importance of each event;

B. The relative contribution the student can make;

C. How long each event has been scheduled;

D. A talk with the parent/guardian(s).

Once the decision has been made and the student follows that decision, they will not be penalized in any way by the coach or faculty sponsor. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligations of both school activities, they should withdraw from one.

Risk of Injury

All athletes and parent/guardian(s) must realize the risk of serious injury which may be the

result of athletic participation. Pickerington Local School District will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:

A. Use only state certified coaches

B. Instruct all athletes about the possible dangers of participation in a particular sport

Insurance

Pickerington Local School District does not provide accident or health insurance coverage for athletes participating in interscholastic athletics. It is the responsibility and a requirement of the parent/guardian(s) to maintain an active accident and health policy while their child is participating in sports. The school district does offer a supplemental accident insurance policy at the beginning of each school year to all students. Information on this policy can be obtained from the school office, Athletic Administrator, or on the district's website. (http://www.pickerington.k12.oh.us)

Tryouts

A. Once students are enrolled in school, students can try out for the team. However, they will not be permitted to participate in any contest until all enrollment paperwork has been completed, fees have been paid, and all grades and other pertinent records have been received from their previous school.

B. New students that enroll in the district after tryouts shall be granted a tryout, prior to the first contest, after meeting all OHSAA and district transfer requirements.

C. Should a student be sick or injured prior to or during a try-out period, that student may have a delayed try-out at the discretion of the coach and the Athletic Administrator.

D. Cheerleading Eligibility for Tryouts – Tryouts for each school will be determined by the Superintendent/designee. For those teams that will have to make cuts, students will be given 3 days to be evaluated in a tryout.

Open Gyms, Fields, Courts, etc.

A. All open gyms/fields/courts, etc. must follow the guidelines of the OHSAA.

B. Multi-sport athletes must complete their current season before any participation is permitted in another school sport unless agreed upon by both Coaches involved and initiated by the student athlete.

C. All open gyms/fields/courts, etc. must be scheduled with the building Athletic Administrator.

Dress Code

A. All OHSAA and National Federation rules and policies must be followed regarding equipment and uniforms for practices and contests.

B. All student athletes must adhere to the school dress code.

~~C.~~ Students must wear an appropriate attire at all times during any school contest, practice, open gym/field/run.

D. Students must wear appropriate athletic shorts/pants while practicing.

E. Shoes must be worn at all times, especially in the weight room. Sandals and flip-flops are permitted in transit before and after practices/contests.

F. For sanitary reasons, shirts must be worn in the weight room at all times.

Participation on Independent Teams

Participation by an athlete in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice, contest) while they are a member of the school squad in the same sport during the same season is prohibited. Penalty for violations is ineligibility for the remainder of that season. For cheerleading purposes, this is defined as competition cheerleading on a school team vs. outside team.

A. The number of players from the same school squad (roster) is limited by OHSAA guidelines. (OHSAA 7.3) Football squad members are prohibited from non-interscholastic participation. This rule is not in effect from May 15-July 31. An athlete may have contact with the school coaching staff in an interscholastic program for 3 days from May 15 – July 31. In addition, interscholastic coaches in the team sports of baseball, basketball, cross-country, field hockey, football, ice hockey, soccer, softball, track & field, volleyball, and wrestling may provide individual instruction as defined as no more than four individuals present at one time in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place. (OHSAA 7.3)

B. Out of season instruction (baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball):

1. Team Sports (13-Day Rule) May 15 through July 30 – Members of a school team's coaching staff in the team sports may coach any number of students from their teams in excess of the team limit set forth in the General Sports Regulation 7.3 (OHSAA) students from their school teams for a maximum of 13 days except that participation cannot be mandatory. This does not translate into hours and is defined as 13 days per team, not per coaching staff member.

2. From August 1 through May 31 from school coaches – Individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team at any time prior to and after the school season and outside the defined no-contact periods from school coaches provided the number of individuals per group per school coach providing instruction does not exceed the team limit set forth in General Sports Regulations 7.3 (OHSAA).
3. From June 1 through July 31 from School Coaches – Individual skill/coaching instructions may be received by a member of a school team or individuals at any time from school coaches provided the number of individuals present per group per school coach providing instruction does not exceed the team limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3 (OHSAA).

