

FOREWORD

Welcome to the athletic program of the North Olmsted School District. Our department offers a variety of sports and activities to the students of our school district. Each student who wishes to participate will be offered a high quality, comprehensive program based on uncompromising integrity. It is our department's goal to assist each student in reaching his/her ultimate potential by emphasizing positive interaction and relationship building with both coaches and fellow students through team activities, team instruction, and team competition. Our Athletic Department Staff will promote honesty and ethical standards, as well as insist on sportsmanship, fairness, and respect for others.

In order to have a quality Athletic Program of which the community can be proud, the Athletic Department must make rules to govern the spirit of competition for the community.

This Handbook contains the academic standards and code of conduct which apply to all students who participate in athletic related activities. Students who do not live up to the expectations outlined in this Handbook may have the privilege to participate in these programs restricted and/or eliminated. Ultimately, students who do not attain required academic or behavioral standards will not be allowed to participate in school athletic or athletic related programs.

It is important that each parent who has a son/daughter who competes on one of our interscholastic teams is supportive of our Athletic Department policies. This can only be accomplished through good communication. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic handbook for students and parents. Because continued eligibility to participate in these sports and activities is based upon following the policies and procedures in this Handbook, students and their parents are encouraged to read it and to become familiar with its contents. If you have questions or concerns regarding any provision, policy, rule or regulation in the Handbook, it is imperative that you express your concern to an activity sponsor, coach or administrator. Failure to raise a concern within a reasonable amount of time after you have received the Handbook means that you accept all provisions, policies, rules and regulations in the Handbook. [Adopted by the Board of Education on August 29, 2005.]

Sincerely,

Tim Carras
Athletic Director

Sincerely,

Joe Mazzone
Middle School Athletic Director

“SPORTSMANSHIP IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION”

I do not choose to be a common man.

It is my right to be uncommon—if I can.
I seek opportunity—not security. I do not
wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled
by having the state look after me.

I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and
to build, to fail and to succeed.

I refuse to barter incentive for a soul. I prefer
the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence;
the thrill of fulfillment to the state of calm utopia.

I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor
my dignity for a handout. I will never cower
before any master nor bend to any threat.

It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and
unafraid; to think and act for myself, enjoy
the benefit of my creations and to face the
world boldly and say, this I have done.

All this is what it means to be
an American. — *“My Creed”* by Dean Alfange

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

FALL

7th Grade Football
8th Grade Football
7th & 8th Grade Boys Cross Country

7th & 8th Grade Girls Cross Country
7th Grade Fall Cheerleading
8th Grade Fall Cheerleading
7th Grade Girls Volleyball
8th Grade Girls Volleyball

WINTER

7th Grade boys Basketball
8th Grade Boys Basketball
7th Grade Girls Basketball
8th Grade Girls Basketball
7th & 8th Grade Wrestling
7th Grade Winter Cheerleading
8th Grade Winter Cheerleading

SPRING

7th & 8th Grade Boys Track & Field
7th & 8th Grade Girls Track & Field
7th & 8th Grade Girls Softball

North Olmsted Middle School is a member of the Southwestern Conference. The Conference has a rich tradition of high academics as well as athletic achievement.

NORTH OLMSTED ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The North Olmsted Athletic Department, which is dedicated to excellence in academics and athletics, will provide a nurturing environment to assist in developing lifelong learning skills while becoming productive citizens. We will promote integrity, hard work, sportsmanship, and discipline to help instill a sense of pride in the community, school, and athletics. We will provide a positive environment to enable the student athlete to work toward his /her ultimate potential, within the framework of our team goals.

1. To Be Successful – Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication and commitment. Develop a desire to excel.
2. Sportsmanship – Accepting success and defeat and knowing you have done your best is true sportsmanship. We must learn to treat others, as we would

like others to treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.

3. To Improve – Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and you must constantly strive to reach that goal. Try to better yourself not only as an athlete on the field of competition, but as a person.
4. Enjoy Athletics – It is necessary for us to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
5. To Develop Desirable Personal Health Habits – It is important to attain a degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits and to develop a desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after your years of formal competition has been completed.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A NORTH OLMSTED MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETE

Being a member of a North Olmsted athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. Participation in these programs is a privilege extended to students who qualify based on specific standards for academics and conduct which have been established by the Athletic Department Staff and adopted by the North Olmsted Board of Education.

A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes the hard work and commitment of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic team of North Olmsted Middle School, you have inherited a wonderful tradition—a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all that are involved. Over a period of many years, our teams have achieved more than our share of league and tournament championships.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. To compete for your school you must make sacrifices. You will at times have difficult decisions to make, decisions that may not be popular with your peers. But just as important as it is to make the right split second decision on the field of competition so that your team can be successful, it is equally important that you make good decisions in your personal life to be successful. When you wear the colors of our school it is a privilege, not a right. Being a member of one of our athletic teams means that we expect that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make to the athletic program should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

1. RESPONSIBILITY TO YOURSELF

The most important of these responsibilities is the responsibility to yourself: to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. This can be achieved by making an all out commitment to yourself and your fellow teammates. Learning to push yourself and give maximum effort for the good of the team is an honorable trait. Learning how to work in a cooperative effort with other individuals for the good of the team is the true sacrifice one must make. You owe it to yourself to have an outstanding middle school career. This can only be achieved by taking on the proper mental attitude and approach to your middle school studies and the extra-curricular activities that you choose to participate in.

2. RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR SCHOOL

Another responsibility you assume as a member of our athletic teams is to your school. North Olmsted cannot maintain the reputation we have as an outstanding school and athletic program unless you do your best in whatever activity you choose. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school. You assume a leadership role when you are part of an athletic team. The student body and the citizens of the community know who you are. Our community forms opinions about our school by observing your conduct and attitude both on and off the field. Because of this community pride, make the North Olmsted community proud of both you and your school.

3. RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR FAMILY

As a team member, you also have a responsibility to your family. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, and that you have played the game giving your maximum effort, you can keep your self respect and your family can be justly proud of you.

Always remember that "Little Eyes are Upon You." The younger students in the school district will look up to you as role models. Set a good example for them. Don't let them down. They are our future.

4. RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR TEAM

When you make the commitment to join a team, you are making a bold statement. Once you have joined or become a member of a team affiliated with the North Olmsted School District, you are expected to follow and abide by all rules established by that team as well as the policies set forth by the athletic department. Loyalty to your fellow team members is an essential ingredient to any successful team. Loyalty means being at every practice and game on time and abiding by the rules for the good of the team. You must always remember that you were chosen by a coach to be on a particular team. That coach chose you over some other student. Be coachable so that you can become a better player. Be loyal to your teammates and follow through with your teammates and follow through with your commitment.

5. CONDUCT

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach both on the field and off the field, including the classroom. In the areas of athletic competition, an athlete should never use illegal tactics or profane, demeaning speech. Losing is something that no one likes, but you must realize that it is a part of every game. If you lose, it is expected that you do so with dignity. You never have to like it, but you must learn to be gracious in defeat. Similarly, you are expected to show modesty and dignity in victory. A responsible athlete is also a responsible student.

Academic standards must be met for eligibility. Don't be lazy in the classroom; you will find that it carries over onto the field of competition and lazy people never reach their potential. Time management is the key to balancing academics and athletics.

6. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Remember that as an athlete you are not eligible to participate until the following items have been completed (forms available in the main office):

- A. Parents responsibility form
 - B. Physical examination completed and form on file in main office
 - C. Emergency medical form
 - D. Eligibility requirements met
 - E. Athletic training rules
- a. Risk of participation form

a. STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND PHYSICAL FORMS

All students in grades 7–12 must submit a completed student participation form and pass a physical examination before they may practice for a school sport. Physical examinations are valid for one calendar year.

b. NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

Participation by an athlete in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) while a member of a school squad in the same sport is PROHIBITED. An athlete becomes a member of a squad by participating in an interscholastic contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season contest). Exceptions: In individual sports, an athlete may practice and try out for a non-school team but may NOT compete in a contest.

THE COMPETITOR

It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again...who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat...

Theodore Roosevelt

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Please refer to the forms handed out by the coach)

Individual teams may supplement Athletic Department training rules by adding its own rules and regulations. Training rules and team rules apply during the season of participation and at any event where the student represents the school (summer camp, all-star games, etc.).

RULES

In seeking the privilege to participate in these activities, participants choose the responsibility of living a lifestyle free of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. As such, the athletes of North Olmsted must refrain from the following:

1. Drinking, possessing, selling or giving away alcoholic beverages.
2. Smoking, possessing, selling or giving away tobacco products of any kind.
3. Using possessing, selling or giving away drugs. Drugs are defined as:
 - a. all dangerously controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Ohio statute.
 - b. all chemicals which release toxic vapors.
 - c. all alcoholic beverages.
 - d. anabolic steroids.
 - e. any prescription drug or patent drug, except for those which permission to use in the school has been granted pursuant to Board policy and that are provided by the student's parent (i.e. over-the-counter medications).
 - f. any substance that is a "look-alike" to any of the above.

These rules apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the season, pre-season and post-season (all activities following regular season up to and including recognition ceremony) of the activity. While under the school's jurisdiction during

(1) school sponsored activities on weekends and holidays; (2) preschool, in-season practice, e.g. August practices; (3) clinics and camps attended by students if such clinic/group participation is to facilitate participation in, or is a prerequisite to participation in the sport. The Athletic Director or Administrator in charge of student activities or activity will keep records of all violations. In order to assure parental awareness and involvement, parents and/or guardians must sign The Parents' Pledge form before their student can begin participation in an activity.

4. Participants shall not engage in malicious behavior in sports or in their everyday activities. Malicious behavior includes, but is not limited to the following examples:
 - A. vandalism.
 - B. disruption of school activities.
 - C. using, possessing, handling or concealing dangerous weapons, instruments or substances, including but not limited to firearms, knives, mace, tear gas, firecrackers, explosives, incendiaries.
 - D. violations of the rights and responsibilities of other individuals as outlined by the North Olmsted Board of Education in its student code and its rules and regulations.
 - E. serious infractions of the student conduct code as adopted by the North Olmsted Board of Education.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION

Action will be taken in accordance with the due process procedure of the Board of Education when a member of a sports team does not follow the rules set forth above or the rules and regulations as set forth by the Athletic Department and may be taken for a serious infraction of the student conduct code adopted by the Board of Education.

