

***NORTHWEST LOCAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
HANDBOOK
2025-2026***



Goals of School Athletics

1. Recognizing athletes as unique and worthwhile individuals.
2. Ensuring a safe and secure environment for practice and competition.
3. Promoting an environment that encourages and nurtures attitudes and actions of good sportsmanship.
4. Emphasizing skill development and enthusiasm for each sport beginning at the elementary level feeder schools.
5. Promoting academic excellence in the classroom.
6. Cooperating throughout the athletic department and recognizing the value of **ALL** curricular and extra-curricular programs.
7. Promoting -----School and all sports within the community.

NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

The Northwest Board of Education recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom.

Participants and responsible adults involved in Board approved extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom. **Participants are expected to adhere to the Board adopted Code of Regulations for Conduct of Pupils.** The Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in all phases of the educational process, and in all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, support/booster groups and the student body.

SPORTSMANSHIP Philosophy Statements

It is the duty of all concerned with school athletics to:

1. Promote the development of a strong and positive sense of self-worth in athletics.
2. Emphasize the proper ideas of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
3. Eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
4. Stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
5. Show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
6. Establish a positive relationship between visitors and hosts.
7. Respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
8. Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
3. Encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by players on a team.
4. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual players.
5. Keep in mind that an athletic contest is only a game not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state or nation.

OHSAA Commissioner Dan Ross stated, “Educational Athletics – represents the essence of what high school sports is all about – an extension of the classroom where athletics is a privilege that must be earned and where sportsmanship, character, and teamwork are placed above winning and promoting one’s image. In Ohio, we have approximately 350,000 student athletes this school year. Less than 4% of the seniors will go on to play at the college level. That just underscores the fact that the OHSAA and our member schools should be all about participation and spirit, not just a feeder system to get the most talented athletes to the next level. Ultimately, the OHSAA hopes that participation in interscholastic sports helps students develop into responsible adults and productive citizens.”

SPORTSMANSHIP and CONDUCT

Expectations for Coaches

1. The coach is expected to serve as a model of good sportsmanship and decorum during contests. While it is understood that it is the coach’s prerogative to question the calls of officials, it must never be done in a manner that incites the crowd or players to “join in the fray” or exhibit overly aggressive behavior
2. The coach is expected to be in control of his/her behavior at all contests and is held responsible for the conduct of his/her players when representing his/her team or the school.
3. During contests, coaches are expected to intervene when one of their players exceeds the bounds of proper sportsmanship. Such a player should be immediately removed from the contest and reminded that his/her actions are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
4. Players who are overly aggressive in their play to the point of trying to injure an opponent or provoke an opponent must be removed immediately.
5. Assistant coaches are expected to help with enforcement of the rules of sportsmanship, particularly when the coach is occupied in a discussion with officials.
6. Coaches are expected to study and know the rules of their sport as established by OHSAA and National Federation of High Schools. Special attention must be given to those rules pertaining to safety issues and conduct of coaches and players.

Expectations for Athletes

1. Players may not argue with or question the calls of officials.
2. Players may not taunt opposing players, coaches or the crowd.
3. Overly aggressive behavior with the intention to injure or provoke opponents will not be tolerated.
4. The rules of good sportsmanship are to be strictly followed.
5. Athletes are expected to know and understand the rules of their sport.

Expectations for Parents, Guardians, and Spectators

The Board of Education supports a philosophy of athletic competition that is guided by the highest standards of good sportsmanship and fair play.

While athletics and other school activities are a meaningful part of the educational process, all parties (teachers, coaches, supervisors, athletes, parents, guardians, and spectators) must recognize that all students’ participation in

sports and extracurricular activities is an extension of the classroom and that both student, parental, and spectator participation in these activities is a privilege. For this reason, parents, guardians, and their guests/other spectators must demonstrate behaviors that support this atmosphere. Therefore, the District expects parents, guardians, guests and other spectators to adhere to the following guidelines.

Parents, guardians, and other spectators **SHOULD**:

- Understand that their attendance provides them with the opportunity and privilege to observe an athletic or extra-curricular event;
- Remember that interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities are an educational opportunity for students and that parent, guardian, and spectators should model appropriate behaviors for our students to learn from;
- Be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship by giving support to and showing respect for all players, coaches, officials, and other spectators;
- Support the decisions of coaches and officials;
- Appreciate the efforts of the players, coaches, and officials;
- Show respect for all players (including opposing players/teams), coaches, spectators, and support groups regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability;
- Reinforce the District's drug and alcohol free policies and refrain from using alcohol and other drugs before or during contests;
- Encourage the attainment of team goals, rather than only individual goals of their student/child;
- Encourage their student/child(ren) to discuss any problems with the coach before the parent discusses the problem with the coach in productive, respectful ways; and,
- Take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner by scheduling a meeting at a time and place convenient to both persons. This includes respecting the processes a school puts into place for raising complaints or concerns.

Parents, guardians, and other spectators **SHOULD NOT**:

- Ridicule or berate players, coaches, officials, or other spectators;
- Engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with an official, coach, player, or other spectator - for example, booing, taunting, or using profane language or gestures;
- Encourage or condone any behavior or practice which could endanger the health or well-being of any participant;
- Make any physical contact against a coach, school employee, player, official or other spectator;
- Coach from the sidelines; or
- Confront coaches in an inappropriate or antagonistic manner before, during or after games/practices

Cases of blatant inappropriate behavior on school grounds will be handled by the Athletic Director and School Administration. Parents, guardians, and other spectators who fail to meet the expectations as set forth in the above guidelines and/or are ejected from an athletic contest may also be subject to disciplinary action in adherence to the applicable Ohio High School Athletic Association and Northwest Local School District policies or at the discretion of the Athletic Director and School Administration. The Board of Education and the School has authority to expel an individual from a game or contest, or potentially prohibit them from entering District property in the future in accordance with the law.

Chain of Command

The Northwest Local School District, in conjunction with the Department of Athletics, follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe the order of this line of communication when pursuing any concerns you may have regarding the athletic program.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Assistant Coach (if applicable) | 3. Athletic Director |
| 2. Head Coach | 4. Building Principal |

Coaching Expectations and Responsibilities

The need for specific job qualifications has become obvious with the strong emphasis on credibility and accountability in coaching. There is a definite need for precise criteria to measure coaching ability/accomplishments within the framework of the Northwest Local School District objectives for athletic programs. These are the major performance areas:

1) Interpersonal Relations

A coach must be able to develop good rapport with a number of individuals and community groups, team personnel, the student body, the professional staff (faculty, administration, maintenance, etc.), the community as a whole, spectators, officials, fellow coaches in the conference, media representatives and the parents of his/her players. Good rapport and demonstrated competency are invaluable for the coach.

2) Cooperation

The district expects the highest level of cooperation by all coaches and athletic staff members in the execution of their duties. Coaches must work cooperatively with their school athletic administrators, building administrators, school staff, team members and parents.

3) Leadership and Public Relations

Diligence, enthusiasm, integrity, honesty, and a love for the game are all a part of the professional pride that should be exhibited by any coach. Personal appearance, dress, physical condition – all should be exemplary. Public demeanor and decorum should always reflect positively on the school, school district and athletic department.

4) Discipline

Every Northwest Local School athletic team requires a high level of discipline among coaches, players and support staff. In this regard, the implementation of discipline and the attitude with which it is implemented is the coach's responsibility. Individually, the coach becomes the model of all that the program represents – observation of school codes, training rules, rules of the game, ideals of good sportsmanship, behavior of participants throughout the season especially where the student body is concerned. The desire to do well, win gracefully, lose with poise, and maintain a positive attitude should be emphasized. Staff, players and spectators should be motivated to achieve established goals as a whole and as individual players.

5) Improvement

All coaches must continually take advantage of opportunities presented for self-improvement. Regular attendance of district meetings, rules clinics, special workshops and training opportunities in specific fields is expected. Membership should be maintained in professional organizations, coaches' associations, and similar groups whose programs are geared toward greater achievement and improved performance.

6) Qualification and Training: ALL coaches are required to have all OHSA and human resources courses complete.