4. Penalty for violation of out-of-season can be found in OHSAA sport regulations: 7.8 and 8.5

Age

A. Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in the relation to the sport season.

B. If a student in grades 7th-8th attains the age of 15 before August 1st, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

Residence

A. A student establishes residency when the parent/guardian(s) of the student resides within the school district attendance boundaries and the student lives in the household.
B. Refer to OHSAA Bylaws 4-6-1 to 4-6-2 for the complete residency rule.

C. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of all contests in which the non-resident participated.

D. A change in custody must be approved by OHSAA to remain eligible.

E. Those students who attend a private school, are home schooled or attend online/charter schools and are residents of Pickerington, will be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.

1. Their address will determine at what school they can participate.

2. They will need to register with the Welcome Center and all required paperwork will be forwarded to the Superintendent/Designee. The Athletic Administrator of the building will be notified once permission has been granted.

3. The following documentation will be required before they can participate

    a. Proof of residence – lease or mortgage, current utility bills
    b. Updated government issued identification
    c. Immunization records
    d. Custodial paperwork
    e. Academic records
    f. Birth certificates

F. Non-resident students who attend a private school, are home educated or attend online/charter schools will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. *Policy 5111*

Transfers

A. All *inter-district* transfer students are governed by OHSAA Bylaws 4-7-2 to 4-7-7. Please refer to these Bylaws for complete transfer rules.

B. A transferring student must be ruled eligible by OHSAA rules.

C. PLSD Intra-District Transfer Rule – If an athlete moves to the "other" school's attendance area they must transfer eligibility or apply for open enrollment, through the end of the school year, to the school from which they have moved. *Policy 5113.01 AG*

Varsity Letter Requirements

A. Criteria That Pertains To All Sports:

1. An athlete must complete the season in good standing with the school and coach.

2. An athlete who moves from one level of competition to another will letter at the level of highest competition provided meeting combined requirements.

3. A coach will have the prerogative to letter a senior who has not met the seasonal requirements for lettering.

4. Injury rule – Any athlete who is a starter or plays regularly and was thereafter injured may be awarded a letter if, in the coach's judgment, they would have met the lettering requirements.

5. In a sport where OHSAA tournament play is sponsored, an athlete may letter if they become a starter and plays 75% of the quarters, innings, matches, or scores team points in individual competition in tournament play regardless of other lettering criteria.

B. Baseball / Softball

A player needs to participate in one-half of all innings played, or pinch-hit or pinch- run in three-fourths of all games played, or be a pitcher with at least four starts or six appearances in games, and/or win one tournament game.

C. Basketball (Boys & Girls)

1. Athletes must participate in 50% of the quarters of the regularly scheduled games.

2. Athletes brought up to the varsity squad for tournament play only WILL NOT be awarded a varsity letter unless previously earned.

D. Bowling (Boys & Girls)

1. Athletes must participate in 50% of all matches.

2. All senior athletes will earn a letter.

E. Cheerleading

Cheerleader's awards will parallel the regular athletic system for all athletic teams.

1. Competition Squad – All varsity competition squad members will receive the appropriate award provided the following:
   a. The athlete completes one year of varsity competition;
   b. Completes the cheerleading season in good standing with the school and coaches; and
   c. Attends a minimum of 75% of practices, competitions, and contests

2. Sideline Cheer – All varsity squad members will receive the appropriate award provided the following:

   a. The athlete completes any two seasons of fall (football) and/or basketball (winter) at the varsity level;

   b. Completes the cheerleading season in good standing with the school and coaches; and

   c. Attends a minimum of 75% of practices and contests.

F. Cross Country

An athlete must attain the time indicated below at a meet during the season on a legitimate 5000m course. If the length of the course is questionable, the coach will have the final decision as to its legitimacy.

1. Boys – a time of 17:59 or better

2. Girls – a time of 22:59 or better

3. **-OR-** Run on the Varsity Seven in at least 50% of the races in a season.