VIOLATIONS OF TRAINING RULES

A. FIRST OFFENSE

1. Voluntary referral – when a student/athlete or his/her parents voluntarily shares his violation of training rule with the coach or administrator. This is referred to as a voluntary referral.
 - A. A student/athlete is entitled to one voluntary referral in his/her two years at North Olmsted Middle School.
 - B. The consequences will be one, or a combination of, the following, additional conditioning in that sport, community service, game suspension or mandatory participation in a self-help program. This will be determined by the coach and athletic director.
2. Involuntary referral – when a student/athlete violates a training rule during his/her sports season he/she may be subject to consequences set forth under involuntary referral.

- A. The student/athlete will be denied the privilege to participate in athletic contests for 2 weeks.
- B. The student/athlete will also be required to participate in a self-help program sponsored by the school.
- C. The student/athlete may also be required to participate in additional team conditioning or community service.
- D. If the violation occurs at the end of the season (with less than 2 weeks left), it will carry over to the next season the athlete participates in until such time A, B, or C are satisfied.
- E. the awards the student/athlete earns will not be affected by these consequences.

B. SECOND OFFENSE

When a second violation occurs or when a student/athlete who lies about the facts involved in an alleged voluntary referral the student/athlete will be treated as a second offense violator.

- 1. The student/athlete will be denied the privilege of participating for the remainder of the season.
- 2. The student/athlete will be required to participate in a self-help program sponsored by North Olmsted Middle School.
- 3. The student/athlete will be required to undergo an evaluation by school personnel to determine whether or not the student/athlete is at risk.
- 4. If the violation occurs at the end of the season (with less than 2 weeks left), the student/athlete may be denied participation for up to 50% of the next season of the sport he plays.
- 5. The student/athlete will not receive any awards in that sport in that season whether earned previously or not.

C. THIRD OFFENSE

- 1. The student/athlete will be denied participation in athletics the remainder of the school year.
- 2. A student/athlete may undergo a professional evaluation at his/her expense to determine the degree of the student/athlete risk.
- 3. If the violation occurs at the end of the school year, it may carry over into the next school year. The student/athlete will be permitted to return to athletics after a determination by the parent, professional counselor, and high school athletic director.
- 4. The student/athlete will not receive any awards in that sport, in that season whether earned previously or not.

VIOLATIONS – GENERAL

The importance of enforcement of all regulations in this book should be apparent. A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to maintain the standards of behavior expected of our student-athletes. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. In the event an athlete fails to comply with these necessary standards, it will be interpreted by the Athletic Department as an indication that the athlete does not have sufficient desire to participate in the interscholastic athletic program. Therefore, the athlete will be denied the privilege of participating until such time as he/she can prove this desire.

The precise period of participation denial will depend on the violation and the attitude of the athlete and parent. Generally a minimum of two weeks denial of participation will be necessary to prove the desire to participate and comply with the standards which have been established for the benefit of the athlete and the team. Repeated or flagrant violations may result in total denial of participation from the interscholastic athletic program.

DON'T QUIT

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
when the road you're trudging seems all uphill,*

*When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit--
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.*

*Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a person turns about
When they might have won had they stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow--
You may succeed with another blow.*

*Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.*

*Success is failure turned inside out--
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,--
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.*

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

1. **DROPPING OR TRANSFERRING SPORTS**
Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. There is no place in athletics for quitting. A quitter may lose the privilege of participating in athletics. On

occasion, however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop out of a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

- A. Talk with your position coach and then your head coach.
- B. Report your circumstances to the Athletic Director.
- C. Return all issued equipment to head coach.

Those individuals who are selected as team members of any athletic team shall be considered as members of that team through the completion of that sport season unless they are removed for disciplinary reasons, academic ineligibility, or mutual agreement between player and coach. Coaches have the responsibility for the selection of specific team members for tournament competition. All team members who complete the season in good standing are expected to participate in the athletic award ceremonies at the end of the season.

2. EQUIPMENT

All school issued equipment checked out by the student athlete is his/her responsibility. The student athlete is expected to keep it clean and to take proper care of all issued equipment. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial responsibility. Failure to return any issued equipment may result in the denial of future participation as well as financial restitution.

3. MISSING PRACTICE OR GAMES

An athlete should always inform his/her coach before missing a practice or a game. Illness or some personal or family emergency would be a good reason for missing practice or a game. The need to catch up on schoolwork might be good reasons for missing a game or practice. Missing practice or a game without a good reason could result in the denial of participation. Athletes should not regularly schedule other activities, including practices for other teams or events, which conflict with regularly scheduled practices or games for her/his sport or activity. Attending another sporting event or a social event, or participating in an outside athletic event that is not school related are not good reasons for missing a practice or game. Denial of participation will be as follows:

- A. Missed practices by an athlete that are not caused by illness, a longer term illness or injury, emergency related, or otherwise considered excused by a head coach, will not be tolerated. Athletes will be notified of the penalties for these infractions by their respective coach prior to the start of their season. These rules set forth by the coaches will be approved by the Athletic Director prior to the start of each season.
- B. For every game a student-athlete misses that is not caused by illness, a longer term illness or injury, emergency related, or considered excused by a head coach, will result in the athlete being denied participation for 10% of their regular season. Determinations of percentage are rounded to nearest whole percent (e.g. 1.5=2, 1.7=2, 1.3=1).