The Northwest Local School District Athletic Council

The Athletic Council includes all members of the athletic organization for the district and/or school. It is the governing body under the Board of Education for athletics district wide.

Objectives

1. To provide a well-planned and well-balanced program of Interscholastic athletics for as many students as possible, consistent with available facilities, personnel, and financial support; and to operate and manage these athletic activities in harmony with the basic policy of the Northwest Local School District Board of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Greater Miami Conference, and the Southwest Ohio Conference.
2. To promote cooperative thinking and unification of interest and effort among the coaching personnel of the Northwest Local School District.
3. To develop and maintain the highest regard for sportsmanship; to develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing contests; and to encourage and develop respect for fellow competitors whether they be on the same team or on opposing teams representing other schools.
4. To develop in our school representatives the desire for perfection, team play, and fair play; not only toward the opponent, but also to his teammates; to encourage competition not only for the tangible rewards, but for the intrinsic values that make athletic competition valuable and worthwhile.
5. To be concerned with the total development of the student and to promote competitive activity as a portion of the total educational program.

Functions of the Athletic Council

1. To continuously evaluate the interscholastic athletic program.
2. To act in an advisory capacity in the preparation of the budget; to aid in determining the scope of the total program; to advise on all other related matters.
3. To regulate athletics by uniform procedures consistent with sound educational aims and objectives and to carry out Board policy.
4. To develop a long range program for the development and extension of the facilities for each sport.
5. To unify coaching objectives and interests in regard to the total program and to promote cooperative relationships between existing middle and high school coaching staffs.
6. To direct all secondary school athletics according to the rules and regulations established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Greater Miami Conference, and the Southwest Ohio Conference.
7. To develop policies and procedures that will protect the participant from unreasonable competition.
8. To establish the athletic program as an integral part of the total physical educational program and the educational program of the Northwest Local School District.

Athletic Council Organizational Structure

1. The Athletic Council shall consist of the following voting members:
2. Chairperson of the Athletic Council of the Northwest Local School District
3. Principals of all High Schools and Middle Schools of the Northwest Local School District
4. Athletic Directors of all High School and Athletic Coordinators of all Middle Schools of the NWLSD.
5. One coach from each high school
6. The Superintendent of the Northwest Local School District, and the Director of Secondary Curriculum shall be ex officio members of the Council.

Operational Procedures of the Athletic Council

- A. Chairperson of Council
 - 1. The Chairperson of the Athletic Council shall be assigned by the Superintendent.
- B. Qualifications for Proposals to be on the Agenda
 - 1. Be presented to the Chairperson of the Athletic Council at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date.
 - 2. Be of emergency nature that requires immediate action.
 - 3. Be in the hands of all Council members at least three (3) days preceding the date of the meeting, together with available data relating to the proposal.
- C. Procedure for Establishing Policy and Decision Making Processes
 - 1. Topics discussed by the Council that require decisions or statements of policy, will be presented in a recommended form by the chairperson. Necessary modifications will be made by Council discussion until consensus is reached. If consensus is not achieved, the proposal will be tabled for further consideration and modification at a later date.
- D. Attendance Mandated for Adoption of Guidelines or Decisions
 - 1. Not more than two (2) members of the Council shall be absent from the meeting during which policy or procedure decisions are made.

General Personnel Guidelines of the Athletic Council

Chairperson of the Athletic Council shall....

- 1. Preside as Chairperson of the Athletic Council at all meetings.
- 2. Plan the Agenda in cooperation with Council members.
- 3. Supply pertinent information regarding the agenda.
- 4. Prepare and present recommended resolutions and policies for discussion.

Secondary Principals shall....

- 1. Be held ultimately responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletic activities involving his/her school (OHSAA Bylaw 3-1-1).
- 2. Fulfill all duties and responsibilities as they pertain to interscholastic athletics as prescribed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Northwest Local School District, the Greater Miami Conference and the Southwest Ohio Conference.
- 3. Serve as a member of the Northwest Local School District Athletic Council

Secondary Athletic Directors shall....

- 1. Direct and coordinate all activities of the Athletic Department along educationally sound lines and be directly responsible to the principal.
- 2. Ascertain that all rules and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Greater Miami Conference, and the Southwest Ohio Conference are strictly upheld and enforced in spirit and in fact.
- 3. **CHECK ELIGIBILITY of student athletes in accordance with the OHSAA. Check and document that all coaches have completed the OHSAA "Fundamentals of Coaching" class, Pupil Activity Permit, Concussion Class, Fingerprint check, etc.**
- 4. Strive to promote good public relations with the public, news media, opponent schools, civic organizations and support organizations, such as the Boosters.

5. Approve all athletic contests before they are contracted. Prepare all games and official contracts specifying date, time, location, and keep all signed contracts on file and current for all sports. (All contracts are to be cleared with the Athletic Director prior to being submitted to business office).
6. Initiate requests for building permits for athletic contests for non-school events.
7. Coordinate planning such special nights and events as Athletic Awards, Pep Assemblies, Meet the Team Night, Homecoming, Senior Recognition Night, Banquets, Boosters, Spring Programs, etc.
8. Arrange for attending physician for all Senior High School Football contests. Keep a file of the physical form, current eligibility, and medical insurance information.
9. Authorize and pay officials and police as needed per contest. Provide necessary time sheets to the Payroll Department for all other personnel needed – ticket takers, announcers, light/sound, etc.
10. Purchase and conduct the sale and promotion of activity cards, presale tickets, complimentary passes, military passes, athletic programs, concessions, and keep records for all athletic events.
11. Inspect all game and practice facilities, scoreboard, lights, locker rooms, teams and officials, all helpers, etc. Request for maintenance of athletic facilities.
12. Serve as coordinator for athletic team transportation, meals, lodging, and request buses as needed.
13. Reconfirm the athletic contest, bus parking, presale, phones, time, uniform color, and officials.
14. Be present for all Senior High School home football and basketball games. Attend all league meetings, State Athletic Directors meetings, local Athletic Director meetings when possible. See Athletic Supervision Chart.
15. Make arrangements to have the coaches and game officials met and escorted to their locker facilities.
16. Arrange for ordering and presenting all athletic awards.
17. Prepare financial reports of all revenues for all contests and make financial settlements as specified in contracts with visiting schools.
18. Provide specifications and information relative to the issuance of purchase orders for all athletic supplies and equipment.
19. Arrange for reconditioning of athletic equipment.
20. Prepare the athletic budget for the school, and send a file copy to the Chair of the Athletic Council.
21. Evaluate coaches and if applicable, the Asst. Athletic Director.
22. Maintain cordial relations with the Booster Support Organization and oversee that the concession facilities and equipment are maintained according to district procedures.

Assistant Athletic Director shall....

The Athletic Director may require the Asst. Athletic Director to help in completing any or all of the following tasks:

1. To attend athletic league meetings.
2. To attend Booster meetings.
3. To develop and administer a budget for the Athletic Department.
4. To arrange for safety assistance and security for athletic events.
5. To supervise field and facility maintenance.
6. To meet with administrators and coaches from middle schools to discuss the direction of the total athletic program (grades 7 – 12).

The Athletic Director will delegate a maximum of four (4) of the following tasks as the sole responsibility of the Asst. Athletic Director. The Athletic Director may require the Asst. Athletic Director to help in completing the remaining tasks on this list:

1. To coordinate the athletic awards program.

2. To administer athletic inventory, reports, game contracts, officials' contracts, transportation, and purchase and distribution of supplies and equipment.
3. To prepare athletic schedules.
4. To arrange for gate guards, ticket takers, and sellers at athletic events.
5. To check eligibility and send proper certificates of eligibility as required.
6. To disseminate among all coaching personnel rules and regulations of the League and the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and monitor the compliance of those rules and regulations.

Head Coaches shall....

