

ST. JOHN'S JESUIT

HIGH SCHOOL & ACADEMY



PARENT & STUDENT/ATHLETE

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

2017-2018

PHILOSOPHY

The Department of Athletics of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy considers athletics to be an integral part of the school's educational program and provides experiences that will help our students grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. We believe that by promoting sportsmanship, the athletic program helps to instill pride and reinforces a sound value structure for our students. St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy is committed to providing the best athletic program possible.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A TITAN ATHLETE

Being a member of a St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy 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. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad, 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 concerned. Over many years, our squads have achieved numerous league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-Conference and All-State honors.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear your school colors, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

Responsibilities to Yourself

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of CHARACTER. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experiences. Your studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities as well as in sports, prepare you for life as an adult.

Responsibilities to Your School

Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. St. John's Jesuit cannot maintain its position as having outstanding programs unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. 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 on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on the stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the court/field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make St. John's Jesuit proud of you and the community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

Responsibilities to Others

As a team member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your teammates. You must measure up to all of the training rules. You should practice to the best of your ability every day. If you have played the game "all out," you can keep your self-respect and your family and your team can be justly proud of you.

The younger students in St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.

PARTICIPATION

1. Any student attending St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy who qualifies under OHSAA, TRAC, NHC, CYO, and school rules and meets the standards of the Athletic Department will be given the opportunity to participate in the athletic programs of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy.
2. The Athletic Department encourages its coaches to keep as many participants as possible. However the following are some of the factors considered when determining the size of any team. The final decision on all team selections is the responsibility of the head coach.
 - a. Size of coaching staff
 - b. Practice facilities' availability
 - c. Equipment
 - d. Transportation
 - e. Uniforms
 - f. Locker room accommodations
 - g. Skills to be taught and acquired.
3. It is not recommended that any athlete participate in more than one sport in any one season. However, he may participate providing he is able to meet the requirements of both sports to the satisfaction of the head coaches of both programs.
4. The head coach of any program is responsible for supervising all decisions regarding selection of team personnel for all teams in his program.
5. An athlete who decides to quit a sport during its season or who is dismissed from a team may not participate in the conditioning, practice, or contest of another sport until his team's season has ended or a release is given by his team's varsity head coach.

REQUIRED FORMS – FINAL FORMS

All student/athletes must complete and have on file in the athletic office (by the first official practice) all required athletic forms by St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy as well as all forms that are required by the OHSAA. These forms must be completed electronically through FINAL FORMS. <http://stjohns-oh.finalforms.com>

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

1. The eligibility of athletes of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy (Grades 7-12) is determined by the standards and requirements as set forth in the "Constitution and Rules" of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (www.ohsaa.org).
2. Students must receive a passing grade in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding academic quarter, to be academically eligible for the next academic quarter. Academic eligibility is based on quarter grades, not semester grades.
3. The minimum grade point average of students participating in athletics (6-12) is set at 1.50 with no more than one (1) failure for the previous grading period (quarter grades).
4. A student enrolling in the 7th grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period (quarter) regardless of previous academic achievement.
5. Summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period (quarter) of the regular school year.
6. Athletic eligibility is determined at the end of each academic quarter by the Principal's Office and the Athletic Administration shall inform the student, parents, and the head coach of any ineligibility.

7. Students who are ineligible will be notified and prohibited from further participation unless the coach, principal, athletic director and parents agree that continued participation for practice is in the best interest of the student/athlete.

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

An athlete selected as a member of a SJJ Titan athletic team is expected to attend every practice and game of his team. We believe that attendance at games and practices is an essential part of the growth of the student/athlete and his development and responsibility as a team member.