- C. If the sum total of the games missed (actual games missed plus denial of participation games missed) which are not due to illness, long term illness or injury, personal or family emergency, or otherwise considered excused by the head coach, by an athlete add up to at least 25% of the total number of games scheduled for that sport season, the athlete will then be removed from the team.
- D. All athletes who become a member of a North Olmsted Middle School Athletic team are expected to begin the season with the team on the designated date set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
- E. Any student who lives outside the North Olmsted school district before the start of an athletic season and then moves into the North Olmsted school district may be allowed to join an athletic team.

4. TRAVEL

All athletes MUST TRAVEL to and from athletic contests when transportation is provided by the Athletic Department. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of a coach when attending away contests. All regular school bus rules will be followed regarding food, noise, seating, and care and respect for equipment and drivers.

5. TRAVEL ATTIRE

Appropriate attire is absolutely mandatory when traveling to away contests. Jeans are not acceptable for athletes or coaches. Travel warm-ups or proper attire is necessary. Any athlete not properly attired to attend an away contest will be asked not to board the bus and may be denied participation for that contest.

6. CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Athletic Department recognizes and encourages each student to participate in a broad range of extra-curricular activities. Individuals who attempt to participate in too many extra-curricular activities, however, will at some point find themselves in a conflict with different activities. Once a student has joined or becomes a team member of a team affiliated with the North Olmsted School District, that student is expected to follow and abide by all rules established by that team and the policies set forth in this handbook.

Students must realize that they have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to occur. Students must also realize that once they become a member of one of our school teams, they have a responsibility and commitment to that team.

Curricular activities such as educational field trips will take precedence over athletic events or practices. Every effort should be made to avoid these conflicts.

7. RECOGNITION CERMONY

All teams and individuals are expected to attend the Recognition Ceremony to receive their school award.

8. ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

When an individual is absent from school because of illness, he/she must be in school the last four periods in order to participate in practice or games. Failure to do so will result in denial of participation. Excused absences made in advance through the Attendance Office are permitted.

9. HAZING

It is the policy of the North Olmsted Board of Education, the School District and the Athletic Department that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times.

No Administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school district shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in hazing.

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization, that uses or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person or persons. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

10. GUIDELINES FOR ELIMINATING (CUTTING) STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM ATHLETIC TEAMS

North Olmsted City Schools offers 21 sports in High School and 10 sports in the Middle School. In the sports of football, cross country, wrestling and track, student-athletes are not eliminated. This means that whoever tries out and attends all practices will automatically become a member of that team. Please note that this does not mean any student-athlete has the right to be on any team. It is still a privilege to be an athlete and all athletes must follow general training rules and specific rules for that sport prescribed by the coaching staff.

In the sports of volleyball, basketball, softball, and cheerleading, student-athletes may be eliminated or denied the privilege of participation because the sport prescribes a specific number that may participate. The number in each sport is set by the coach of the team, based on specific criteria. Some of the criteria that may help determine the size of a team include:

- A. talent and work ethic of those trying out.
- B. number of individuals trying out.
- C. optimum number determined by coach to conduct practice.
- D. academic eligibility of those trying out.

The most difficult job of any coach is when he/she must make decisions regarding the personnel of their team. If a coach is involved in a sport where

cuts must be made, we ask them to be as sensitive about the situation as possible and to follow some simple guidelines. First, we ask each coach to make sure they discuss with each participant the criteria on which they will be judged. Second, each coach must have at least three practice sessions to evaluate each athlete who is trying out for a team. If a coach feels more time is needed for evaluation, the tryout time can be extended. Finally, we ask each coach to be as empathetic as possible to each student athlete who has tried out but does not make the team. Each coach should choose what they feel is the best possible way for their specific team to notify those that fail to make the team. Any student who does not make a team and wishes an audience with the coach, will be granted one at a mutually agreed upon time.

11. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather or some other type of emergency, contests for that day would automatically be cancelled.

STATE OF MIND

If you think you're beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you'd like to win, but think you can't;
it's almost a cinch you won't.
if you think you'll lose, you're lost;
for out in the world you'll find
Success begins with a fellow's will;
It's all in the state of mind.

Full many a race is lost
Ere ever a step is run
And many a coward fails
Ere ever his work's begun.
Think big, and your deeds will grow;
Think small and you'll fall behind;
Think that you can, and you will.
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are;
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man;
But sooner or later the man who wins

Is the fellow who thinks he can.
It's All In The State Of Mind!

ELIGIBILITY RULES

In Ohio, the governing body of middle school and high school athletics is the Ohio High School Athletic Association. This District is a member of OHSAA. So as to have some semblance of order for competition, the OHSAA has established a set of rules that all member schools must abide by. Some of the most noteworthy rules that all student-athletes need to be familiar with are:

Age Limitation – 7th and 8th: If you are 15 years of age after August 1, you are not eligible to participate (OHSAA 4-2-2).

Physical Examination – Must have passed a current year physical examination administered by a licensed physician. Record must be on file in the Athletic Office.

Grade Point Average – a student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of academic achievement.

Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and received passing grades during the grading period in 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled (OHSAA4-4-3). The student also must meet the minimum grade point average of 1.25 as well as the above criteria. A failing grade may not preclude a student from participation. For eligibility purposes, summer school grades may not be used as a substitute for a failing grade received the final grading of the regular school year, or for lack of enough subjects taken during the preceding grading period.

Weekly Report of Athletic Eligibility – Teachers list the names of student athletes who are enrolled in their classes and who are not passing (incompletes and no credits are not passing). They also indicate those students who are near failing on this form. This form is to be turned in to the Guidance Office (room 215) by 2:30 p.m. on Friday preceding the week of competition. Guidance reviews the eligibility forms on Monday of competition week and sends out call slips for 11th period to talk with each student. Each Monday during 11th period, the middle school athletic director will see and notify each student who is failing a class. If the student is receiving one “F” on the form, they are still allowed to practice and compete that week. If they have two “F’s” on the form, the student may not practice or compete that week. This process will continue until the grades improve or the season is over.

RESIDENCE

A student is eligible at the public or non-public school located in the district where the parent resides. If, however, the student is a ward of a court-appointed guardian, the student is eligible at the school located in the district where the guardian resides provided the student lives with the guardian. A student may be eligible at only one school.

"Parent" refers to the natural and/or adoptive parents of the student. If the parents are divorced, or their marriage has been dissolved or annulled, "parent" means the "residential parent" and "legal custodian" (pursuant to O.R.C. Chapter 3109) of the student. If the student has been temporarily or permanently removed from the home, "parent" shall mean the person or government agency with legal or permanent custody.

When a change of "residential parent" and "legal custodian" results in a change of school districts, the student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

A student who does not live in the same school district as parents or legal guardian and who is financially self-supporting may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Commissioner at a school in the district where the student resides. The Commissioner is empowered to establish the requirements for a student to be determined to be self-supporting. These requirements shall be established for each school year by May 15th of the preceding year. Self-support documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

The districts for all member public schools are established by the State Board of Education and defined for athletic purposes.

If the residence in which a student and a student's parents reside is annexed to a school district, the student must attend the school in the student's district subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Commissioner can rule such students eligible.

A student whose parents move from the district during the school year may finish the school year and be eligible. If the student wishes to return to the school the following school year, the student must meet one of the exceptions to the residence or transfer requirements.

A student enrolled in a Special Education program at a school outside of the district of residence of parents is eligible at the school where the student attends classes or the school located in the district of residence of the parents, PROVIDED each of the following is met: (a) the student's parents reside in Ohio; (b) the school district in which the parents reside does not provide the required programs to meet the student's special educational needs; and (c) there is a contractual agreement specifying the responsibility for education special education students between the

respective school boards or between the parents and the school the special education student will attend.

Definition of Special Education Program:

1) special education curricula as described in PL94-142 as amended; 2) gifted and talented programs; and 3) alternative education programs as conducted by member schools of the OHSAA.

A student entering a high school from a 7th – 8th grade school may choose any non-public or public high school provided the student is accepted at that high school.

A student whose parents live outside the state of Ohio will be ineligible for athletics in an Ohio member school.

EXCEPTION 1 — A student who has attended a minimum of 15 days in the eleventh grade when the parents move outside the state of Ohio may be declared eligible for the twelfth grade provided the student maintains continuous enrollment in the Ohio school.

EXCEPTION 2 — A student who enrolls at first grade level in a school consisting of grades 1-12 and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 in that school regardless of place or state of residence of parents.

EXCEPTION 3 — A student who resides within the boundaries of a parochial school system consisting of grades 1-12 that has multiple sites organized into elementary schools (1-8) and secondary schools (9-12), and who has enrolled at first grade level of an elementary school in that system and has maintained continuous enrollment in the school system through grade 8, shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 9-12 providing the secondary school attended by the student is the school designated by the school system for the continuance of the student's educational program.

EXCEPTION 4 — A student who resides within the boundaries of a public school district in a neighboring state; and who attends an Ohio public school system under an arrangement through which the entire grade of the out-of-state student attends the Ohio public school system; and for whom the tuition or cost of education for said out-of-state student is paid by the neighboring state's school district of residence; and who will be eligible to receive a high school diploma from an Ohio public school system shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 at the schools designated by the Ohio school system for attendance by the students from the neighboring state.

CHANGING SCHOOLS -- TRANSFERS

A transfer student is one who is enrolled in and attending a member school outside the district of residence of the parent or legal guardian.

The transfer bylaw applies to all students enrolled in grades 7–12. It applies to all member schools, both public and non–public.

If a student transfers after the first day of the student's ninth grade year from a non–public to a public school, from a public to a non–public school, the student will be ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment.

EXCEPTION 1 – If the parents or legal guardian change residence from one public school district to another public school district, the student may enroll in either the public school within the boundaries of the public school district that includes the residence of the parents or legal guardian or any non–public school, and be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned.

EXCEPTION 2 – A student who has completed the eight grade and whose parents or legal guardian reside in the state of Ohio may enroll in any high school and be eligible.

EXCEPTION 3 – If and only if, either one of the parents in a Shared Parenting Plan, notwithstanding any provisions therein to the contrary, makes a physical change in residence that results in the student's transfer, the student shall be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned.

EXCEPTION 4 – The school closes.