1. Be involved in the interviewing, hiring, and evaluation of all coaches in their respective program whenever possible and appropriate.
2. Schedule and conduct a staff meeting for assistant and middle school coaches prior to the start of each season. Topics to be covered:
 - A. An explanation of philosophy, strategy, drills, and other appropriate coaching issues.
 - B. A discussion of scouting
 - C. Exchange of information regarding games, practices, scrimmages, etc.
3. Conduct regular staff meetings throughout the season with assistant coaches.
4. Attend middle school, freshman, and junior varsity contests, practices, and awards programs when possible.
5. Provide all assistant coaches with opportunities to grow professionally by delegating responsibilities for specific aspects of the program and by working with them to assure success.
6. Complete the OHSA "Fundamentals of Coaching" course prior to Jan. 1 or the start of the season and the Concussion Course prior to September 1, 2013

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Students of the Northwest Local School District participate in athletics under the regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Greater Miami Conference, the Southwest Ohio Conference, and the Northwest Board of Education.

Eligibility Criteria

Interscholastic extra-curricular activities means a pupil activity program that a school or school district sponsors or participates in and that includes participants from more than one school or school district. Interscholastic extra-curricular activity does not include any activity included in the school district's graded course of study.

Grades 9 – 12 students must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediate grading period. During the preceding grading period, a student must receive a passing grade in a minimum of five (5) full credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation; and

- * A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grades 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled in school the immediate grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades.
- * A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of 5 of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
- * Summer school grades earned may not be used to substitute for failing grades or GPA calculations from the preceding grading period of the regular school year (relative to interscholastic athletic eligibility.)

Athletes may not try out or practice without all **necessary documents on Final Forms** benign completed and a completed **physical**. Coaches are required to check all forms for completeness. Incomplete forms should be returned to the student athlete, and the student athlete will not be allowed to practice or compete until corrected. Coaches are to provide the Athletic Director up to date rosters as soon as possible. It is the head coach's responsibility to review sport specific eligibility with athletes and their parents, and to review the eligibility certificates. This must be accomplished prior to the first contest. **Athletes may not compete until this process is complete.**

Infinite Campus Access for Coaches

High school coaches and middle school athletic directors will be given access to Infinite Campus to review student athletes' academic progress. The intended use of this information is to encourage and motivate the student athlete throughout the school year.

Middle school athletic directors will be provided access to Infinite Campus for middle school athletes. The Athletic Director will notify the appropriate coach when a student athlete is in need of encouragement/motivation/intervention by the assigned coach.

High School Head Coaches who are on a licensed employee contract at the high school will be provided access to Infinite Campus for high school athletes in their respective sport/activity. The Head Coach may delegate this access to one assistant coach who is on a licensed employee contract.

In the event that the Head Coach is not a certified staff member, an Assistant Coach who is a certified staff member will be provided access to Infinite Campus for high school athletes in their respective sport/activity. The Assistant Coach will relay the appropriate information to the Head Coach and/or mentor coach in order to encourage/motivate/intervene with the student athlete.

Only ONE coach per team will have access to Infinite Campus for that team's athletes.

Only ONE person from each building will be assigned to enter data from each team roster.

Coaches will be required to sign the Permission for Infinite Campus Access Form to maintain the confidentiality of the Progressbook student information.

Coaching Staff Eligibility Expectations

1. **All coaches, prior to tryouts, will turn in a team discipline plan to the Athletic Director as per district policy.**
2. **All coaches will include the team discipline plan in the informational packet given to parents at the parents' meeting, or sent to parents prior to the start of the season as per district policy. Parents must sign a form indicating that they have reviewed the team discipline plan.**
3. Coaches are responsible for reviewing athlete grades on Thursdays and submitting the names of ineligible players to the athletic director. A system for doing so should be developed by the Athletic Director for all coaches to follow.
4. Coaches will follow the approved district eligibility guidelines and the approved team discipline plan, which includes study interventions for academically ineligible students. These interventions may include, but not be

limited to, ineligible athletes spending a portion of practice working on regaining eligible status. Coaches will refrain from playing a student or starting a student when applicable.

5. Coaches will have open communication with ineligible students to provide avenues/advice for attaining passing grades including notification to parents by phone. A phone call to parents may be made by the coach or AD.

Athletic Director Eligibility Expectations

1. Athletic Directors will receive the names and grades of ineligible athletes and review them to determine academic eligibility on Friday. Coaches will be notified on Friday of the names of athletes who are not eligible to participate the following week.
2. Athletic Directors will review athlete progress on Infinite Campus in addition to the weekly coach updates regarding grades as deemed appropriate
3. An Athletic Director not scheduled to supervise a game, will provide the names of athletes who are not starting or playing to the supervising administrator.
4. Athletic Directors will have open communication with ineligible students to provide avenues/advice for attaining passing grades including parent notification and phone call by AD or coach.
5. Athletic Directors will have open communication with the teachers and counselors of ineligible students.

Parent Eligibility Expectations

1. If a child is ineligible, review the student eligibility form sent home on Friday. Have the student return the eligibility form on Monday with a parent signature.
2. Support the school and eligibility policies.
3. Support and encourage their student-athletes to maintain and exceed in their academic eligibility.

Building Administrator Eligibility Expectations

1. The building administrator who oversees athletics must assure that there is no undue pressure placed on teachers to change grades, supply extra credit or alter grading criteria for student athletes.

OHSAA Exceptions to Athletic Eligibility due to Enrollment Status

See the athletic director regarding any exceptions to the eligibility requirements due to enrollment status. All enrollment status decisions, including Open Enrollment Eligibility, are based on OHSAA policies and guidelines.

Sponsorship of Individual Athletes – High School Only

High schools will sponsor athletes in individual sports when there is no school team for state meets. A school coach will be the coach of record. The private coach may become a volunteer coach for that student athlete. During the school season, the athlete may not compete in outside contests.

Student Athlete Attendance

The student must be present for 50% of all classes on the day of practice, the performance or game to participate in the event. If a student is not in attendance for all classes on the school day of the event, he/she may participate only with the approval of the athletic director and/or building principal. In the case of a non-school day event, the student must have been present for all classes on the preceding school day. If the student was absent on the preceding school day, the student can participate in a non-school day event only with the approval of the athletic director and/or building principal.

Note: Students are given up to three religious expression days per school year provided that the parent or guardian provides written notice to the school of the selected days within 14 days of the start of the school year (or within 14 days of a newly enrolled student's first day in the school/district).

Students are permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on a religious expression day. These three religious expression days do not count towards parental notification requirements under ORC 3321.191 (C) (1) for excessive absences.

Early Excuse Student Requests

Requests to be excused early for athletic reasons must be approved by the building principal. If athletes are to be dismissed early from school to compete in a game/contest, a list of the student athletes is to be generated and submitted to every teacher in advance. The Attendance Office must also receive this list.

Athletes are responsible for all class work missed. Parents should be notified of the missed class time due to the early excuse.

Exemption to the Physical Education Graduation Requirement

Beginning School Year 2012-2013 students may be exempted from earning ½ credit of physical education and still meet the requirements of graduation from high school. Students who successfully complete two full seasons of sanctioned interscholastic athletics, marching band, cheerleading offered within the district are exempt from taking and completing the two required physical education courses needed during grades 9, 10, 11 to earn their diploma. Students must complete and submit a Physical Education Waiver Form to their counselor to be considered for this exemption. Interested students must talk with their counselors and review the Student Course Description Book for additional information.

RECRUITING

The guidelines below are from the OHSAA handbook. If you have any questions about recruiting issues, bring them to the attention of the athletic administration as soon as possible.

Section 9: Recruiting

4-9-1: A student is considered a prospective athlete after enrolling in the seventh grade, or the grade corresponding to the seventh grade for a student from a foreign country. Any attempt to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes shall be strictly prohibited.

4-9-2: For purposes of this Bylaw Section 9, the term recruiting shall mean the use of influence by any person connected or not connected with the school to secure the transfer of a prospective student-athlete.

4-9-3: All member high schools are permitted to mass market their entire high school program and all of its elements for the purpose of informing and recruiting students.

- Recruiting a select athletic group or individual, i.e. eighth grade team or individual sports' participants, is a violation.
- Coaches initiating contact with prospective student-athletes, who are not presently enrolled in the school's educational program, or their parents, prior to written acceptance notification (which cannot occur prior to January 2), is a violation.

4-9-4: Prior to enrollment, a student-athlete may visit a public or non-public school in contemplation of transfer, as long as that contemplated transfer is consistent with Board of Education or similar governing board policy

formally adopted by that school district and arrangements for the visit are made through the principal and/or school administrator designated by the Board of Education or similar governing board.

