

**ASHTABULA AREA CITY SCHOOLS
STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK
2019-2020**



Approved by the Board of Education October 23, 2019

Ashtabula Area City Schools Mission Statement for Athletics

The Ashtabula Area City Schools support the philosophy that a quality interscholastic athletic program is vital to the positive social, physical, and educational development of students. The interscholastic athletic program enhances and supports the academic mission of the school system. We are committed to promoting the proper ideal of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play at all athletic contests. We support high standards of good citizenship and propriety, along with regard for the rights of others. Furthermore, we support diversification over specialization regarding interscholastic participation by student-athletes.

The Athletic Administration, coaches, and players will perpetually work together on a plan of continual improvement for playing excellence that will produce winning teams within the bounds of good sportsmanship.

Participation in interscholastic sports is a voluntary privilege. Such participation will always be based on healthy competition between team members for starting positions and playing time. An attitude of entitlement, on the part of any team member, has absolutely no place in any of our athletic programs.

All interscholastic sports in the Ashtabula Area City Schools are team sports. Consequently, while our various programs will continually stress individual development, it will always be within the framework and emphasis on the Team. Each time participants step into a school or onto the practice field and anytime they participate in a contest they are expected to represent themselves, family, team, school, and community in a responsible, sportsmanlike manner.

Interscholastic sports in the Ashtabula Area City Schools are meant to develop character, sportsmanship, self-confidence, teamwork, unselfishness, responsibility, leadership, competitive spirit, decision- making, and physical skills through the processes of hard work, commitment, and loyalty. Below is a brief synopsis of each of the aforementioned qualities:

- Character: strong-minded, ability to deal with adversity, disciplined, a strong work ethic; portrays moral and ethical strength
- Sportsmanship: being gracious in both victory and defeat, constantly mindful of team, school, and community representation

- Self-Confidence: the side-effect of hard work, attentiveness, and learning; competence
- Teamwork: the sense of togetherness, unity, acceptance, and trust
- Unselfishness: to give of oneself, to sacrifice in an attempt to come to the aid of others
- Responsibility: taking care of business; fulfilling one's duties and obligations while accepting the consequences of individual mistakes without blaming others; finishing what one starts
- Leadership: being self-aware and acknowledging the fact that the very nature of interscholastic competition draws attention to oneself; the ability to set a positive example for others to follow
- Competitive Spirit: relentlessness, resilience, faith, and a positive attitude; the drive to succeed
- Decision Making: thinking before acting; weighing the consequences of actions before taking action; the awareness of right and wrong
- Physical Skills: strength, power, agility, coordination, balance, speed, and endurance

PRE-SEASON PARENT / ATHLETE MEETINGS

All coaches will conduct pre-season parent / athlete meetings per OHSAA Guidelines. 100% attendance by parents and athletes is our goal. We keep records, per the OHSAA guidelines. All meetings will be held in advance of the official season starting date and prior to any team selections which may be made.

During such meetings, the following will be addressed by our coaches:

1. AACCS Student-Athletes Handbook
2. The criteria by which teams may be selected
3. The forms which must be completed in order for students to participate
4. Practice and contest schedules
5. Optional Student Insurance
6. Questions from parents

Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

Preface/Philosophy

Co-curricular activities are activities in which students appear, perform, and/or compete as representatives of Ashtabula Area City School District (hereafter "Lakeside"). Examples of these include, but are not limited to, athletics, cheerleading, drama, and student council. Activities in which students represent Lakeside as an extension of a course requirement for which students receive a

grade are governed by the Student Handbook and are not considered co-curricular activities. Examples of these include concert band, and concert choir.

Co-curricular activities provide the opportunity for all students to develop their talents to the highest level possible. Therefore, Lakeside is committed to offering a wide variety of activities. While it is difficult to measure, the educational value of co-curricular participation is extensive. Students not only develop physical, mental, and social skills, but also develop positive values and attitudes that they will take with them into their adult life.

Students participating in co-curricular activities officially represent Lakeside. Because of this, these students have privileges and bear responsibilities which are greater than those afforded to students not participating in co-curricular activities at Lakeside. This code incorporates the standards and guidelines for eligibility and participation established by both the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Ashtabula Area City School District.

The Lakeside administration reserves the right to make policies and decisions as needed to address specific issues that arise which may not be explicitly covered in this code.