1. Illness: For an athlete to be eligible on any specific school day, he must be in school by 12 noon on that day. An athlete who leaves school at any time during the day due to illness may not return to school that day for practice or a game. Illness on Friday does not affect eligibility for weekend contests.
2. Absences: If an athlete must miss a practice or game for any reason other than immediate illness, he must notify the coach as far in advance as possible. If a player fails to notify a coach of any absence, it will be considered an unexcused absence and the athlete is liable for disciplinary action.
 - a. Excused Absence: These are absences due to illness or those that the coach has approved in advance. Approval for any excused absence is at the discretion of the head coach.
 - b. Unexcused Absence: These are absences where the coach is not notified in advance or where the reason for the absence is not deemed appropriate by the head coach. An unexcused absence may be grounds for dismissal from the team.
 - c. Conflicts: When a conflict occurs between two school events, the moderators/coaches should make every attempt to resolve the conflict. When an athlete misses a practice or game due to a school conflict and the coach is notified in advance, the absence will be considered an excused absence. A student that is on a retreat or directs a retreat will not be penalized as this will be considered an excused absence.
 - d. Consequences of Absences: The consequences for any absences, excused or unexcused, are those determined appropriate by the head coach of the program. Multiple absences of any kind may be grounds for dismissal from the team.
3. Pre-Season Conditioning: Pre-season conditioning programs are not mandatory for any athlete. However if an athlete chooses to participate in a conditioning program, he may be held to participation requirements in order to avoid injury and to insure the effectiveness and integrity of the conditioning program. These requirements are determined by the head coach of the sport offering the conditioning program.

SPORTS OFFERED BY SEASON

HIGH SCHOOL

Fall – Crew, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer

Winter – Basketball, Ice Hockey, Swimming/Diving, Wrestling

Spring – Baseball, Crew, Lacrosse, Tennis, Track

ACADEMY (All Academy sports are determined by interest and numbers to support activity.)

Fall – Cross Country, Football, Soccer

Winter – Basketball, Wrestling

Spring – Lacrosse, Track

TRANSPORTATION

1. When necessary, St. John's Jesuit High School may permit athletes to drive to athletic events, as long as said vehicle is licensed as required by the State of Ohio and the athlete holds a valid Ohio Drivers License.
2. In order for a student to drive, to carry passengers in his car, or to ride with another student, parent or coach, the Driving Authorization form must be signed by the parent through Final Forms.
3. Any athlete who rides a bus or van to an athletic event is expected to ride the same transportation back to school. At the discretion of the coach, an athlete may be released to ride with the parent or another adult driven car if a parent permission slip has been given to the coach of that team and the Driving Authorization form is signed by the parent through Final Forms.
4. The driver and vehicle must have current liability and collision insurance as required by Ohio Law.

FEES, ATHLETIC APPAREL, LOST EQUIPMENT

1. Administrative fees: There is a participation fee that is established for some sports. This fee helps to cover the expenses of operating the program including rental fees, equipment, insurance, awards, as well as other operating costs. These fees are established by the athletic administration and may vary for each sport.
2. Clothes charges: Some of the programs in the Titan athletic department sell items of clothing and equipment to the players that they are permitted to keep at season's end. These are general items that are unable to be reused by players in succeeding years. The prices for these items are established by the athletic administration and reflect only a minimal mark-up to the players.
3. All fees must be paid by the date established for each sport's program for the athlete to continue to participate with that program.
4. If any athlete has difficulty meeting his financial obligations to the athletic department, he, or his parents, should contact the athletic administration to work out a solution.
5. Each athlete is responsible for all uniforms and equipment issued to him. Damaged equipment should be taken to the coach immediately for repair to insure safety. All uniforms should be washed after each wearing.
6. Equipment and athletic apparel issued to student/athletes must be returned in satisfactory condition following the individual's participation in their sport. All SJJ property must be returned within three days of the athlete's last day of participation. Students/athletes will be responsible for replacement cost of lost, stolen, or damaged property. Failure to comply will result in the athlete being placed on an accounts receivable list in the business office.
7. Any athlete who decides to quit a team before the end of the season or who is dismissed from the team before the end of the season is not entitled to receive a refund of any fees. An athlete who is injured and not able to remain with the team may have his administrative fees pro-rated by the athletic administration, if requested.
8. Any money owed to the athletic department at the end of the school year, for any reason, will be added to the student's tuition bill. In addition, the student will not be permitted to participate in any athletic program at St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy until these financial obligations are met.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

It is strongly recommended that families of SJJ athletes carry a primary health insurance policy to cover injuries that may occur while participating in athletics at St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy. St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy does not carry group or individual insurance on its students.

MEDICAL ATTENTION & PHYSICAL EXAMS

1. Physical examinations are required of all athletes before they can participate in any official practices or games.
2. An athlete needs only one physical per calendar year.

3. All athletes prior to the season must turn in the required physical form and all athletic forms must be signed through Final Forms.
4. A trainer will be provided for all home contact sporting events, depending on availability. The home team is generally responsible for providing a trainer. If a trainer or physician is not available, first aid will be provided by the coaches who have taken a state mandated athletic first-aid training course.
5. All injuries incurred by an athlete must be reported immediately to the coaching staff.
6. Any athlete who is seen by a physician must secure a written medical release from the physician before he can again participate in either practice or contests.