Transfer Review Period – April 1 – July 1

Students applying for transfers may **NOT** participate in open gyms, weight room, practices, and contests until the transfer is granted.

Tryouts for Groups or Teams that occur during the Transfer Review Period:

Students who have requested a transfer may participate in pre-tryout activities and tryouts/auditions during the transfer review period provided that:

- The administrator in charge of the activity approves the participation
- The sponsor approves the participation
- The student meets any/all requirements to tryout/audition
- The only tryout/audition occurs during the transfer review period.

If a student makes the group or team, but does not receive a transfer, an alternate candidate will fill the roster spot. The fact that a student makes the group/team is not a factor in deciding whether a transfer will be granted.

Communication Between Coaches and Students/Parents from other schools:

- **Coaches may NOT communicate with students/parents from other schools until the transfer is granted or the family establishes residency within the school's attendance area.**
- If a student/parent from another school initiates communication with a coach, the coach should refer the student/parent to the Athletic Director.
- The timing and type of communication between a coach and a student/parent from another school can be a factor in determining whether a transfer will be granted.

Communication Between District Coaches and Other Staff Members

- If a district coach or other staff member believes that another district coach has violated these guidelines, or the recruiting by-laws, the information should be reported to the school Athletic Director immediately.
- The school Athletic Director is responsible for investigating any reported allegations, and reporting his/her findings to the Chairperson of the District Athletic Council.

Home Schooled Students:

A student who is receiving home education shall be afforded, by the Superintendent of the school district in which the student is entitled to attend school, the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity offered at the district school to which the student otherwise would be assigned during that school year. Any student who is receiving home education pursuant to statute and who resides in your district or is otherwise entitled to attend your schools, shall have the same opportunities to participate on your school sponsored teams (and all extra-curricular activities for that matter) as any and all other students in your district. The home-educated student must meet all other eligibility requirements, e.g. transfer, scholarship, age, semesters, etc., and pay the same fees (*e.g.* pay-to-play) as any other student.

Note: A student who leaves a member school for home education during the school year in order to avoid the consequence of failing grades shall be ineligible for one grading period upon return to the member school's athletic programs.

NonPublic Student:

If the nonpublic school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the extracurricular activity, a student enrolled in a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school shall be afforded, by the superintendent of the district in which the student is entitled to attend school the opportunity to participate in that extracurricular activity at the district school to which the student otherwise would be assigned

Chartered in this context should not be confused with a charter or community school, which by definition, is an independent public school that is part of the state's educational system created pursuant to ORC Section 3314.01. Charter or community schools are not addressed in this legislation, and thus students who attend those charter or community schools that are not OHSA member schools, or are not sponsored by a school district's Board of Education (see Bylaw 4-3-1, exception three) would not have a participation option.

PROCEDURES FOR JOINING AN ATHLETIC TEAM DURING SEASON

This guideline governs situations where a student requests to join an athletic team after practices and/or games have started.

A. Alternative Tryout Schedule

Students who will be out of town or otherwise unavailable for tryouts may request an alternative schedule under the following conditions:

1. The request is made before tryouts start.
2. The student is fully enrolled in the school and able to attend school on a regular basis.
3. The student is academically eligible for the current season.
4. The parent or guardian has submitted a request in writing, to the high school athletic director or middle school athletic director and principal that includes documentation that the student will be unavailable for tryouts and that the absence is unavoidable.

B. Teams That Were Selected Through Tryouts and Candidates Were Cut

Students may submit a request for a special tryout for a team that was selected through tryouts and/or where candidates were cut under the following conditions:

1. The student was not enrolled in school during tryouts.
2. The student must be fully enrolled and able to attend classes at the time of the request.
3. The student must be academically eligible for the current season.
4. The student's parent or guardian must submit a written request that includes documentation of prior participation and or interest in the sport to justify the special tryout.
5. To be selected for the team, the student must:
 - a. Be rated superior to all students who were cut.
 - b. May not displace any current member of the team.

Coaches may hold special tryouts when a team does not have enough players to participate in games/meets. These special tryouts will be conducted in the same manner as the tryouts that were held to select the original team. The number of players needed to participate includes the starters and a reasonable number of substitutes

C. Open Teams That Were NOT Selected Through Tryouts and No Cuts Were Made

Students may request to join a team that was not selected through tryouts and cuts anytime during the season under the following conditions:

1. The student must be fully enrolled and able to attend classes at the time of the request.
2. The student must be academically eligible for the current season.
3. The student's parent or guardian must submit a written request/permission.

D. Participation Procedures That Apply To All Students Joining A Team During The Season

The participation for all students who join an athletic team under any of the procedures listed in this guideline is governed by the following procedures:

1. Students may participate in all practices and meetings immediately.
2. Students may not participate in scrimmages or games/contests until they have made up the number of days they missed during the season before joining the team.
 - a. The number of days missed will be calculated by adding the number of tryout days, practice days and game days in the season.
 - b. Students receive credit for one make-up day for every day of tryouts, practice and games they attend as a candidate or team member.
 - c. Students may sit on the bench in street clothes during a make-up period.
 - d. The maximum number of make-up days required will be 20 in middle school and 25 in high school.
3. If a team does not have enough players to participate in games or contests, the following exception will be made to the make-up procedures:
 - a. The coach may waive the make-up requirement for the number of players needed to participate in games or contests, as defined in Section B above.
 - b. A player who receives a waiver under this section may not take playing time away from the players who were on the team when the waiver was granted.
4. Students may not join a team during the season if their make-up period will extend past the end of the regular season.
5. Students who transfer into a Northwest Local School District School during a season, and can document full-time current season participation on an interscholastic team in the same sport at their previous school, may participate in scrimmages and games immediately.

PARTICIPATION FEE

Students in the Northwest Local School District shall be assessed a **Non Refundable** \$100 participation fee for extra-curricular activities. Payments must be made through an online payment system. The chairperson of the district Athletic Council shall be the superintendent's designee to administer the Participation Fee Program.

The following procedures will be used to assess and collect participation fees:

- The activities for which a participation fee will be assessed include teams and performing groups that participate in interscholastic contests and/or produce public performances that are not part of the required curriculum. Examples include athletic teams, show choirs, marching bands, drama groups and cheerleaders.
 - a. Clubs, service organizations, and curriculum related groups are exempt from participation fees. Examples include student government, foreign language clubs, concert choirs, concert bands, key club, drama stage crew members, student trainers, managers, stats, and wrestlerettes.
- The superintendent shall have the final authority to determine which groups must assess a participation fee.
- All participation fees collected will be deposited into the school activity account, or main athletic account for all athletics.
- Individual students will be assessed a maximum of \$200, or two participation fees, each school year. Fees will be assessed to students for the first two fee eligible teams or groups in which they participate.

Athletic Directors should develop a system to identify the number of students who participate in more than two sports/activities to track the number of students who cap the \$200 fee.

- Only students who present proof that they are receiving OWF for the current school year will have their Pay to Participate fees waived.
- The school Athletic Director or Athletic Coordinator will be responsible for the following tasks associated with administering the participation fees:
 - a. Administering the school activity account.
 - b. Monitoring the collection of all participation fees and monitoring the two fee (\$200) individual student maximum.
- Coaches/Sponsors are required to keep an updated roster of students and the collection of the Pay to Participate fee. Fees not paid online are given to the Athletic Director to deposit daily. All Rosters must be maintained in Infinite Campus.
- The burden of responsibility for the collection and follow through of Pay to Participate rests on the Athletic Director and the Building Principal.

All secondary students participating in interscholastic athletics will be charged a fee per sport season. THIS PARTICIPATION FEE MUST BE PAID ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE FIRST CONTEST OR GAME OF THE SEASON.

No student may participate in the next sport until all financial obligations to the department have been paid. (Example: lost equipment) If an athlete quits a sport during the season, coaches should collect all equipment immediately. If the student does not cooperate, turn in fees owed to the athletic administrator immediately.

Please note that **the head coach is ultimately responsible for all money for his/her sport.** Refer to the Student Activities Handbook for proper procedures.