Student Handbook

While involved with any co-curricular activity, a student is subject to the enforcement of the student code-of-conduct outlined in the Student Handbook.

Co-Curricular Activities

This list may not be all inclusive; other activities may fall under this code as well.

Softball	Cheerleading	Baseball	Basketball
Swimming	Soccer	Cross Country	Tennis
Track and Field	Wrestling	Volleyball	Football
Golf	Bowling		

Scope of the Code of Conduct

The provisions outlined in this policy shall be in effect twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for the duration of the season (first day of practice until the last game or awards ceremony/banquet; whichever is later) . This includes sports which commence before the beginning of the school year or extend beyond the end of the school year. For all other clubs and organizations enforcement will begin with first meeting through the end of the school year. Violations are cumulative throughout the athlete's two years of middle school (7th – 8th) participation and four years of high school (9th – 12th) participation and disciplinary actions may carry over from one season to another.

A statement signed annually by both student and parents/guardians indicating an understanding of the Code must be returned to the coach/advisor by each participant by the first day of practice or activity. These statements are to be collected by the coach or advisor\director and submitted to the building principal.

ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND

Within the Ashtabula Area City Schools, the following chain of command is in effect:

If there are any questions or concerns involving some aspect of our athletic program, the athlete should first contact the appropriate coach. If there is no resolution, he/she would then go to the head coach. If the head coach is unable to resolve the issue, it may be directed to the Athletic Director.

Eligibility Rules

1. The athletic director will verify eligibility for student athletes each grading period.
2. If a student enrolled in high school attains the age of 19 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.
3. If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.
4. In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediate preceding grading period. During the

preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one- credit courses or the equivalent which count towards graduation and must have earned a 2.0 grade point average or higher. Athletic participants who receive more than one “F” are ineligible.

5. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in 75% of those subjects in which the student received grades and must have earned a 2.0 grade point average or higher.

6. A student in grades 7-12 will be excluded from participating in interscholastic activities if he /she has less than a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale unless he/she is enrolled in an **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INTERVENTION PLAN**, has a grade point average between 1.5 and 1.99, and adheres to the Athletic Eligibility Intervention Plan Guidelines.

7. The eligibility of a student continues until the fifth school day of the next grading period. At this time, eligibility is determined by the grades earned during the preceding grading period.

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

9. Every student who tries out for a team must have passed a physical examination by a physician. Physical cards may be obtained in the school office and these cards must be completed and dated by a physician and returned to the athletic director before the opening day of the sport.

10. Athletic participants must carry either school insurance or have a waiver form signed by a parent/guardian.

11. Students must follow all rules and regulations established by OHSAA, Chagrin Valley Conference, The Lakeside Campus administrators and staff, and the Board of Education.

12. Students must demonstrate sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity as a representative of The Lakeside Campus. Co-curricular participation is a privilege, not a right.

Attendance

1. A student must be in school no later than 11:10am to practice, or compete. If a student is not well enough to attend school, he/she is not well enough to participate in any contests. Students who are not in attendance for their scheduled day may forfeit their right to participate in contests. Students who receive advanced administrative approval may not be subject to the above guidelines. (e.g., field trips, funerals, college visits).
2. If a student is truant from an assigned class period(s), he/she forfeits his/her opportunity to perform, or compete in the next scheduled contest after which the administration becomes aware of the truancy.
3. Students may not compete, perform, or practice on days of an out- of-school suspension. Students may not attend an event on the days of an out-of-school suspension. Students who have been sent to In-School Assignment will have athletic attendance decided by school administration.
4. Students are required to be in all classes the day after a contest or competition. If he/she has an unexcused absence the student will forfeit their right to participate in the next scheduled contest.
5. In the event that practices, performances, events, and games are scheduled during school vacation times, it is an expectation that each participating student will dedicate him/herself to such activities and meet his/her coach's expectations.
6. Students suspended from athletic contests are expected to remain as part of the team or group unless otherwise stated by the Principal or his/her designee. Due to the diversity of activities, it will be up to the advisor or coach to determine what level of involvement the student will have in the group and whether or not the student will be required to attend all contests and activities. Members of athletic teams may be required to attend all contests, practices, and team activities and be a non-participant during the time of their suspension. Athletes not in attendance at a contest or activity will not have the contest counted as one of the suspension contests.