NCAA/NAIA ELIGIBILITY FACTS

Any student/athlete interested in participating in college athletics should see his guidance counselor during his junior year to determine his core GPA status and to begin NCAA/NAIA Clearinghouse requirements.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The Code of Conduct of the St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy student/athlete is governed by:
 - a. Rules or policies of the OHSAA, Three Rivers Athletic Conference, Northwest Hockey Conference, and Catholic Youth Organization.
 - b. Rules and policies of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy (SJJ Student Handbook)
 - c. St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy Co-curricular policy on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (SJJ Student Handbook).
 - d. Training rules established by the coaching staff of each program
 - e. Rules of good sportsmanship.
2. The Code of Conduct of the St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy applies the entire year, seven (7) days a week, 24 hours a day.
3. Athletes must abide by the school's dress code at all times while representing St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy unless exceptions are granted by the varsity head coach of the program with the approval of the athletic administration.
4. Offensive or foul language is not acceptable and will not be tolerated, as it is contrary to the mission and philosophy of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy.
5. Athletes must abide by the St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy co-curricular policy on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs and must participate in their team's preseason meeting concerning this policy.
6. The athletic administration reserves the right to withdraw any athlete from the athletic program if he fails to fulfill his obligations and responsibilities to St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy, the athletic department or to his team or whose conduct is judged to reflect discredit upon themselves, their team, or St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy.
7. Any student/athlete under a suspension imposed by St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy or the athletic department may not participate or practice during the time of suspension.
8. OHSAA ejection policy – Any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the next football game or a minimum of two contests in any other sport. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest/s. A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport.
9. Use of athletic facilities at St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy will require proper permission and supervision by a coach, a designated facility supervisor, or the athletic administration. Without such permission or supervision, the facilities are deemed inaccessible.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES

Playing and competing for St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy is a privilege. Student/athletes at SJJ are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your school, and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you, but benefit the whole team.

Texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Snapchat, and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of student/athletes at SJJ in one form or another.

Student/athletes should be aware that third parties - - including the media, faculty, future employers, and OHSAA officials - - could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student/athlete, the team, and SJJ. This can also be detrimental to a student/athlete's future employment options, whether in sports or in other industries.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include, but not limited to, depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments, or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco e.g., holding cups, bottles, cans, shot glasses, etc.
- Photos, videos, comments, or posts that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Photos, videos, comments, or posts that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning, or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student/athlete, coach, or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
- Content online that would constitute a violation of team, school, and league rules (examples: commenting publicly about a coach, teammate, opponent, official, staff member, and school employees).
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the team or the school, which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student/athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).
- Any student that is proven to be involved in such activity will be dealt with severely up to and including possible suspension/dismissal from the team and including possible suspension/expulsion from school.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy is committed to a safe educational environment for all students, employees, volunteers, and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

"Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, when the intentional written, verbal, or physical act:

- Physically or emotionally harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- Has the effect of interfering with a student's education; or
- Is severe, persistent, or pervasive, so that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of disrupting the orderly operation of the athletic team or school.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can take many forms including, but not limited to: cyber bullying, tweeting, texting, sexting, Facebook, emails, slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawing of cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written, online, verbal, or physical actions. "Intentional acts" refers to the individual's choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).

Any reports of bullying should be reported immediately to the Associate Principal and/or the Athletic Director. Any student who is proven to be involved in bullying will be dealt with severely, up to and including possible suspension/dismissal from the team and including possible suspension/expulsion from school.

HAZING POLICY

At St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy "hazing" is strictly prohibited. Hazing is defined as any act used to initiate a person into any student organization or athletic team that causes or creates a substantial risk of mental or physical harm. The administration strongly feels that organizations within the school should engage in team-building activities of a positive nature. Becoming part of a great tradition should be a positive and rewarding experience free of any painful or demeaning requirements. Any reports of hazing should be reported immediately to the Associate Principal and/or the Athletic Director. Any student who is proven to be involved in hazing will be dealt with severely, up to and including possible suspension/dismissal from the team and including possible suspension/expulsion from school.