Changing of Sports During the Season

Once a team has been chosen or a contest/scrimmage has been played, athletes forfeit their participation fee. Athletes may change sports only if it is before cuts, or if a non-cut sport, before the first scrimmage.

TRANSPORTING STUDENTS

- The Board of Education will provide transportation to selected extra-curricular contests and events. Transportation will be provided by one of the following methods:
- Board owned buses at the Board's expense.
- Board owned vehicles, driven by a sponsor or coach.
 - Must request permission from Transportation to utilize vehicles
 - Must be for school sanctioned events and not individual student camps/recruiting events/etc.
 - Vehicle must be returned with a full tank of gas or the Athletic Department will be billed for gas.
 - Keys must be returned to the proper personnel in person.
- Private vendor at the Board's expense.
- In each of these situations, school officials will ensure that all permission forms, medical forms and insurance forms have been completed and are on file.

- When the Board of Education does **not** provide transportation to extra-curricular contests and events, parents will be required to make their own arrangements.
- School administrators, with input from sponsors and coaches, will decide which method will be used for each event or contest. Parents will receive a minimum of one week notice when possible when the Board is **not** going to provide transportation to an event/contest.
- If NWLSD does not provide transportation to or from an event, no transportation waiver form is needed
 - School staff may not get involved in arranging rides for students.
- If NWLSD provides transportation to an event, but no returning transportation, it is up to parents to arrange the student athlete's ride home. School staff may not get involved in arranging rides for student
- If we provide transportation to an event and return transportation, and the student athlete plans to ride home with their parent/guardian, they must inform the coach in a timely manner.
- Coaches should not provide transportation for students.
- **Students are expected to provide their own transportation home from school after practices and events.**

Bus Transportation for Athletic or School Sponsored Events

- For Teams with two (2) or more coaches: Minimum of two (2) coaches on each bus utilized to transport students. For Teams with only one coach, the coach is to ride the bus.
- In the event that the students are misbehaving or causing a disturbance or distraction on the bus, and the adult coach, sponsor, chaperone fails to deal with the misbehavior, the bus driver will report the incident to the Transportation Supervisor who will report the incident to the appropriate Athletic Director and Dir. of Business for disciplinary action.
- The bus drivers will not confront coaches/sponsors/chaperones who are derelict in their responsibility of supervision regarding the behavior of the students on the bus.
- In a co-ed situation, male students sit in front of the bus, female students in back of the bus or vice versa, with coaches/sponsors/adult chaperones seated between the two sections.

LIABILITY

Liability has become a significant aspect of school life. Nowhere is this more apparent than in athletics. Here are significant points to be aware:

1. All students must have a physical on file and all paperwork completed in Final Forms prior to any practice or competition.
2. All students/athletes shall ride to and from contests in the transportation provided by the district.
3. A coach must be present whenever a student/athlete is lifting weights.
4. Students/athletes should not be given permission to go to the gym, locker room, training room, etc. during study halls or other school time unless a coach is present.
5. Cheerleaders must follow Ohio High School Athletic Association and Southwest Ohio Conference policies on mounts, stunts, etc.

SCHEDULING

1. All scheduling of games will be handled by the Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director and Head Coaches. Coaches will be advised as to their schedules, and their advice will be sought before a contract is assigned. Scrimmages should be scheduled by the coaches, but must be approved by the athletic director and building principal. All scrimmages are subject to the guidelines of the OHSAA.

2. Scheduling of athletic facilities must be approved by the athletic department. Changes made by the coaches must be approved by the Athletic Director.
3. No practice or open gyms are scheduled on Sunday unless permission is obtained from the Athletic Director.

POSTPONED GAMES

1. If school is not in session due to inclement weather or other calamity, the athletic contest or practice must be approved by the Athletic Director or Principal.
2. Rescheduling of contests is the responsibility of the Athletic Director after he/she has clearance from the principal, buildings and grounds, and head coach of the sport involved.
3. Postponement, cancellation, and rescheduling of athletic contests must follow the guidelines established by the league, state, and school district.
4. In case of a suspended game, both schools will continue the game at the original site at a mutually agreeable time (exception: baseball/softball). OHSAA rules on suspended games will be followed.
5. Occasionally it may be necessary to interrupt an outdoor interscholastic athletic contest due to lightning in the area. At the first sign of lightning (or other threatening weather), the contest official shall suspend the competition until 30 minutes after the last bolt of lightning. There shall be access to appropriate shelter in the event of such suspension. All contests suspended shall be resumed at the point of the interruption.

OFFICIALS

Officials are to be given every courtesy and receive instructions regarding the game plan, including the pregame and half-time programs. Officials may be assigned through the league commissioner, or an assigner from the commissioners.

Evaluation forms from the league and state allow coaches to give input into the quality of officiating at their events. State evaluation forms are mandatory. Failure to return the completed forms may result in a \$100.00 fine to be paid by the head coach.

BUILDING SECURITY

1. The security of the school building and its athletic facilities is the responsibility of the coach. Custodians will assist in turning off lights, securing doors and windows, etc. Students or outside individuals are NEVER to be given access to keys to the buildings or facilities. Athletes are restricted to the area in which they are practicing. All other parts of the building are off limits. Students may not be left alone in the building/athletic facility. They must be under supervision at all times. Building security is the coach's responsibility.
2. Keep locker rooms locked when not in use by players. Remind players to lock their lockers during practices and games. Check the locker room on occasion to be sure that student athletes are using their locks. Ensure there is a system for assigning lockers to specific students.
3. Coaches must be in the locker room when student athletes are present to prevent thefts, promote safety, and avoid liability. An adult should always be in the locker room when students are present and should check the area before leaving. This applies to home and away locker areas.

OVERNIGHT TEAM TRIPS

Coaches are responsible for the behavior and safety of team members. A trip itinerary is to be written and submitted to the Athletic Director. This itinerary should include transportation arrangements, supervision, times, room assignments, etc. Phone numbers of those in charge and the place of lodging are required by the Athletic Director for all trips.

1. All overnight team trips must be approved by the Athletic Director, principal, Athletic Chairperson, and the Board of Education.
2. Necessary expenses of meals, lodging, etc. must be included in the budget request for that particular sport.
3. The Athletic Director will confer with the head coach regarding arrangements which must be approved by the Principal and Athletic Director.
4. Emergency medical forms are required to be in your possession in case of an injury to an athlete, manager, trainer or statistician.
5. Check all Locker Rooms prior to leaving the out of town facility. Leave it in better shape than you found it.
6. All student/athletes must ride to and from contests in the transportation provided by the school. Any exception to this policy must be submitted in writing (Completed Waiver Form) and approved by the Athletic Director.
7. Athletes should dress neatly and appropriately according to the coach's dress requirement as they represent themselves, their school and the Northwest Local School District during the trip.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECKS

- Volunteers going on overnight field trips for the purpose of supervising students are subject to the Ohio Department of Education's requirement to be fingerprinted for the purposes of running a background check.
- In addition, certain school-related programming situations may require volunteers not supervising overnight trips to be fingerprinted. This may include volunteers who are required to be alone in supervising students in various activities. All efforts will be made to prevent this arrangement from occurring. Ultimately, the provision for the care, custody, and control of students is directed or approved by the building administration.
- The fingerprint reports from the background checks must be on file in the district office prior to the date of the proposed overnight trip or supervisory assignment. If the reports are not completed, or pending, the volunteer will not be permitted to participate.
- Volunteers with any convictions will not be permitted to participate.
- In all aspects of the educational setting aside from rare exceptions, district employees are responsible for the care, custody, and control of students. As such, care must be taken that volunteers, in any capacity other than overnight field trips, are not placed in a directed, assumed or implied position of being responsible for the welfare of students. Volunteers are NOT permitted to be alone with students as a primary, directed design of the educational and/or supervision plan for students.

SAFETY IN ATHLETICS

1. The safety and well-being of the participant shall be of prime importance in the athletic program. Practices shall be planned and equipment selected with this in mind.
2. Overmatching of teams and individual athletes in practice or contests is not approved.
3. Facilities shall be maintained in clean, sanitary, and safe condition.
4. All coaches shall be thoroughly versed in the rudiments of first-aid and safety; and satisfy the requirements set forth under ORC 3301-27-01 Section D (2,3) for CPR and sports related first-aid training.
5. Athletic contests should not be held under adverse conditions of weather or facilities.
6. No activity shall be permitted for which adequate safe equipment has not been provided. The use of defective equipment is neither excused nor permitted.