7. Students displaying a pattern of habitual tardiness to a specific class will be referred to the building administration and will not be allowed to practice or compete until the situation is resolved.
8. All practices and meetings must be supervised by a coach/advisor and must conclude by 10:00 p.m., unless approval is received by the Athletic Director.
9. Student-Athletes not under the supervision of school personnel should leave the building by 3:15 p.m. Student-athletes must be supervised at all times after school dismissal.

Activity Conflicts

The following guidelines should be used to determine a student's participation when a conflict arises:

- An athletic contest has priority over any practice or rehearsal.
- When two events of equal value conflict the student and his/her coaches will work out a plan regarding practices/contests to accommodate the requirements of co- participation. As a part of said plan, the student shall declare which sport shall be primary when conflicts arise regarding actual contests. All participants in the formulation of the Co-Participation Plan will sign said plan and a copy will be sent to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Any conflicts arising from the Co-Participation Plan will be brought to the attention of the Director of Athletics who will act as a mediator.
- Academic related events (i.e. events in which a grade is determined by a student's performance) supersede all other activities
- Students are to inform coaches/advisors of conflicts as soon as they become aware. Extenuating circumstances can be brought to the attention of the Principal or his/her designee for further consideration.

SEMESTERS OF ENROLLMENT

After establishing ninth-grade eligibility, a student is permitted 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 the student participates in interscholastic athletics or not.
- Those with a disability may qualify for an exception to this regulation and should arrange a meeting with the principal or athletic administrator to review the exception.

Insurance

Annually, the Ashtabula Area City Schools offers low cost Student Insurance in case of accident or injury. Traditionally, these plans provide cash benefits to help meet the cost of medical and hospital expense. If you have other insurance, these plans will help meet the deductibles and coinsurance gaps in those plans. If you have no other insurance, these plans will provide low cost, basic coverage. Furthermore, these plans will cover your child for the entire school year and throughout the summer months – right up to the day school re-opens. Students who participate in interscholastic sports are required to have insurance coverage. Injuries occur, and it is the recommendation of the Athletic Department that all parents be advised as to the opportunity to purchase these plans.

Equipment

Students who are issued equipment/uniforms for the purpose of interscholastic participation will have that equipment recorded on a standard athletic Equipment Issue Form. Each student will sign said form at the time of equipment issue. From that moment on, responsibility for the care, safeguarding, and return of any issued equipment falls on the shoulders of the student. Should the student fail to return any issued equipment at the conclusion of participation in any sport, the student is financially responsible for the replacement of any missing equipment. Should such a situation arise, the student in question shall be reported to the Director of Athletics and will have his/her name placed on the Debt List until the situation is rectified. This Debt List will follow the student-athlete during their School Career at AACS (7TH-12TH). Students who wish to borrow equipment/uniforms for the purpose of Senior Pictures shall contact the Director of Athletics with said request. Students will be expected to once again sign an Equipment Issue Form. Students will return any issued equipment within a reasonable period of time to the Director of Athletics or face the consequences outlined above. It is preferred that students request such equipment/uniforms at least one week prior to Senior Pictures being taken.

Transportation

1. All student-athletes must travel to and from all scheduled scrimmages and contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless the parent(s) make previous written arrangements for an exceptional situation with the head coach.
2. Student-athletes must adhere to all transportation guidelines as established by the Board of Education.

3. A student-athlete who misses a scheduled bus trip to an out-of-town scrimmage or contest will not be permitted to participate in said contest unless there are extenuating circumstances.

4. Student-athletes must adhere to all behavioral expectations set forth in the Student Handbook.

5. In the event a bus is not available or the group is too small to warrant the use of a bus, consideration may be given to using private automobiles under the following stipulations:

- ***Under no circumstances will student-athletes drive.***
- A permission slip will be signed by the parent/guardian of all student-athletes who are affected.
- Driving will be limited to an instructor, coach, staff member, parent, or a representative from the Ashtabula Area City School District

Code of Conduct Infractions and Consequences

Student-Athletes:

Students are expected to follow all school rules and to display high standards of behavior, including good sportsmanship, respect for others, and use of appropriate language and dress at all times. Students must refrain from any conduct at any time that would reflect unfavorably on him/her or the school. Conduct which would reflect unfavorably on a student or on the school includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A criminal offense or violation of an ordinance having a statutory counterpart.
2. Possession, use, sale, transfer, distribution or purchase of any controlled substance/intoxicant or drug paraphernalia, illegal drugs, mood altering substances, anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing substances or prescribed medications used in a manner other than that for which it was prescribed.
3. Possession, use, sale, transfer, distribution or purchase of any alcohol. (Note: many non-alcoholic beers do contain alcohol)

4. Discrimination, harassment, violence, aggression or threatening behavior toward others.
5. Purchase, use or possession of tobacco or nicotine products in any form, including e-cigarettes and vaping devices.
6. Hosting, sponsoring, or organizing a party/gathering at which alcohol or drugs are being used, consumed or offered.
7. Representation of themselves or others, inappropriately or unlawfully on the internet. This would include blog sites, on-line profiles, instant messaging, etc.
8. Vandalism

Any situation or problem that may arise that is not specifically covered above may be reviewed by the Lakeside administration for possible action. Coaches/advisors may adopt appropriate rules and disciplinary action for violations of team/activity rules. However, these rules must not be in conflict with the Athletic Code of Conduct and must be approved by the building administration.

Disciplinary Procedures

1. The Athletic Director (for athletics) or Lakeside Administrator (for activities) will meet with the student to determine the validity of an alleged infraction.
2. The student and parent/guardian will be informed of the nature of the accusation, decision, and consequence.
3. The Athletic Director (for athletics) or Lakeside Administrator (for activities) will contact the parent when a suspension is imposed for a violation of the code of conduct.

Consequences for Violation to the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

Failure to abide by established rules shall result in withdrawal of the privilege to participate. For any violation, the following guidelines are established setting forth the minimum penalty that shall be imposed. The District expressly reserves the right to impose a penalty it deems appropriate for each individual situation and case. In addition, the policies and provisions of the Ashtabula Area City Schools Student Handbook shall apply in addition to code penalties. A participant suspended or expelled from school shall be banned from participation in co- curricular activities during that period of time. However, if the suspension is a shorter period of time than

the co-curricular code dictates, the code penalty shall prevail. ***A student must be academically eligible to participate before he/she may start serving a code violation.***

Penalties for Violation of Athletic Code of Conduct

First Offense

Suspension from participation in **25% of contests** scheduled.

(A) If a student is in violation of rule number 2, the student will be dismissed from the team(s) for one full year from the date of infraction. The student must complete a professional drug assessment at his/her expense from a district approved agency. Written documentation from the assessing agency/individual must be received by the school upon the student's return or further suspension will be assigned (for failure to comply with the code of conduct) until the terms of the assessment are met. Both the student and the parent/guardian must agree to fulfill all of the conditions stipulated in the assessment.

(B) If a student is in violation of rules number 3 or 5 listed above, prior to any future participation, the student must complete a professional behavioral or substance abuse assessment at his/her expense from a district approved agency. If the assessment cannot be completed during the time of the suspension the assessment appointment must be made, and its cost assumed, by a parent/guardian during suspension. Written documentation from the assessing agency/individual must be received by the school upon the student's return or further suspension will be assigned (for failure to comply with the code of conduct) until the terms of the assessment are met. Both the student and the parent/guardian must agree to fulfill all of the conditions stipulated in the assessment. Failure to fulfill all of the conditions of the assessment within the specified time frame may result in removal for the remainder of the activity.

Second Offense

Suspension from participation in **50% of contests** scheduled.

(A) If a student is in violation of rule number 2 the student will Forfeit remaining eligibility to participate in all Lakeside Athletics for the rest of the student's school career.

(B) If a student is in violation of rules number 2 or 5 listed above, prior to any future participation, the student must complete a professional behavioral or substance abuse assessment at his/her expense from a district approved agency. If the assessment cannot be completed during the time of the suspension the assessment appointment must be made, and its cost assumed, by a parent/guardian during suspension. Written documentation from the assessing agency/individual must be received by the school upon the student's return or further suspension will be assigned (for failure to comply with the code of conduct) until the terms of the assessment are met. Both the student and the parent/guardian must agree to fulfill all of the conditions stipulated in the assessment. Failure to fulfill **all** of the conditions of the assessment within the specified time frame may result in removal for the remainder of the activity.