DISCIPLINE

It shall be the responsibility of the principal/designee, athletic director, or coach to discipline an athlete for:

1. Violation of the St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy Substance Abuse Policy.
2. Violation of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy rules and policies.
3. Violation of established team rules.
4. Violation of OHSAA, TRAC, NHC, and CYO rules.

Students may be removed from the team for the following offenses:

1. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or other mind-altering substances. (Refer to SJJ Student Handbook).
2. The use of tobacco in any form.
3. Destroying or stealing athletic equipment.
4. Violation of athletic manual rules, team rules, St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy rules and policies, OHSAA, TRAC, NHC, and CYO rules.
5. Any conduct which may be deemed by the principal/designee to be both of a serious nature, and a violation of state, local, or federal criminal or juvenile law.

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Being a spectator at a St. John's Jesuit High School sporting event is a "privilege." Spectators are expected to contribute positively to the educational experiences of our athletes. Spectators will be held accountable for their behavior. St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy reserves the right to remove spectators from sporting events who are not behaving within the spirit and philosophies of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy.

OFF-CAMPUS RUNNING

If off-campus running is a necessary part of a team's training program, the coach must ensure that the athletic department policy concerning off-campus running is completely adhered to and explained to the athlete and that the proper parental permission form is signed. In addition, off-campus running must never occur during conditions that would pose a danger to our athletes, such as darkness, thunderstorms, rain, or snow that would hinder the athletes from running off road or any temperature condition that would post unsafe conditions for our athletes.

AWARDS

1. The athletic department will present the following awards to the athletes who meet the standards established for their program.
2. All awards will be in accordance with the OHSAA rules and regulations.
3. An athlete must be in good standing with the team at the end of the season to be eligible for any awards.
4. To receive an athletic award, the athlete must attend the athletic awards ceremony at the end of the season; potential absences must be approved *in advance* by the coach *and* the athletic director; failure to attend the awards ceremony without prior approval can result in forfeiture of that sport season's awards.

Varsity Awards

1. Letter - first award
2. Pin - second award
3. Plaque - third award
4. Plaque/Trophy - fourth award

Reserve/Junior Varsity Awards

1. Reserve letter

Freshmen Awards

1. Numerals

Titan Award

SJJ athletics supports both multi-sport athletes and those who choose to focus on one sport. However, a small school like St. John's Jesuit is successful in athletics, in part, because we encourage students to participate in a variety of sports. The Titan Award will be a plaque given at the Spring Sports Banquet to students who compete in three sports for all four years at St. John's Jesuit.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each other's position, we are better able to understand the actions of the other and provide the greatest benefit to young people. As parents, when your sons become involved in our program, you have the right to know what expectations have been placed on your son. This begins with clear communication between the athletic department, the coaches, and the parents.

Parents love their sons and want them to have a successful and enjoyable experience. Our program's goal is that each athlete has an enjoyable experience where he has the opportunity to grow athletically as well as personally.

Communication you should expect from the SJJ athletic department:

1. Packet of information including philosophy and policies of the SJJ athletic department.
2. Required forms that must be completed by the parents and athletes to allow participation in our athletic program.
3. Help in answering any parent questions or concerns about our athletic department policies.

Communications you should expect from your son's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your son
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedure should your son be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your son's participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach with your son's knowledge.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your son mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your son grow athletically and personally.
3. Concerns about your son's behavior or attitude.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other students/athletes.

The next step:

If you or your son has appropriate questions or concerns, we encourage you to take the following steps:

1. Encourage your son to talk candidly with his coach expressing his questions and concerns at a time convenient to both your son and his coach.
2. If, as a parent, you still have questions or concerns, you should contact the coach personally and arrange a convenient time to talk.
3. The final step, if concerns are still not resolved, is to contact the athletic administration and discuss the situation.

Any questions you have should be directed to the Director of Athletics of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy at 419-865-5743, x0722.



2017-18 Edition

Eligibility Guide For Participation In High School Athletics

Published by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (posted 5/8/17)

Ohio High School Athletic Association Overview

Participating in your school's interscholastic athletics program will provide some of your most memorable and enjoyable moments ever. Since your school is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, there are standards that must be met in order to be eligible to compete.

The essential eligibility requirements in this publication are **only a summary** of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. OHSAA eligibility requirements are published in the *OHSAA Handbook*, which can be found in the offices of your principal and athletic administrator and is posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org). Your school district also has the authority to establish additional eligibility standards, including academic and codes of student or athletic conduct.