G. Football

1. An athlete must play in at least one-half of the total number of regular season quarters.

2. A player must play two consecutive plays to receive credit for a quarter.

3. An athlete in a key position (i.e., punter, kick-off specialist, return man, extra-point kicker) must play in 50% of the regular season contests.

H. Golf

A player must earn a point total to one-half the number of matches played in a given season. As an example, if the team plays in eighteen matches during the season, a player must earn nine points to letter. Players will earn one point for playing in a nine-hole match and will earn two points if they play in an eighteen-hole tournament or invitational.

I. Lacrosse (Boys & Girls)

1. An athlete must participate in 50% of the halves of the regular scheduled games.

2. Athletes brought up to varsity squads for tournament play only WILL NOT be awarded a varsity letter unless previously earned.

J. Soccer (Boys & Girls)

1. An athlete must participate in 50% of the halves of the regular scheduled games.

2. Athletes brought up to varsity squads for tournament play only WILL NOT be awarded a varsity letter unless previously earned.

K. Special Olympics (For Lettering Purposes)

- *Fall* – Team Bowling / Swimming
- *Winter* – Basketball / Individual Bowling
- *Spring* – Track / Volleyball

1. Basketball

    a. An athlete must participate in 50% of the games.

2. Team Bowling / Swimming / Individual Bowling / Track / Volleyball –

    a. An athlete must participate in the state tournament.

    b. A letter can only be earned by those athletes who are Pickerington Local School District students at the high school level.

L. Swimming (Boys & Girls)

1. An athlete must score an average of three points per dual meet during the season.

2. Athletes must compete in a minimum of 80% of dual meets.

3. Players must have 80% attendance for workouts.

M. Tennis (Boys & Girls)

Earn as many points as there are matches - one point given for playing in a match and one point given if you win the match.

N. Track (Boys & Girls)

An athlete must meet one of the following:

1. Average one point per meet;

2. Score in the OCC meet or meet with 8 teams (excludes relays);

3. Meet one of the following standards during regular scheduled meet on varsity

schedule:

Boys		Girls	
event	/ standard	event	/ standard
110 hurdles	- 16.5	100 hurdles	- 18.5
100	- 11.5	100	- 13.9
1600	- 4:50	1600	- 6:29
400	- 53.0	400	- 72.5
300 hurdles	- 44.0	300 hurdles	- 55.0
800	- 2:08	800	- 2:51
3200	- 10:40	3200	- 14:15
200	- 23.4	200	- 29.0
pole vault	- 10’	pole vault	- 7’6”
high jump	- 5’10”	high jump	- 4’8”
long jump	- 19’0”	long jump	- 13’6”
shot put	- 43’	shot put	- 27’
discus	- 115’	discus	- 80’

O. Volleyball (Boys & Girls)

An athlete must participate in 50% of the games played.

P. Wrestling

An athlete must score a combined total of 30 team points and team points saved during the season in varsity competition. In tournaments, points for advancement, quality of match and placement shall be awarded according to the National Federation Rule Book. One-half of the points scored in Divisions II or III varsity competition shall count towards the varsity letter.

Q. Statisticians

All students who have been selected to compile statistics for a sports team must do so satisfactorily for the entire season.

R. Managers

Any student who manages at both practice and contests satisfactorily for the entire sports season is entitled to the appropriate awards for that sport. To earn a varsity jacket, a student must be a manager in two sports on the varsity level or earn two awards in the same sport, one of which must be at the varsity level.

S. Student Aide (Athletic Training)

Any student who assists the Athletic Trainer at no less than half the total hours of pre-practice and practice time and no less than half the total hours of pre- competition and competition time for a single sport.

A student must assist the Athletic Trainer for a minimum of two sports seasons in the same school year or the same sport for two years.

An athlete who participated in a minimum of one sport season and finished the sport season in good standing must assist the Athletic Trainer for a minimum of one sports season in the same year.

Awards

Any award for participation in interscholastic athletics which may be accepted by the student from any source shall consist of those items which do not exceed $400.00 in value.