Third Offense

Suspension from participation for **up to All Athletic Activities for one (1) calendar year.**

(A) If a student is in violation of rules number 3 or 5 listed above, prior to any future participation, the student must complete a professional behavioral or substance abuse assessment at his/her expense from a district approved agency. If the assessment cannot be completed during the time of the suspension the assessment appointment must be made, and its cost assumed, by a parent/guardian during suspension. Written documentation from the assessing agency/individual must be received by the school upon the student's return or further suspension will be assigned (for failure to comply with the code of conduct) until the terms of the assessment are met. Both the student and the parent/guardian must agree to fulfill all of the conditions stipulated in the assessment. Failure to fulfill **all** of the conditions of the assessment within the specified time frame may result in removal for the remainder of the activity.

Subsequent Offenses

Fourth and subsequent offenses will result in denial of athletic participation for the duration of the student's school career, effective with the date of the offense or the date of awareness of the offense by school officials.

OTHER RELEVANT REGULATIONS/CONSEQUENCES FOR ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Special Awards Restriction

Students who violate the Athletic Code of Conduct shall be ineligible for any special awards during the season of participation or any season in which the suspension is served. Consequently, any student found in violation must forfeit the right to any position of leadership and/or any special end of season award. This shall include, but is not limited to: MVP, MIP, captain, all conference, etc. Any student who quits or is removed from the team will be ineligible for any postseason awards.

Hosting A Party

Any person who has a gathering at their home/property where any substance prohibited by the Code is being used will be given a penalty at the next highest level above the level they would normally be suspended. Example: If a student hosts a party and it is their first violation, since the party was at their home/property they would be given a violation as their second offense. NOTE: A student who hosts a party may not use the honesty penalty reduction. (See page 14)

Severity Clause

Any student who sells, transfers and/or distributes alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, and/or unlawfully possesses or uses a weapon will receive at least a one year suspension from participation in co-curricular activities.

Suspended Students

1. Penalties will carry over into a second sport season or co-curricular activity if the suspension is not completed in the original season or from one school year to the next.
2. A student with suspension penalties must begin and end their respective season in order for the suspension to be completed.

In-School Assignment

Students in Athletic activities who are sent to In-School Assignment may forfeit his/her opportunity to perform, or compete in the next scheduled contest after which the administration becomes aware of the office referral. The Lakeside administration reserves the right to make decisions as needed to address specific issues that arise.

Suspension Calculations

For athletic activities, the length of the disciplinary period shall be determined from the mathematical equivalent of one-fourth (1/4) or one-half (1/2) of the number of scheduled contests rounded to the nearest whole number. The ending date of the disciplinary period shall be the conclusion of the prescribed number of contests and/or

period of time as determined above. If the suspension is not completed when a season ends, the remainder of the suspension will be served during the next season in which the student participates.

Penalties Are Cumulative

Penalties will be cumulative over a student's school career (7th – 12th). A student may, however, be returned to a first violation status upon being free of all penalties for a period of two years. A student must have a clean record for two consecutive years before another violation is considered their first violation. For example, a student violating the code for the first time at the start of his/her freshman year would start with a clean slate at the start of his/her junior year, provided he/she has no further violations prior to his/her junior year.

Process for Determining Violation of Rules

1. Any complaint/referral concerning a violation shall be communicated to the Building Principal, Athletic Director or their designee.
2. If during the course of an investigation the school administration is made aware of additional students who may have been involved in a violation, the school administrators will take appropriate action as deemed necessary.
3. The Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Principal or Advisor, shall investigate the referral and give the student involved an opportunity to present a response.
4. Where after an investigation by the appropriate administrator and/or advisor it is determined that a student in question did commit a violation, the student will be orally notified of the determination and penalty.
5. An attempt will be made by school administration to inform the parents after a decision has been made and the student has been informed of a code violation.
6. Violations of the co-curricular code that are brought to the attention of the school administration after 45 days may be acted upon at the discretion of the school administration.

Additional Penalty Information

The penalties listed are the minimum penalties that will be enforced. The District expressly reserves the right to impose a penalty it deems appropriate for each individual situation and case. Additionally, during a period of suspension, the student may be required to attend all practices and team functions to maintain his/her status as a team member, as determined by the Code of Conduct. A violation for activities with a limited schedule of events could result in exclusion from that activity.