Any questions you have concerning the OHSAA standards or your athletic eligibility should be reviewed with your school principal or athletic administrator. **You should also meet with these administrators EVERY TIME before you change your course schedule or drop a course.** If you are a transfer student, you must ensure that you and your school administrators have submitted all proper forms to the OHSAA Office in Columbus.

The eligibility regulations of the OHSAA have been adopted by the member schools and were accepted by your school or the school at which you wish to compete when it became an OHSAA member. You are urged, as a student-athlete, to study these standards carefully since you are responsible for compliance with these standards.

Best wishes as you learn the valuable lessons that come with your participation in interscholastic athletics!

Student-athletes and parents have the opportunity to ask school administrators questions on OHSAA and school eligibility requirements, the school's Athletic Code of Conduct policy and other issues during preseason meetings that the OHSAA requires schools to hold no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. Meetings should include showing a presentation prepared by the OHSAA that reviews key student eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles, sporting behavior, concussion management and sudden cardiac arrest.

OHSAA Regulations On Scholarship

In order to be eligible for the first grading period upon entrance into grade 9, you must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) of the classes for which you received grades in the immediately preceding grading period.

In order to maintain eligibility for grades 9-12, you must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.

In addition:

- Summer school and other educational options, including College Credit Plus, may not be used to bring a student into compliance with scholarship bylaws, nor can they be used to compensate for lack of courses taken in the preceding grading period.
- Your semester or yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility (although they could, depending upon your school's official grading periods). OHSAA eligibility is dependent upon grades received in the immediately preceding grading period.
- Those taking postsecondary school courses, including College Credit Plus, must comply with OHSAA scholarship regulations.
- The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. **Note:** Check with your principal or athletic administrator for the exact date that eligibility will be determined.

OHSAA Regulations On Semesters

After establishing ninth-grade eligibility, you are permitted only eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility.

- The semesters are taken in order of attendance once ninth-grade eligibility has been established.
- Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not.
- There are exceptions to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review these exceptions.

OHSAA Regulations On **Age**

When a high school student (grades 9-12) turns 20 years of age, he/she becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletics.

- There is an exception to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review this exception.

OHSAA Regulations On **Residence**

If your parent(s) or legal guardian live outside of Ohio, you are ineligible unless one of the exceptions to the residence regulation is met. These exceptions to the out-of-state residency rules are found in Bylaw 4-6.

OHSAA Regulations On **Non-Enrolled Students**

Legislation now permits non-enrolled students (home educated, non-public, community school, STEM students) to have participation opportunities at the public high school that the student would be entitled to attend under the tuition statute, i.e., the school located in the parents' residential district or attendance zone for multiple high school districts. If you are participating via this legislation, note that the language says you shall be given the "same opportunities" to participate – not greater opportunities – and that you must meet the same eligibility requirements as other students. In addition, once you establish eligibility at a high school, a transfer to a different high school may mean you may lose eligibility for interscholastic athletics for a period of time at your new school.

For more information on participation opportunities for non-enrolled students, go to the Eligibility section of the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

OHSAA Regulations On **Transfers**

Once your eligibility is established at a high school, a transfer to a different high school may mean you will lose eligibility for interscholastic athletics for a period of time at your new school. For the specifics on the period of ineligibility, visit www.ohsaa.org.

- If you are new to this school as a transfer student, all required paperwork must be submitted to the OHSAA by your school administrator, and, depending on your situation, the state office may have to grant approval for eligibility. Immediate eligibility will be granted only if one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation has been met or you have not participated in the sport within 12 months immediately preceding your transfer.
- To determine if you qualify for an exception or you have other questions on these regulations, arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator. If questions remain, ask them to contact the OHSAA.

OHSAA Regulations On **Awards**

You may receive awards valued at \$400 or less from any source as a result from participation in any sport in which you are an interscholastic athlete. You may never accept cash awards, however.

OHSAA Regulations On **Amateurism**

You will lose your amateur status and forfeit your eligibility if you:

- Compete for money or other compensation.
- Capitalize on your athletic fame by receiving money, merchandise or services.
- Sign a contract or make a commitment to play professional athletics.
- Receive services, merchandise or any form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization.
- Compete with a professional athletics team even if no pay is received.
- Enter into an agreement with a sports or marketing agent.

Expenses for travel, meals and lodging may be accepted provided they are available to all participants and they are not contingent upon your team's and/or your finish. A form is available at www.ohsaa.org to maintain amateur status and must be submitted to the OHSAA.