7. A carefully prepared and administered conditioning program shall be initiated under the direction of the head coach.
8. A pre-planned and controlled amount of time should always be devoted to practice sessions. Long practice sessions in which players become unduly fatigued should be avoided.
9. Rules of Ohio High School Athletic Association regarding equipment and safety shall be adhered to.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

1. Practice sessions must be well planned and organized.
2. Practice during days when school is not in session places the responsibility of opening and closing the building upon the head coach.
3. With permission from the Athletic Director, voluntary practices may occur on Sunday after 1:00 P.M. with no penalty for missing as a result of family functions.

INJURY PROCEDURES

1. Accurate up-to-date squad rosters must be filed in the Athletic Director's, Principal's and Head Coach's office.
2. Coaches must have access to all necessary emergency response forms in Final Forms.
3. Emergency treatment procedures for coaches are as follows:
 - a. Call an ambulance if necessary.
 - b. Call for the trainer.
 - c. Call parents/guardians.
 - d. Call A.D. or Principal.
 - e. A coach/administrator must accompany the injured player to the hospital if possible. Stay at the hospital with the player until the parent/guardian arrives. Brief them on what has taken place and then leave.
 - f. Complete an injury report form. Deliver to the Athletic Director.
 - g. **Follow Up... Check with parents, doctor and student as to the player's progress.**
 - h. Assist in insurance and claim forms.
4. Minor Injury requiring a Doctor's attention:
 - a. Consult/notify the trainer.
 - b. Notify the parent of the need for medical attention.
 - c. Notify the Athletic Director by completing an injury report.
 - d. File claim forms if insurance coverage warrants a claim.

BUILDING ATHLETIC ACCOUNT BUDGET PREP

1. Budgets shall be prepared by the Athletic Director each fiscal year projecting all revenue and expenses based on prior years figures, requests from coaches, and projection of future athletic department needs.
2. Athletic budgets shall include all expected transportation costs for the entire fiscal year, including costs for the band to accompany teams as requested by the athletic department.
3. Budget requests from head coaches are due to the Athletic Director by requested date in order to allow time for consideration of requested expenses.
4. Budget requests shall reflect all expenses to be incurred in the respective sports program, such as athletic equipment, supplies, training room supplies, clinics, meals, travel, etc. as much as possible.
5. The final budget will be reviewed/approved by the Athletic Director and presented to the principal for final approval. The Athletic Director shall enter the budget into budget prep by date requested.
6. A detailed inventory of all equipment should be prepared by all head coaches and submitted to the Athletic Director within two weeks of the close of his/her sport season.

7. The athletic director must validate all athletic department purchases. IF YOU PLACE AN ORDER YOURSELF, BEFORE OFFICIAL APPROVAL, YOU ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE.

Procedures for Purchasing Athletic Equipment, Supplies, Uniforms, Etc.

YOU will be liable for equipment, supplies, uniforms, etc., if **YOU** do not follow the procedures listed below.

1. A **Purchase Order (PO)** must be sent by the Athletic Director to the vendor with the sales quote.
2. The school district places orders and pays invoices on purchase orders.
3. When completed correctly, these are approved expenditures and we are in compliance with the state auditor and state laws. An un-approved expenditure results when the invoice is dated before the purchase order.
4. Therefore, in order for the school district to comply with state laws, the purchase order comes first – then the invoice.
5. Coaches must obtain a sales quote from the vendor prior to the order. Give the copy of the sales quote to the Athletic Director.
6. Individuals of the athletic department are not to purchase or receive merchandise from any company for his/her own personal use. Do not charge personal items to school accounts.
7. No gifts are to be received or solicited.
8. **Reimbursements**..... To be reimbursed for Professional Meeting Reimbursement, the receipts must be turned in within 60 days and the original receipt must be attached. Anything previous to 60 days or if not the original receipt, you will NOT be reimbursed.

Debit/Credit Card Transactions

When submitting a receipt for the use of debit/credit cards for reimbursement, be sure to turn in both portions of the receipt. This would be the itemized receipt and also the receipt that you sign. The signed portion of the receipt only will not be accepted to verify purchases. If this should happen, it will be treated as an unauthorized purchase, which may result as a payroll deduction.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY FUND RAISERS AND ACCOUNTS

All school sponsored groups must follow these guidelines for all Fund Raising Activities, more detailed information can be found in the Student Activity Handbook:

1. Athletic Directors/Building Admin must have a fundraising approval process/policy in place for their building. ANY/ALL fundraising efforts must be approved by the Athletic Director (Ex: district, boosters/PTA, Butler Tech, individuals). Any crowdfunding requests must have prior approval per Board Policy 6605 (see Student Activity Handbook for more information).
2. Any financial activity involving collecting or soliciting funds on behalf of a team or school must be approved by the Athletic Director without exception. Efforts to collect funds outside of district approved policies can result in discipline, and personal legal consequences
3. All individual teams have a district Student Activity Account established to be used for revenue/expenses above and beyond what is administered through each building's athletic account.
4. All fund raising activities should be administered through the school's Student Activity Account.

5. A budget shall be submitted each year for each team collecting/expending funds including camps. Budget prep instructions can be found in the Student Activity Handbook
6. All fundraising activities must follow the approval and accounting procedures developed by the district treasurer.
7. Profits from fund raising activities may be used for any legal team purpose, provided the expenditure is part of the groups approved budget.
8. Items purchased by the Boosters or PTA for any athletic group are considered donations and must be approved by the Athletic Director accepted by the Board of Education. Notify the Business Office.
9. All personnel expenses must be paid from the district General Fund.

Each sport is allowed up to one major fundraiser which must be approved by the athletic department. Expenditure of the money will be determined by the coach with the approval of the athletic administrator. Refer to the Student Activity Handbook for budget and fundraiser procedures.

All activities, fundraising and advertising must also be in compliance with all Board policies including 9700.01 detailing content regulations related to items such as firearms, drugs, alcohol, etc.

Ticket Sales/Cash Handling

Any ticket sales and cash handling must be in compliance with district procedure. Refer to the Student Activity Handbook for compliance and procedure information.

CAMPS

Summer sports camps are to be sponsored by the District.

The purpose of summer camp is to:

- A. Promote the district's athletic program
 - B. Help develop athletes by teaching skills
 - C. Provide structured, healthy, fun activities for students during the summer.
 - D. Promote positive relations with the community.
1. All camp dates should be submitted to the athletic director by the end of Semester I.
 2. Coaches should cooperate and not overlap camp dates so as not to create conflicts for athletes.
 3. All camps must be completed by July 31 as per OHSAA guidelines.
 4. The fee limit for camps is \$55.00, plus convenience fee. All pre-registered participants should receive a prize ie. T-shirt etc.
 5. Camp registration, money collection, and final reconciliation is the responsibility of the coach. Camp revenue/expenses must be included on the athletic fundraising account budget, sales event potential and final sales report must all be completed. Refer to the Student Activities Handbook for proper procedures.

Inventory

1. An inventory of all equipment and supplies should be completed and turned into the athletic director within two weeks following the conclusion of the season. Final evaluations will not be scheduled until equipment inventories are turned in.
2. All equipment should be stored at school and not at private residences due to insurance stipulations.

Maintenance of Equipment

1. All athletic equipment must be marked for identification.

2. All athletic equipment must be clean, freshly painted when applicable, oiled and in working order before it is used or issued.
3. An accurate list must be on file for any equipment that has been issued. **Student athletes are directed to wear school issued equipment for practice and game competitions only. It is not to be worn at any social events, school use, or through the community unless permission is granted by the Athletic Director.**
4. All athletes must be instructed in the proper use of equipment and how to conduct a daily inspection for detection of damage. Coaches must constantly monitor the condition of equipment throughout the season.
5. All athletic equipment must be cleaned, laundered, or repaired when necessary during the playing season.
6. All athletic equipment must be cleaned, painted, oiled, in working condition, inventoried, and marked prior to being placed into storage.
7. At no time should equipment or supplies be used, lent, or given to an outside group. Contestants may be given equipment or supplies only when it pertains to a direct school practice or contest. Any violation of this rule will result in the involved coach making restitution for lost or damaged equipment.