A. Varsity

1st year awards: 7" chenille award letter and Chevron which indicates one year of lettering and certificate (Note: should the athlete letter in another sport, they will not receive a second chenille letter.)

2nd year award: Chevron and certificate
3rd year award: Chevron and certificate
4th year award: Chevron and certificate with a 6" sport plaque indicating the recipient as a four-year varsity letter winner.

Championship Award: Letter winners of a varsity team that wins a league, district, regional or state championship will receive a chenille emblem of that sport which will indicate the championship.

B. Individual Varsity Awards

The athletic department will pay for up to three student awards per athletic program.

C. Non-Letter Varsity

All members of a varsity athletic squad who successfully complete an athletic season for a particular sport, but who have not earned ample points for a varsity letter, are to be awarded a varsity participation certificate.

D. Scholar Athlete Award

E. Athletic Achievement

The Pickerington Athletic Department will honor athletes or teams that have distinguished themselves athletically while attending either high school or college, etc. The procedure for recognition of outstanding achievement in athletics will be outlined in one of the three following ways:

1. Wall of Champions

   A team that wins a league, district, regional or state championship will have a 16 x 20 team picture displayed noting the championship won.

2. Hall of Fame

   The ultimate honor to be bestowed upon a Pickerington athlete, coach or Athletic Administrator shall be election into the Hall of Fame. Those selected for this honor will have their accomplishments displayed in an appropriate area as determined by the building administration.

   The process for selection into the Hall of Fame is: Individual or Team

3. Nominations will be accepted by the committee which will consist of the Building Administrator, the Athletic Administrator and another member of the Athletic staff.

4. A candidate shall not be considered for the Hall of Fame until five (5) years after graduation or retirement from Pickerington High school Central/North

5. An athlete, coach or Athletic Administrator whose accomplishments are above and beyond the normal standards of obtaining recognition for themselves and the school.

6. Nominations will be accepted at Pickerington High School Central/North alternating every other year.

7. The maximum number of members selected to the Hall of Fame will be five.

Signing Ceremonies

a. *Procedure*

- Athletic Administrator verifies scholarship offer
- Receives copy of paperwork for signing
- Notifies Athletic Department notifies coaches of signees

b. *Athletic Department*

- Secure room for ceremony
- Notify all local media of date, time and location of ceremony
- Notify parent/guardian(s) of date, time and location of ceremony
- Prepare Room – sign, PA, etc.

c. *Criteria*

Any athlete receiving an athletic scholarship from a university's athletic department:

- Must be a member of Pickerington Local School District's recognized school team(s)
- Criteria is met if the student receives an athletic scholarship in a sport that PLSD does not offer i.e.: gymnastics.
- An appointment to a Service Academy for athletic purposes.
- Division III athletes, along with all other athletes going to college to play, will be invited to a recognition ceremony at the end of the school year. This will be coordinated through the Athletic Department.

There will be as many as five (5) ceremonies a year based on time frames established by the NCAA.

Ceremonies will not be held during school hours.

Appendix

Appendix A:
5515.01 AG: http://go.boarddocs.com/oh/plsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AF6QLX686A93

Appendix B:
5516 AG: http://go.boarddocs.com/oh/plsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CASTYY6E56A9

Board of Education adopted:

Revisions: 6/11/01, 7/8/02, 6/30/03, 7/28/03, 5/28/04, 5/31/05, 6/12/06, 7/6/09, 6/14/10, 7/5/11, 7/23/12, 4/29/13, 4/15/14, 6/10/14, 3/6/15, 4/7/15, 6/8/15, 4/11/16, 7/10/17,3/5/18, 3/23/18, 6/25/18, 3/21/19, 4/2/19, 4/11/19, 4/1/2020, 4/6/2020, 4/8/2020, 4/13/2020, 4/14/2020, 4/15/2020, 4/21/2020, 4/22/2020, 4/28/2020, 4/30/2020, 5/5/2020, 5/6/2020, 5/28/2020, 6/9/2020, 05/11/2021, 05/26/2022, 04/11/2023, 7/13/2026