OHSAA Regulations On **False Information**

If you compete under a name other than your own or provide a false address, you may immediately become ineligible.

OHSAA Regulations On **Open Gyms**

School officials may designate open gyms/facilities, the sport to be played, the grade levels involved and may also limit participants to those from your school. You may participate in open gyms/facilities, but remember:

- No one from the respective school may be excluded from participating;
- No one may be required to attend;
- No school officials may invite selected students or determine the teams;
- No school officials may transport students to or from either school or non-school facilities;
- No timing or written scoring may be kept, and
- No coaching or instruction may be provided.

The OHSAA may impose penalties against you, your school and/or your coach for violating these regulations.

OHSAA Regulations On Instruction

There are restrictions on the instruction you can receive from school coaches outside of your season. Some of these regulations are also different for team sports vs. individual sports. Before receiving instruction outside the season from your school coaches, visit www.ohsaa.org, go to the General Sports Regulations and review the section on Individual Skill Instruction to ensure all regulations are being followed. Some other key notes on these regulations:

- Besides during the season of your sport, school coaches may also provide team instruction for a maximum of 10 days between June 1 and July 31. This would include such activities as volleyball, field hockey, soccer, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse, baseball or softball teams competing in tournaments or 'shootouts;' football teams participating in 7-on-7's, or coaches conducting or taking teams to instructional camps.
- Between August 1 and May 31 and outside defined "no contact periods," school coaches may also provide individual instruction outside the season of play. There are restrictions for team sports and some individual sports, so review the OHSAA's Individual Skill Instruction regulations to ensure all standards are being followed.
- Individual skill instruction from non-school coaches may be received in any sport by a squad member at any time in individual or group lessons *provided* that this instruction does not violate any Board of Education, school administrators' or coaches' policies.
- It is a violation if a coach suggests your participation in instructional programs outside the school season is mandatory.

OHSAA Regulations On Non-School Teams

If you compete on a non-school team or in non-school competition as an individual in the same sport during your school team's season (example: non-school soccer during the school's soccer season), you may lose eligibility. There are also certain restrictions regarding tryouts, practices and competitions with non-school teams before, during and after your school season. Before participating with a non-school team, visit www.ohsaa.org, go to the General Sports Regulations and review the sections on Non-School Programs/Teams to ensure all regulations are being followed. Some other key notes on these regulations:

- A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) may not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of team or group training or practices on or with a non-school squad in the same sport during the school's interscholastic season once you become a member of the school team. ***This would include college teams and/or college tryouts.***
- In the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling, however, you may practice and try out for a non-school team but **may not compete in a contest during your school season.**

- A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) may try out, practice and compete on non-school teams before and after the school season from August 1 to May 31 (there are exceptions for baseball and softball) provided: The OHSAA's '50 percent limitation' regulation is maintained, meaning the number of students from the same school team on the roster of the non-school team is limited to five (5) students in the sports of soccer, field hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse; four (4) students in the sports of baseball and softball; three (3) students in the sport of volleyball, and two (2) students in the sport of basketball. ***School football team members are prohibited from competing on non-school teams except from June 1 to July 31. All football activities during the June 1 to July 31 period must be non-contact and the only football equipment permitted are helmets and cleats.*** **Note:** Seniors are exempt from these limitations after the conclusion of their sport season.
- There is no limit on the number of students from the same school team that may participate on the same non-school team from June 1 to July 31.
- Check the OHSAA Sport-by-Sport Regulations (available at www.ohsaa.org) for the date you must cease participation on non-school teams in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition along with penalties for non-compliance with this date.

OHSAA Regulations On Recruiting

You may be declared ineligible if you are recruited by a person or group of persons to transfer to or enroll in a high school for athletic purposes. This may include your transferring to a school at which one of your former school coaches has been hired. In addition, any attempt by you to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes is also prohibited. A violation may also affect the eligibility of the school team.

OHSAA Regulations/Guidance On Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs and Steroids

The OHSAA does not permit the use of any form of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs at the site of any interscholastic contests. Besides the health risks involved, use of any of these items will result in you being disqualified from contests and likely facing additional school and legal penalties. There are additional issues related to illicit drugs, such as anabolic steroids and some prescription drugs used with the goal of aiding performance. If you use anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs, you are ineligible for interscholastic competition until medical evidence indicates that your system is free of these drugs.