ATHLETIC PROFESSIONAL LEAVE/CLINICS

If release time from teaching duties is necessary to attend a clinic or professional development course, approval must be secured from the building principal. Final approval will come through the Athletic Chairperson. Professional leave forms must be completed. Athletic Professional Leave must have clinic or teaching involvement, or active coaching as the basis for the day.

1. Each high school Athletic Department will be granted a specific number of release days for the coaches including its feeder middle schools. Requests may not exceed this number. (CHS – 30, NWHS – 23)
2. The high school athletic director and middle school athletic director and principals coordinate the equitable use of the release days.
3. The Athletic Dept. may pay the expenses for coaches to attend clinics if approved by the Athletic Director. Approval must be obtained prior to attendance.
4. Expense statements must be filled in proper form with the Athletic Director. Receipts are to be included for meals, lodging, registration and travel.
5. No Athletic Professional Leave will be granted for coaches to attend state tournaments unless their team is participating in said tournament.
6. No Athletic Professional Leave will be granted for coaches to attend a college tournament or college practice sessions.
7. Coaches on staff are charged with a day of Athletic Professional Leave when attending a conference or clinic. Coaches NOT on staff and NOT requiring substitute coverage are NOT charged with a day of Athletic Professional Leave.
Coaches who are coaching district, regional, sectional, state tournament games are not charged with a day of Professional Athletic Leave; however, the Professional Leave forms need to be completed.
8. Athletic Professional Leave will not be granted for locations outside the designated district limits unless there is no cost to the district and the leave will directly benefit the school and its programs.
9. Athletic Professional Leave expenses must be paid from district accounts.
10. Professional Leave will be granted to allow for speaking engagements by personnel only when advancing our district programs.

11. Professional Leave to allow for speaking engagements by personnel receiving an honorarium/stipend, will require the employee to sign an Honorarium agreement. See Forms Section of Handbook. To retain the honorarium/stipend, the employee must take the day without pay at no cost to the district.

EARLY RELEASE/STAFF MEETING ATTENDANCE

Practices, meetings, or contests are not to be scheduled during a staff In-Service unless there is a Board paid and approved coach to supervise. The supervising coach is not to be currently employed by the NWLSD as a certified or classified employee. ***If on staff, coaches are required to attend all scheduled school meetings.*** Coaches may be excused from the staff development when needed to supervise student athletes who are preparing for a game with the approval of the building principal. Coaches who are excused from staff development are responsible for the information presented and for scheduling conferences on their own time.

COACHING STAFF UNIFORMS

1. An approved coaching staff uniform will be furnished provided funds are available.
2. This uniform is to be worn at all practice sessions.
3. Cleaning of coaching uniforms is the responsibility of each coach.
4. The coach is responsible for returning all uniforms and equipment if he/she leaves the coaching staff.
5. The Head Coach will decide the official uniform for game coaching for his/her coaching staff.

AWARDS

1. Awards are an integral part of the total Athletic Program. An Award System is designed to recognize achievement in a particular sport just as special recognition is given in other aspects of the school program. Much care should be taken in the presentation of awards; making the award a means to an end, not an end in itself.
2. Coaches should develop criteria as a consistent measuring unit to determine the winners of awards. At the start of each athletic season, each player is given notice explaining the requirements for each award in each sport offered in the athletic program. It is the duty of the head coach to adhere to the awards policy so as not to lower the standards of the award system.
3. The criteria for awards will be developed by the coaching staff of each sport, under the guidance and approval of the athletic director and principal, filed in the athletic director's office, and made known to all team members at the outset of each season.
4. Gifts for coaches should not be presented during an open awards program; but rather during the individual team awards program. Gifts cannot exceed \$25 in value per Ohio Licensure Code of Professional Conduct.

BANDS

1. Marching Bands shall abide by rules and regulations pertaining to pre-game and half-time shows as prescribed by the OHSA, GMC, and Southwest Ohio Conference rules.
2. High school band directors shall submit a budget request pertaining to football marching band expenses, including transportation costs to the Athletic Director as requested. The budget request is subject to available funds.

BOOSTERS

Membership – The Booster Organization is an approved support organization of the district and is open to all parents, guardians, or relatives of the students enrolled in the school, together with any other persons having an interest in the association. It is recommended that ALL coaches become Booster members.

Objectives –

1. To provide means of honoring teams and athletes in all sport/activity programs of the school.
2. To further a closer understanding between the parents and their children in their particular activities.
3. To support and make possible deserved and equal recognition of all student-athletes.
4. To develop closer understanding and relationship with the school coaching personnel.
5. To supplement the athletic/activity budgets as the need arises.
6. To support facility and resource development for sport/activity programs of the school.

Extra-curricular Activity Personnel

All people who work with students in extracurricular activity programs must be approved by the Board of Education, and receive a contract for compensation when applicable.

- a. The only exceptions to this requirement are community volunteers who will never be alone with students and who will never transport students.
- b. People who work with students in student activity programs may not accept gifts or other types of payment from Boosters, PTA, or other community groups or individuals in lieu of district compensation.
- c. People who work with students in extracurricular programs must complete all background checks and related screening activities, required of all employees, through the district Human Resource Office.

GENERAL STUDENT ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE

Any breach of an individual coach's training rules or athletic department policies, which may result in a denial of participation as a team member must be submitted to the athletic director and/or principal for a decision.

PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL/SUSPENSION OF TEAM/ACTIVITY

These procedures apply to situations when a student may be removed/suspended from a team or activity for longer than one week. These procedures do not apply to disciplinary action taken by a coach or sponsor for minor infractions of team or group rules, which could result in a short-term loss of participation privileges.

It is the responsibility of the coach or activity sponsor to ensure that all student members are aware of the rules and regulations of the team or group. This information should be shared with parents at the parent meeting each season. A written copy of all rules must be on file with the building administrator. If a coach, activity sponsor, or administrator finds it necessary to suspend and/or remove a student from a team or extra-curricular activity, the following procedure must be followed:

- a. Students will be given written notice of the intention to suspend and/or remove. This notice must include the reason(s) for the intended suspension and/or removal. At this point the student is placed on Emergency Removal from the team or group until the informal meeting decision is rendered.
Parents are notified of the suspension/removal via phone.

- b. Students will be given an opportunity for an informal meeting with the administrator to challenge the reason(s) and/or to offer an explanation(s) for their actions.
- c. If the student is suspended or removed after the informal meeting, the administrator will provide written notification to the parents in writing within 24 hours. This notice shall include:
 - [1] The reason(s) for the suspension or removal.
 - [2] Notification that the student will be on suspension or removal during the appeal process.
- d. If the student requests a meeting with the principal, the principal will meet with the student, parents and sponsors to review the principal's decision. The Principal may meet with the Athletic Chairperson to review his/her decision. The principal's decision will be given to the student's parents in writing.
- e. The principal's decision is the final step in the appeal process.
- f. If a student is removed from a team, after the first competition/activity, the student may NOT participate in training or weightlifting for another sport and will not be able to participate in any athletic activity for another sport for the remainder of the regular season in which the student stopped participating. Any appeal to this process starts with the Athletic Director.

HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

High school varsity coaches should have input into the selection, coaching methods, systems used and evaluation of middle school coaches.

Selection

Varsity coaches may suggest and review candidates, in cooperation with the middle school athletic directors and principals, for middle school coaching positions. Varsity coaches should not recommend coaching candidates who cannot provide adequate supervision. Varsity coaches should not expect principals to make special scheduling accommodations for staff members to coach at a middle school where they are not assigned during the normal student day. Varsity coaches should be allowed to evaluate the qualifications of teaching staff members who apply for middle school coaching positions. Varsity coaches should not expect a middle school principal or athletic director to by-pass a regular teaching staff applicant who can provide the supervision outlined in #1 above in favor of an applicant from another school, or an outside applicant who cannot provide the expected level of supervision.