EXCEPTION 5 – A student may enroll in a school outside the district of residence of the parent and be eligible provided the superintendents of both districts enter into a written agreement that consents to the attendance and specifies that the purpose of such attendance is to protect the student's physical or mental well-being. Only one such exemption shall be permitted in any four school years. The students shall not be eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the exemption form.

EXCEPTION 6 – A student shall be entitled to one transfer back to the public school district within which the student's parent residence is located regardless of from where the student is transferring. HOWEVER, if the student utilizes this exception, the student will no longer be able to utilize the superintendent's agreement exception set forth in Exception 5.

EXCEPTION 7 – A student transferred to the State School for the Blind or State School for the Deaf shall be eligible upon enrollment.

The superintendent or person delegated by the superintendent of either non–public or public school system may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility. Such transfers are eligible only after approval by the Commissioner.

Whenever a new high school has been established in a school district in which the student's parents reside, all students whose parents reside in that school district, and who enroll in the new high school, are eligible for interscholastic athletics insofar

as the transfer bylaw is concerned. This applies to students from both public and non-public schools whose parents reside in the new school district defined by the local Board of Education. This rule applies only at the beginning of the school year when the new school first opens. After the first year of operation, the eligibility of any future transfers from one school to another will be determined in accordance with applicable paragraphs of this section.

In order for a transfer student to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition at a school, the student's name must be listed on the eligibility certificate submitted at the first tournament level in the sport.

STUDENTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Students from countries and provinces outside the United States are ineligible for interscholastic athletics.

EXCEPTION 1: A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible if the student's parents move into and are legal residents of the school district in which the student is enrolled and attending. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner.

EXCEPTION 2: A student in a approved foreign exchange program contained in the Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) may be eligible for interscholastic athletics. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the exchange student form. The following restriction applies:

- a. Students are eligible for a maximum of one school year.

EXCEPTION 3: A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics upon the submission of a court approved document certifying the student's adoption by a legal resident of the school district in which the student is attending. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the appropriate court documents.

EXCEPTION 4: A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics when the student's parents are citizens of the United States who reside outside the United States. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the appropriate court documents.

An Ohio student returning from a domestic or foreign exchange program may resume interscholastic competition in an Ohio member school at the point of interruption provided the student did not receive credits toward graduation while participating the exchange program and provided the student meets all requirements relative to age, semesters eligibility as well as preceding grading period scholastic requirements

in the exchange program. Such a student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner or Board of Control.

PARENTS SHOULD BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE

How badly you must want to win,
Not for yourself but me,
So help me play this game, dear Parent,
With dedication, goals and dignity.
It's embarrassing for me,
When you criticize my coach,
If you think you can be helpful,
Then try a new approach.
Call and make arrangements,
To meet him face to face,
Far better than to yell at him
In such a public place.
I think that you will also find,
Your friendship will be sealed,
In a more conducive atmosphere,
Than on the playing field.
Please try to go along with him,
Not judging wrong or right.
You know he's got a job to do,
That must be done tonight,
As he stands alone down there,
In front of all the fans,

Help him do the job he must,
By standing silent in the stands,
Snap decision he must make,
Under pressure of the game,
And certainly where you must sit,
Tis' not really quite the same,
Even when he calls it right,
I often make a mistake,
That surely makes him look as though
His coaching is at stake.
Sometimes he will chew me out,
Then he'll pat me on the back,
And I will get it next time,
You can count on that.
He'll take the blame for losses
And walk out on a limb,
But he'll give his team credit
For each and every win.
So be there when I need you.
Shout encouragement to me.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Encourage your child to participate in sports, but don't pressure them. Let your child choose to play.
2. Understand what your child wants from sports and provide a supportive atmosphere for your child to achieve these goals.
3. Don't make sports everything in your child's life, make it a part of their life.
4. Keep winning and losing in perspective and help your child do the same.
5. Help your child set challenging but realistic performance goals.
6. Help your child understand the valuable lessons sports can teach.
7. Help your child understand the meaning of team, and the responsibilities they have to their coach and teammates.
8. Turn your child over to the coach at practices and games.
9. Help your child understand the meaning of commitment.
10. Supply your child's coach with any pertinent medical information that may be needed regarding your child.
11. Realize that a ticket to an athletic event is a privilege that you can purchase to observe a contest. Be supportive and understanding of your child and of the team on which he or she plays. The ticket you purchased is not a license to verbally assault others or to be obnoxious.
12. Respect decisions made by coaches and officials.
13. Be an exemplary role model and respect the opposing team's fans.
14. Don't be negative. Nothing is ever gained through negativity.

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

Good communication is an essential ingredient to any successful program. Parents need to provide the coach with all pertinent information regarding their child. As a parent, you should notify the coach of any schedule conflicts or appointments well in advance so the coach may have the opportunity to work around the conflicts. Missing practice or a game is taken very seriously. Be committed to the program. Have your child to practice on time and think soundly about curfew rules the night before games. If you have a concern to discuss with the coach, make an appointment. Don't approach a coach before or after a game. This is not the ideal time. Keep your discussion on your child. You have the right to talk with the coach about the treatment of your child, their skill development or their behavior. You don't have the right to speak about other players on the team. If you are having trouble reaching the coach call the Athletic Office and ask the Athletic Director to help set up the meeting.