Another prominent issue is the use of supplements. The increased availability of these items allows student-athletes access to a wide variety of products aggressively marketed in fitness and strength training magazines and websites. Often their marketing campaigns include promises, endorsed by faulty research claims, of extraordinary weight loss, explosive power or tremendous strength gains. It is important for coaches, athletic administrators and parents to educate themselves about what substances your student-athletes may be using and about the potential risks involved with uneducated supplement use.

The OHSAA website, www.ohsaa.org, offers a wealth of information for parents, coaches and students about these topics and other healthy lifestyles/sports medicine issues.

OHSAA Regulations On Preparticipation Evaluations and Consent Forms

Before the student's first practice (or prior to the student's first participation should he/she join the team after the season has started), each student must have had a physical examination within the past year and an examination form signed by a medical examiner must be on file at your school. Ask your athletic administrator or licensed athletic trainer about the new electronic preparticipation evaluation, the PrivIT Profile, that the OHSAA has launched.

- Physical examinations are valid for participation for one year from the date of the exam except for those that take place from May 1-June 1. Those exams are valid for one year plus through the end of the next school year's spring sports season.

In addition, no student will be eligible unless that student and his or her parents have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility & Authorization Statement, both of which must be on file at your school.

OHSAA Regulations and Expectations On Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Management

It is everyone's responsibility to take the necessary precautions to reduce the likelihood of brain injuries and sudden cardiac arrest.

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

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the most common cause of death among student-athletes, and dizziness, loss of breath and a racing heart are often symptoms

that are overlooked. In many cases, recognizing the signs of cardiac trouble means student-athletes can continue their athletic participation.

Each school is required to review both its concussion and sudden cardiac arrest management protocols with students and their parents; each student and his or her parents must review and sign both the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" and a "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet" prior to participation, and parents and students are highly encouraged to review short video presentations on both concussions and sudden cardiac arrest. Check with your school administrators on where to find these videos. **Note:** *As of May 8, the SCA video and information sheet were not completed. OHSAA member schools will be informed as soon as all materials are finalized and available.*

OHSAA Regulations and Expectations On Sporting Behavior

The OHSAA's vision for positive sporting behavior is built on expectations. It calls on the school community — administrators, teachers, coaches, students, parents and fans — to strive for positive sporting behavior in everything they do by teaching the value of ethics, integrity, equity, fairness and respect.

As a student-athlete, you are expected to accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community while participating in school sports. You are expected to:

- Treat opponents, coaches and officials with respect, and
- Ensure your actions do not incite fans or other participants or attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean others.

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

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

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

As a participant in school sports, you are expected to act with dignity, speak with courtesy and play with pride. In short, Respect The Game!

Note: The complete OHSAA ejection policy for unsporting behavior can be found in the *OHSAA Handbook* and is posted at www.ohsaa.org.

Interscholastic Athletics

Why We Play The Games

For many of you, playing on your school teams may be the last time you will participate in competitive athletics. As a participant, you should work hard, have fun and strive to be the best. But just as important, you should also strive to be the best students, teammates and members of your community in preparation for the next phase of your life as a responsible adult and productive citizen.

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to enrich your high school experience; promote citizenship and sportsmanship; instill a sense of pride in community; teach lifelong lessons of teamwork and self-discipline, and help you grow physically and emotionally. In short, interscholastic athletic programs are educational in nature and therefore complement a student's school experience.

Other sporting organizations promote free player movement, are primarily designed to promote athletic development of the individual, and provide a showcase for the athletic talents of those individuals. However, these organizations do not share the primary educational purposes of OHSAA member schools and therefore cannot provide the unique type of competition created by the OHSAA through our member schools.

Statistics show that students who participate in interscholastic athletics programs tend to have higher grade-point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than the general student population. Statistics also show that only one percent of all high school participants will earn a Division I college athletic scholarship and approximately five percent will play collegiately in any division. Unlike major colleges and professional sports teams, interscholastic athletic programs do not exist to entertain spectators.

As your parents can attest, high school goes by in a blur, but your memories of participating in school sports will stay with you for a lifetime. The OHSAA wants to make sure your time as a high school student-athlete is meaningful and memorable.

The privilege of participating in educational athletics is one of the most exciting experiences of your life. You must earn the privilege to participate. Please maintain the proper perspective in this journey and remember why we play the games.