System & Techniques

1. Middle school coaches must use the high school techniques, drills and systems when requested by the varsity coach.
2. The varsity coach must provide training and support in a reasonable manner and on a reasonable schedule for middle school coaches who have been requested to run the high school plays etc.
3. Middle school coaches can be requested to attend up to three high school practices and one game, on a reasonable schedule, to learn the high school system.
4. Middle school coaches may volunteer to scout for the high school teams.
5. Failure of a middle school coach to comply with numbers 1,2 and 3 in this section, could result in non-renewal.

Evaluations

Varsity coaches may provide input into all assistant and middle school coaches' evaluations. Middle school principals and athletic directors must take the performance of tasks 1, 2 and 3 from the "System and Techniques" section into account when evaluating their coaches.

MEDIA RELATIONS

1. An attitude of respect for the right of the press to report and record as its members interpret the news must be maintained by the coach.
2. Provide brochures.
3. Reserve space for reporters and grant them free admission.
4. Select a competent and knowledgeable student reporter.
5. Supply competent spotters to aid the public address announcer.
6. Supply adequate communication systems.
7. Have background information available or provide it upon request.
8. Make available a sideline pass for photographers.
9. Answer all correspondence factually, quickly and clearly.
10. Do NOT feud with the press!!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Coaching deals with much more than X's and O's. An important responsibility for every coach is public relations. There are at least three public groups that coaches will be dealing with to a great extent. The way the coach handles these groups will have a great deal to do with the coach's success, and the success of the entire athletic department and school system. As our athletes represent themselves, the school, and the district to the public while on the playing field, so too do the coaches in public appearances. There are three specific groups coaches are required to interact with:

A. Parents

Per OHSAA Bylaw 3-1-4, Within two (2) weeks of the beginning of each sport season, the principal, Athletic Director, and/or head coach must conduct a mandatory, preseason program with all student-athletes who wish to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents, and booster club officers. The meeting shall consist of a (a) review of the student-eligibility bulletin and key essential eligibility requirements; (b) a review of the school's Athletic Code of Conduct; (c) a sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity component and (d) concussion education.

B. Media

The media and its representatives are another important ally. Remember that whatever you say can and will be used. Be very careful of "off the record" comments. Don't criticize officials, opposing coaches or players to the media. It does not help the situation and only tends to lower your credibility.

C. The Boosters

The Northwest Schools' Booster support organizations provide thousands of dollars to our programs every year. They deserve our support. Athletic Directors should make arrangements to attend meetings on a regular basis, talk to them about your programs and needs, and work with the support organizations to maintain support organization compliance rules.

PASSES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Military personnel are asked to present military ID to the ticket taker for admission to events.

ATHLETIC EVENT COVERAGE

Coverage Personnel

AD's must schedule event personnel according to OHSA and their league expectations.

The following personnel may be designated as the 'coverage' administrator for athletic events as specified in this procedure:

- **Principal**
- **Assistant Principal & Athletic Director**
- **Assistant Athletic Director**
- **Event Coordinator** – a member of the staff, including substitute teachers, who the Principal, in consultation with the Director of Human Resources, deems qualified to cover athletic events as specified in these procedures.
- **Assistant Event Coordinator** – a member of the classified staff, including substitutes, who the principal, in consultation with the Administrative Assistant of Human Resources, deems qualified to assist with event coverage. An Assistant Event Coordinator may never be the sole coverage person of a school sponsored event.

Adding a Team/Sport to NWLSD Athletics

Process for a Building Administrator to Add a Team/Sport/Club to NWLSD Athletics

Updated 23/24 School Year

Guidelines for when a building administrator is ready to propose a new team, sport, or club to the NWLSD Athletic Department:

Prior to communicating the potential addition beyond the administrative team, a proposal must be created, shared, presented, and approved, in this order, by the following:

The proposal will be shared in this order:

- Building Principal
- Building Level Administrative Team
- Director of Student Services, Superintendent, and CFO/Treasurer
- NWLSD Athletic Council

The proposal must include the following information:

- Student interest level statistics
- How the additional of the team will impact Title IX
- How Title IX balance will be maintained
- Local comparison data (what other schools have this group)
- Competitive or performance opportunities that may be available (league or non-league)
- Start up costs for the athletic department
- Yearly costs for the athletic department
- Any start up costs for the NWLSD General Fund
- Yearly costs for the NWLSD General Fund

- Yearly revenue (ticket sales)
- Timeline for potential start up
- Any Booster start up or on-going support
- Agreement that Hold Harmless agreements must be completed for EVERY student
- Are students/parents transporting, if so, additional release required?
- Transportation requested - logistics - departure/arrival times availability
- Need for Supplemental/Stipend (will need committee approval)
- Any Volunteers needed and process to have them background checked
- Timelines for employee or volunteer Board approved

Each level of the approval process will review the proposal and assess the possibility and potential of the addition.

Process for A Community Member to Add a Team/Sport/Club to NWLSD Athletics
Updated 23/24 School Year

The addition of a school/district athletic team would require five years of successful interest levels as a “club” organization prior to consideration for inclusion as an NWLSD athletic team.

Here are the steps to introduce a club team that has access to the school name, school logo, facilities, and future consideration for addition as an NWLSD-supported athletic team.

1. The interested party submits a letter of interest and proposal to the Athletic Council Chair who then presents it to the superintendent and council for discussion.
 - a. The proposal must include:
 - i. The name of the “athletic club” organization for that sport/club and the specific details of how the participants would join, practice, and compete.
 - ii. Pertinent details of any league involvement, end-of-year tournaments, etc.
 - iii. The costs involved and the expected cost per participant to cover their portion. For example, the proposal will need to include any league fees, coach’s salary, equipment, uniforms, transportation, gym/field costs, umpires/referees/line judges, facility rentals, etc., and the number of athletes expected to divide up the costs associated with participation.
 - iv. Details of a minimum roster needed to compete.
 - v. The naming of the responsible person that will apply for non-profit status, and the timeline to attain the needed non-profit approvals. It is important to note that, if approved, the organization will be considered in much the same manner and with the same expectations as other support organizations (PTA, Boosters).
 - vi. The proposal must include the names of all individuals that will work with participants. The list of those working with the participants must be updated. Also important to note that anyone working with the students as a part of the club would have to go through the volunteer approval process including a background check and will need the proper certifications according to the nature of the group.
 - vii. An approved method to be used to determine the interest level of students – survey/meetings/etc.
2. Once interest level is gauged, data must be presented to the Athletic Chair to determine the next step.
 - a. Based on the interest level the Superintendent will determine whether or not a recommendation to the Board of Education is appropriate.
3. If the recommendation is accepted by the Board of Education to recognize the club team:
 - a. The school name may be utilized for a club sport/team.

- b. If school facilities are available, those facilities may be used by the club sport/team. If school facilities are not available, the club sport/team will be responsible for obtaining a facility rental at an outside location.
- c. The club sport/team must maintain its non-profit status and be compliant with the expectations of support organizations.
- d. The sport/club must remain in “club” status for a period of 5 years to determine if the interest and participation levels remain solid.
- e. At the end of the 5 year period, the Superintendent may recommend to the Board of Education whether or not the team becomes official under the district athletic program.

CURRENT RECOGNIZED TEAMS

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Spring Teams</u>
Cheerleading	Academic Quiz Team	Baseball
Cross Country	Bowling	Softball
Football	Boys Basketball	Boys Tennis
Boys Golf	Girls Basketball	Track & Field
Girls Golf	Chess Team	
Boys Soccer	Swimming	
Girls Soccer	Wrestlettes	
Girls Tennis	Wrestling	
Volleyball		
<p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT RECOGNIZED OFF-SEASON TEAMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INDOOR MALE AND FEMALE TRACK</p>		

NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

3777 Compton Road, Suite 100

Cincinnati, OH 45251

Receipt for AD Handbook

I have received a copy of the Northwest Local School District 25-26 Athletic Director Handbook for:

School

I understand it is my responsibility to read and abide by the district policies, procedures and language contained therein. If I have questions regarding the contents of the handbook, I will contact the Athletic Director to seek clarification. Asst. Director for Community & Administrative Services.

Please return this receipt to the Director of Student Services

Print Name _____

Signature_____Date_____