Just as a coach expects communication from one of his players parents, you too have every right as a parent to expect communication from your child's coach. Some of the important items that the coach should convey to both you and your child are:

1. When is practice?
2. Where is practice?
3. What time does practice start?
4. Practice schedule and game schedule.
5. Coach's philosophy.
6. What are the expectations the coach has of his/her team?
7. What are the requirements to be a part of the team? Fees, special equipment, etc.
8. Training rules and any special rules specific to his/her team.

We are continually attempting to improve communication with parents, student-athletes, and coaches. We must all work together to achieve and to keep our program heading in the right direction. It all starts with you!

EXPECTATIONS

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the North Olmsted School District as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity.

SUCCESS HAS A PRICE

Whatever you want in life,
you must give up something to get it.
The greater the value, the greater the sacrifice required.

There's a price to pay if you want to make things better,
and a price you'll pay for just leaving things as they are.

Nothing worthwhile comes easily.
Work, continuous work and hard work,
is the only way to accomplish results that last.
Don't let the fear of change stop you.

Your highway to success is a toll road.
There is no success at bargain basement prices.

COACHES

Always set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior. Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship a priority. Respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by the rules of the event, and make sure that no display of your behavior could incite any fans. Treat your opposing coaches, participants, and fans with respect. Develop and enforce penalties for your participants who do not abide by good sportsmanship standards. Shake the hands of your opponents after each game and keep winning and losing in the proper perspective.

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Treat your opponents with respect. Respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by the rules of the event, and do not display any behavior that may incite fans. Cooperate with officials, coaches, and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community. Live up to the high standards of sportsmanship established by the coach.

FANS

Most fans know how to act when observing an athletic contest. However, some fans have attended too many pro games and unfortunately observed some inappropriate behavior of people and think that it is acceptable. Unacceptable behavior at middle school sporting events would include disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures, verbal heckling of an official, display of temper over an official's call, antagonistic calls or gestures toward the opposing team, use of profanity or displays of anger, threatening words or gestures directed at an official, coach, or team member.

RISK OF PARTICIPATION

All parents and athletes must realize the risk of serious injury which may result due to participation in athletics. The North Olmsted School District will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury: All coaches will follow state guidelines by being trained in sports first aid prior to their employment. In addition, all coaches must have taken instruction in CPR. A certified trainer will be available to all athletes for consultation and rehabilitation of injuries.

Little Eyes Upon You

**There are little eyes upon you
and they're watching night and day.
There are little ears that quickly
take in every word you say.
There are little hands all eager
to do anything you do;
And a little boy who's dreaming
of the day he'll be like you.**

**You're the little fellow's idol,
you're the wisest of the wise.
In his little mind about you
no suspicions ever rise.
He believes in you devoutly,
holds all that you say and do;
He will say and do, in you way,
when he's grown up like you.
There's a wide eyed little fellow
who believes you're always right;
And his eyes are always opened,
and he watched day and night.
You are setting an example
every day in all you do,
For the little boy who's waiting
to grow up to be like you.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL TICKET POLICIES

Children under school age (including kindergarten) need not purchase tickets for athletic events. Adults \$3.00. Senior Citizens free to home games with Athletic Activity Pass and \$1.00 without pass and to all away games. Students \$1.00.

HIGH SCHOOL TICKET POLICIES

Children under school age (including kindergarten) need not purchase tickets for athletic events. Senior Citizens free to home games with Athletic Activity Pass and \$3.00 without pass and to all away games.

Varsity Football – Student presale tickets are sold for \$3.00 at the high school and middle school during the day of the game. There is no adult presale. All tickets sold at the gate are general admission — football is \$6.00 and admission tickets for all other sports are purchased at the gate for the following prices:

| Sport | Adult | Student |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| Boys Basketball | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| Girls Basketball | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| Football –Junior Varsity | \$3.00 | \$2.00 |
| Gymnastics | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| Hockey | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| Boys Soccer | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| Girls Soccer | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| Swimming | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| Volleyball | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| Wrestling | \$6.00 | \$3.00 |
| 9th Grade Event | \$3.00 | \$2.00 |

"SPORTSMANSHIP IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION"

WHAT MAKES A GOOD COACH

A good coach...

- b. Knows the sport—and students. He or she must know about the physical development of boys and girls—what students are and are not capable of doing.

- Knows about differences in personality—that what is right for one student isn't necessarily right for another.
- Understands, and can deal with, differences in students' physical and emotional maturity and appreciates each student for her or his individuality.
- Is sensitive to students. The coach must give attention and instruction to all the players and attempt to make them all feel a part of the team.
- Is a skilled teacher, a clever psychologist, a practical philosopher, and a sensible negotiator.
- Has more than just winning in sight. Long-term goals of helping students develop physically, psychologically, and socially should take precedence over the goal of winning.
- Is skilled at teaching the fundamentals of the sport. Skill development is a major reason students play—most want to improve their abilities. Improvement is a primary source of enjoyment for athletes.
- Teaches young athletes to enjoy success and to respond to failure with renewed determination.
- Emphasizes improvement, competence, and striving for excellence.
- Helps students develop positive self-images and learn standards of conduct that are acceptable to society.
- Teaches and models behavior that reflects desirable basic values.