A Look At The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Participating in your school's interscholastic athletics program is not only a privilege, but also provides memorable experiences. The role of the OHSAA is to:

- Help ensure students are provided a positive environment for athletic participation;
- Ensure all rules, regulations and decisions are fair and equitable for all schools and participants;
- Ensure athletes play under safe conditions, and
- Ensure school sports programs remain a vital part of your educational experience.

Like the other 820 public and non-public high schools and approximately 800 7th and 8th grade schools, your school has volunteered to become a member of the OHSAA. Ohio is one of the top ranked states in the country in regards to participation with over 350,000 high school students competing in 26 sanctioned sports.

The OHSAA Commissioner and his staff are based in Columbus and their primary responsibilities are to:

- Interpret the rules and regulations for member schools;
- Conduct tournaments for high schools including sectionals, districts, regionals and state tournaments, and
- Serve as educators for officials, coaches, administrators and student-athletes and their parents.

As a member of the OHSAA, administrators and coaches annually affirm they will follow the OHSAA regulations that are approved by the membership. Any changes to those regulations must be approved by a majority vote of member school principals.

The OHSAA does not charge schools any membership fees or tournament entry fees. Schools are provided rulebooks, educational materials and other printed items along with catastrophe insurance coverage for all participants at a cost of approximately \$600,000 annually. Additionally, schools are reimbursed for many of their tournament expenses and have the opportunity to keep a portion of receipts from the sale of tournament tickets.

Other key programs and initiatives of the OHSAA include:

- Providing annual scholarships totaling over \$100,000 to students who excel in athletics and academics;
- Licensing, registering and training nearly 17,000 contest officials, and
- Ensuring coaches are certified to work with student-athletes through an on-going coach education program.

Ohio High School Athletic Association

Eligibility Checklist

For High School Students Enrolled and/or Participating at an OHSAA Member School (Updated 5/4/17)

Before you play, you must be eligible. Please review the following checklist with your parents. Unchecked boxes may mean you are NOT eligible. For questions, see your principal or athletic administrator.

- I am officially enrolled in an OHSAA member high school or participating in accordance with state law.
- I am enrolled in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation.
- I received passing grades in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which count toward graduation, during the immediately preceding grading period.
- I have a biological and/or adoptive parent who lives in Ohio.
- I have not changed schools without a corresponding move by my parents or legal guardian or by qualifying for one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation.
- If I have changed schools (transferred), I have followed up with my new school to ensure that all proper forms (if applicable) have been submitted to the OHSAA Office.
- I have not been enrolled in high school for more than eight semesters.
- I understand I will become ineligible once I turn 20 years old.
- I have not received an award, equipment or prize valued at greater than \$400 per item per source.
- I am competing under my true name and have provided my school with my correct home address.
- I have not competed in a **mandatory** open gym/facility, conditioning or instructional program outside the school season.
- I have not been coached or provided instruction **by a school coach** in a team sport in which I participate other than during my sport season, during an instructional period approved by the OHSAA or for no more than 10 days between June 1 and July 31.
- I am not competing on a non-school team or in non-school competition as an individual **during my school team's season** in the same sport.
- I have not been recruited for athletic purposes to attend this school.
- I am not using anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- I have had a physical examination within the past year and it is on file at my school.
- My parents and I attended a preseason meeting at my school which the OHSAA requires to be held no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. We viewed a presentation prepared by the OHSAA to review key eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles and sporting behavior.
- My school also reviewed with my parents and me its concussion management protocol, we reviewed and signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation and we reviewed a short presentation on concussions available at no cost at www.nfhslearn.com.
- *My school also reviewed with my parents and me the Sudden Cardiac Arrest video, and we reviewed and have signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet" prior to participation and we reviewed a short presentation on Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
- My parents and I have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement, and they are on file at my school.

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Date

Parent/Guardian Date

NOTE: This form has been provided as a service to the OHSAA membership for schools to utilize with student-athletes and their parents/guardians. Use of this form is at the sole discretion of each member school.

* Indicates that the OHSAA, along with the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Ohio Chapter of the American Cardiology, is in the process of developing the new requirements for coaches, parents and students regarding **Sudden Cardiac Arrest**. These new standards are mandated by law and become effective August 1, 2017. As of May 8, the videos that coaches, students and parents will view and the information sheet for students and parents were not completed. As soon as all materials are finalized and available, the OHSAA will notify the member schools and post the information on our website (www.ohsaa.org).