



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 2026-27 PRESEASON MEETING



Athletic Department Team: 2026/27

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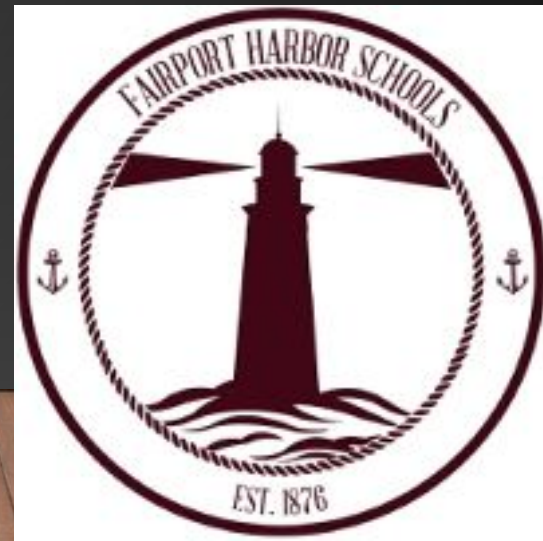
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WHY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS & OHSAA BELIEFS





WHY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS & OHSA BELIEFS

- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs is educational in nature and:
 - Complements your school experience.
 - Fosters a sense of community and teaches lifelong lessons of hard work, teamwork, citizenship and discipline.
 - Promotes a lifetime appreciation for sports and healthy lifestyles.
 - Helps prepare you for the next level of your life as a responsible adult and productive citizen.



WHY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS & OHSA BELIEFS

- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs:
 - ...is a privilege, not a right.
 - ...is not designed to prepare you for the next level of sports. Rather, it allows students to engage in a well-rounded experience that includes participation in a multitude of extracurricular activities.
 - ...implements educational components of participation in interscholastic athletics programs.
 - ...promotes student academic achievement and success over athletics achievement and success.



BASIC OHSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS





GENERAL OHSAA ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

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



OHSAA GENERAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

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



GENERAL OHSAA ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

- In order to maintain eligibility, you must be officially enrolled in an OHSAA member school, or participating in accordance with state law, and you must have a biological and/or adoptive parent who lives in Ohio.
- You shall not be eligible if you are competing under a false name or have provided your school with an incorrect home address.
- You may not be eligible if you have been recruited to attend this school.



OHSAA 7/8 GRADE SCHOLARSHIP STANDARDS

- All incoming seventh graders are eligible insofar as the scholarship bylaw regardless of previous academic achievement.
- To maintain eligibility, 7th-8th grade students must have received passing grades in a minimum of four classes in the immediately preceding grading period.



OHSAA HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP STANDARDS

- All incoming **ninth graders** must have received **passing grades in a minimum of four** subjects in the immediately preceding grading period. All grades must be recorded in a student's academic record.
- To maintain eligibility, high school students must have received **passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses**, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.



OHSAA SCHOLARSHIP STANDARDS

- Students taking College Credit Plus must comply with OHSAA scholarship standards.
- All students participating at an OHSAA member school via state law (home educated, non-public, community and STEM school students) shall also comply with OHSAA scholarship standards.
- Semester and yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility unless your school provides grades only at the end of a semester or school year pursuant to Board of Education policy.



OHSAA SCHOLARSHIP STANDARDS

- If you fail to meet the scholarship standard during the last grading period of the school year, you are NOT allowed to use summer school/summer CCP courses to try to regain your eligibility for the fall.
- **If you drop a course or change your schedule, it is critically important that you contact your principal or athletic administrator to see if this affects your OHSAA eligibility. While understanding that many seniors often have enough credits to graduate, not having received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period will leave you ineligible.**
- **Fairport Harbor Schools requires a 2.0 GPA**



OHSAA SEMESTER STANDARDS

- At the HS level, a student may be eligible for eight semesters taken in order of attendance, regardless of whether the student participates or is even eligible to participate.
- At the 7/8 grade level, a student may be eligible for four semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.



OHSAA NON-SCHOOL TEAMS/PROGRAMS & OUT-OF-SEASON REGULATIONS

- You will be subject to a period of ineligibility if you are a member of a school team competing on a non-school team in the same sport during your school team's season (example: club soccer team during school's soccer season).
- Coaches and schools cannot require that you participate in an open gym/open facility **OR** in a conditioning or instructional program. Violations of this regulation will result in penalties.



OHSAA NON-SCHOOL TEAMS/PROGRAMS & OUT-OF-SEASON REGULATIONS

- There are certain restrictions regarding tryouts, practices and competitions with non-school teams before, during and after the school season.
- There are also restrictions for instruction you can receive from school coaches outside of your season in an OHSAA team sport.
- There are no restrictions for instruction you can receive from school coaches outside of your season in OHSAA individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling.



OHSAA TRANSFER STANDARDS

- Once eligibility has been established at a member high school, a transfer to a different high school may mean you will lose eligibility for interscholastic athletics for a period of time at your new school (50% of season and OHSAA tournament)
- This regulation has several exceptions, most of which require a ruling from the OHSAA Executive Director's Office.



OHSAA RECRUITING STANDARDS

- You are not permitted to try and influence a student to transfer to your school to play with you. Likewise, your coaches are not allowed to recruit students to enroll at your school for athletic purposes.
- An attempt to recruit a student to attend your school, or if you were recruited to attend this school, could make you subject to a period of ineligibility and could also cause penalties to the school.



YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY





YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Before the season's first practice (*or prior to your first participation should you join the team after the season has started*), you must have had a physical examination within the past **13 months** **AND** an examination clearance form must be on file at the school.
- Physical examinations are valid for 13 months from the date of the exam. Exams taking place from May 1 to June 1 are valid for one year plus through the end of the next school year's spring season.



YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Athletic participation forms shall be signed by a medical examiner (Physician [M.D., D.O. or D.C.], Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant), the participant and by a parent or guardian.
- In addition, you will not be eligible unless you and your parents have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form; the OHSAA Eligibility & Authorization Statement; the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) concussion form, and ODH's sudden cardiac arrest form, all of which must be on file at your school.



CONCUSSIONS

- In Ohio, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion . . . such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems . . . shall be **IMMEDIATELY** removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play that same day.
- Thereafter, the student shall not return to practice or competition until cleared with **WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION** from a physician or health care provider approved by the local board in accordance with state law.



CONCUSSIONS

- Each school is required to review its concussion management protocol with participants and their parents.
- In addition, participants and parents must review and sign the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation and are highly encouraged to review a short presentation on concussions available at no cost (www.nfhslearn.com).



SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

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



ADDITIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

- The OHSA does not permit the use of any form of alcohol, tobacco (including electronic cigarettes) or illegal drugs at the playing site of an athletic contest.
- Besides the health risks involved, use of any of these items will result in students being disqualified from contests and violators likely facing additional school and legal penalties.



ADDITIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Another prominent issue is the use of performance enhancing supplements.
- The increased availability of these items allows students easy access to a wide variety of products aggressively marketed to include promises — endorsed by faulty research claims — of extraordinary weight loss, explosive power or tremendous strength gains.
- It is important for parents to educate themselves about what substances their child may be using and about the potential risks involved with uneducated supplement use.



ADDITIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Beyond performance enhancing supplements, there are additional issues related to illicit drugs, such as anabolic steroids and some prescription drugs used with the goal of aiding performance.
- **Use of these drugs will result in disqualification from all interscholastic athletics.**
- The OHSA website (www.OHSA.org) provides a wealth of information to assist parents, coaches, students and anyone interested in learning more about sports medicine and healthy lifestyles.



MENTAL HEALTH

- Just as important as caring for student-athletes' physical well-being these days is also caring for student-athletes' mental well-being.
- Students are highly encouraged to discuss any issues related to their mental health with their parents, coaches and/or mental health experts.
- For further information, you can take this free course through:
 - The NFHS Learning Center:
 - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/student-mental-health-and-suicide-prevention>
 - The Ohio State University LiFEsports website at:
 - <https://lifesports.osu.edu/what-we-do/research/past-research/>



Attendance

School Attendance - Participation in interscholastic athletics or other public performances such as plays, concerts, and cheerleading presentations is allowable only if the participant attends school the entire day of any contest in which they are to participate unless expressly excused by their principal (see below). A student who arrives tardy (after 8:20 but before 9:10 am) will be eligible to compete with an approved doctor's note. A student-athlete who is absent from school on a non-game day shall not participate in a practice that day unless the absence was specifically approved by the principal. A student attending Auburn Career Center must attend both schools in order to participate in an activity/sport.



Cell Phone Policy

**No electronic devices
should be seen on school
grounds unless students
are at breakfast or lunch.**

Students shall keep their cell phones, headphones, earbuds and personal electronic devices in a secure place, such as a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times. Students may be required to place devices in a distinct provided storage container prior to the start of the school day. Cell phones, and devices that function similarly, cannot be kept on a student's body or in their clothing.

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator may place the device in the school office, including a storage container, to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian and the student may receive disciplinary consequences. .

The school assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen items such as cell phones. The individual student assumes all responsibility for the safety and security of their devices. Parents are encouraged to talk to their students about the value of these items and how to keep them safe. The school reserves the right to discipline any threatening or demeaning messages sent on school property.



SPORTING BEHAVIOR





RESPECT THE GAME

- The OHSAA's vision for positive sporting behavior is built on expectations. It calls on the school community — administrators, contest officials, coaches, students, parents and fans — to strive for positive sporting behavior in everything they do by teaching the values of ethics, integrity, equity, fairness and respect.
- As a student-athlete, you must always remember to Respect The Game!



RESPECT THE GAME

- That means you are expected to accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community while participating in school sports. You are expected to:
 - Treat opponents, coaches and officials with respect.
 - Ensure that your actions do not incite fans or other participants or attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean others.



RESPECT THE GAME

- If you are ejected from a contest you will be subject to an additional two-game suspension (one game in football).
- If you are ejected from a contest for the second time during the same season then you will be ineligible for the remainder of that sports season.

There is a severe officials shortage in Ohio.

Officials will never be perfect, but they are always trying their best. Part of respecting the game is understanding that officials have various levels of training. Help your school to retain officials by treating them with respect, even when they make a mistake.

Behavior



- **Bus Behavior:** The bus is an extension of the school. Athletes are expected to follow all rules in the student handbook while on the bus.
- Failure to follow school rules may result in disciplinary action including (but not limited to) missing game time

Miscellaneous

- No doors can be propped at any time.
 - All doors in the building are to remain locked at all times
 - Students cannot wear cleats in the building.
- Do not drag any item on any floor. **Please be extra vigilant in the auxiliary gym.** The floor is beat up after a very short time of use.

Parent Communication

- The district utilizes the school website fhevs.org to communicate with parents, students and community members. All schedules and events will be posted on the calendar on the website
- Facebook will be used to communicate about events as well. Please follow the official FHEVS Facebook page
- Coaches will utilize Final Forms messaging to update families about practice times

Admission to Games

Adults: \$8

Students: \$5

MS Games will
remain free



Teams will run spirit
wear shops throughout
the year. We will also
run special promotions
through the school
throughout the year.
Keep an eye on the
website and Facebook

Thank you for coming
tonight

We look forward to
seeing you at the games!

Fairport Proud!