EAGLES BOOSTERS

The Boosters Club is organized to assist the Board of Education in providing funds and equipment for all athletic programs. Without the thousands of dollars generated by the Boosters organization, uniforms, equipment, and facilities would not be what they are today. The Club, if it is to continue to provide the amount of support it presently does, needs the help of your parents. Please encourage your parents to join the Eagles Boosters and become an active member in this important organization. Membership dues are \$10.00, \$25.00, \$50.00 OR \$100.00.

The Eagles Boosters offer several scholarships ranging from \$500.00 to \$1000.00 each year. You must be a member for your son/daughter to be eligible for these scholarships.

The Man in the Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
 And the world makes you king for a day,
 Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
 And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
 Whose judgment upon you must pass.

The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
is the one staring back from the glass.

You may be like Jack Horner and chisel a plum
And think you're a wonderful guy.
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please - never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear to the end.
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

S.W.C. Middle Schools

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|---|---|
| Amherst Junior High School 548 Milan Avenue Amherst, Ohio Mascot: Comets Colors: Green and Gold 440/988-0324 | Take Route 90 West to Route 2. Stay on Route 2 to Oak Point Road. Turn left on Oak Point Road. Go under railroad tracks to 1 st light and turn left onto Milan Avenue. School is on right. |
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| Learwood Middle School 340 Lear Road Avon Lake, Ohio Mascot: Shoremen Colors: Maroon and Gold 440/933-8142 | Take Route 90 West to Route 83 North. Stay on route 83 to Walker Road. Turn right onto Walker and take to Lear Road. Turn left to middle school. |
| Berea Roehm Middle School 7220 Pleasant Street Berea, Ohio 44017 Mascot: Raptors Colors: Blue and Gold 440/234-1326 | Take I-480 East to I-71 South. Take I-71 South to Bagley Road. Turn right onto Bagley Road. Take to Pleasant Avenue and turn left. |
| Brecksville-Broadview Hts. Middle School 6376 Mill Road Broadview Hts, Ohio 44147 Mascot: Bees Colors: Gold and Red 440/740-4400 | Take I-480 East to I-77 South. Take I-77 South to Wallings Road. Turn left (East) onto Wallings Road and take to Mill Road. Turn right on Mill Road and take to Middle School. |
| Midpark Ford Middle School 17001 Holland Road Brookpark, Ohio 44142 Mascot: Falcons Colors: Green and Gold 216/433-1133 | Take Columbia Road South to Cedar Point. Turn left onto Cedar Point and take to Ruple. Turn right onto Ruple and take to Sheldon. Turn left on Sheldon and take to Eastland and turn left. Take Eastland to Holland and turn right. |
| Olmsted Falls Middle School 26184 Bagley Road Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138 Mascot: Bulldogs Colors: Blue and Gold 440/427-6200 | Take Fitch Road South to Bagley Road. Turn right on Bagley and take to middle school which is on the left. |

Other Middle Schools

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| Bay Middle School 27725 Wolf Road Bay Village Ohio 44140 Mascot: Rockets Colors: Blue and White 440/899-5900 | Take Dover Center to Wolf Road. Turn left onto Wolf. Take to middle school which is on the left. |
| Brooklyn Middle School 9200 Biddulph Road Brooklyn, Ohio | Take I-480 East to Tiedeman Road. Exit and turn left. Turn right on Biddulph. Turn left at the 1 st drive after the high school. Middle school is |

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| 216/485-8155 | behind the high school. |
| Edwards Middle School 1497 Pearl Road Brunswick, Ohio Mascot: Blue Devils Colors: Royal Blue and White | Take I-480 East to I-71 South. Exit at Pearl Road (Rt. 42). Turn right on Pearl Road. Middle School is on the right before Rt. 82. |
| Willets Middle School 1581 Center Road Brunswick, Ohio Mascot: Blue Devils Colors: Royal Blue and White 330/273-0489 | Take I-480 East to I-71 South. Exit at Rt. 303 and turn right pass the high school to Hadcock and turn right. Middle school is on the right. |
| Lewis Mayer Jr. High School 21200 Campus Drive Fairview Park, Ohio 44126 Mascot: Warriors Colors: Scarlet and Gray 440/356/-3506 | Take Lorain Road East to West 213 th Street and turn right (South). School is on the left. |
| Keystone Middle School 301 Liberty Street LaGrange, Ohio 440/355-5133 | I-480 West to Route 10. Go West on Route 10 to Route 83. Go South on Route 83 to Route 303. Go West on Route 303 to Rt. 301. Go North on Rt. 301 to Liberty Street. Turn right on Liberty Street. |
| Rocky River Middle School 1631 Lakeview Road Rocky River, Ohio Mascot: Pirates Colors: Maroon and Gold 440/356-6870 | Take Dover Center to Detroit Road. Go right on Detroit and pass Wagar to Lakeview Road and turn right. |
| Albion Middle School 11109 Webster Road Strongsville, Ohio Mascot: Mustang Colors: Green and White 440/572-7070 | Take Pearl Road (US 42) South to Whitney Road. Turn left on Whitney. At Webster turn right and Albion Middle School is on the left. |
| Center Middle School 13200 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio Mascot: Mustang Colors: Green and White 440/572-7090 | Take I-480 East to I-71 South. Exit at Pearl Road (Rt. 42.). Turn right on Pearl Road. Middle School is on right before Rt. 82. |