INELIGIBLE STUDENT-ATHLETES

A student who is declared academically ineligible may participate in in-season practices, off-season conditioning, and pre-season conditioning.

SELECTING THE TEAM

While our ultimate goal is to promote the greatest athletic participation possible at all levels of Ashtabula Area City Schools' athletics, it may be necessary in some sports to "cut" a participant from a squad. This may occur due to any number of reasons, but usually the nature and limitations specific to some sports. Every coach has the ultimate responsibility and authority for selecting his/her team. The criteria for selecting the team are developed by the coach. A copy of the written criteria will be distributed to our athletes prior to the tryouts and to our parents at the pre-season meeting.

EXPRESSING PARENTAL CONCERNS

When expressing a concern to a coach, parents are asked to refer to and use the following guidelines:

1. Always follow the proper athletic chain of command.
2. Never approach a coach at practice nor before or immediately after a contest. Neither is the proper time nor place for a discussion concerning your child or the team.
3. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches include the treatment of your child mentally and physically, ways to help your child improve, and concerns about your child's behavior.
4. Inappropriate concerns to discuss with coaches include playing time, team strategy, play calling, and other student-athletes.
5. Call the school the following day and make an appointment which is convenient for both you and the coach to meet.
6. Raise your concerns in a calm and civil manner. Yelling, being rude or using foul language is totally unacceptable and will bring an immediate end to the meeting.
7. Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Often a parent may be blinded by emotion and this overrides logic and reason. Listening receptively may really help you to understand any explanation which is given.

STUDENT-ATHLETES INVOLVED IN UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR WITH FANS

Given the recent incidents of irresponsible fan and player behavior in professional, collegiate and high school contests that have drawn national headlines, the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Control adopted the following policies:

No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the playing area in which a contest is being conducted and enter the spectator area of the

facility to engage in any type of conflict – verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the playing area and enters the spectator area of a facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

1. The student-athlete’s privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year.
2. The school shall be immediately placed on probation pending an investigation (and report) into what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what “safeguards” have been implemented by the school to prevent future happenings.

ASHTABULA AREA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

The Board of Education welcomes the attendance of members of the community at athletic and other public events held by the schools in the District, but the Board also acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve the facilities of the District during the conduct of such events.

The Board holds the legal authority to bar the attendance of or remove any person whose conduct may constitute a disruption at a school event. School administrators have the authority to call law enforcement officials if a person violates posted regulations or does not leave school property when requested. They are also authorized to use security devices to better ensure the safety and well-being of participants and visitors.

OFF / PRE SEASON PROGRAMS (open gym, strength and conditioning)

1. Participants must have a physical on file as well as a completed Student-Athlete Handbook Sign-off Form, Waiver Form / Insurance, HIPPA Form, and two Emergency Medical Authorization Forms on file.
2. Participants must adhere to all established OHSAA policies.
3. Participants must adhere to all guidelines established by sponsoring coach(es) with regards to behavior, dress, care of facilities, and equipment.

4. Participants must adhere to adopted school policies with regards to school attendance and eligibility.
5. While quitting is an unacceptable habit, it is a common occurrence. Those student athletes who quit an in-season sport and wish to participate in a pre-season activity of an upcoming sport, must adhere to the following procedures:

In-season head coach will report to the Director of Athletics who will set up a meeting between the student-athlete and the coaches involved.

- Return all equipment to in-season coach
- Complete all necessary paperwork regarding pre-season activity.
- Student-athletes who wish to participate in a pre-season activity of an upcoming sport (open gym, strength and conditioning) while currently a participant of an in-season sport, should communicate with his/her in-season coach to established guidelines for that participation.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

Practice sessions are normally closed to spectators and there is a very sound reason for this. These sessions are the equivalent of a teacher's classroom and there is real, quality instruction taking place. Interruptions and interference to an athlete's concentration and focus in practice cannot be allowed any more than a disruption would be tolerated in an academic setting. Education in any setting cannot be compromised.

It is the coach and Athletic Director/Faculty Manager who are responsible for scheduling practice time. Between the two, every effort will be made to ensure that student-athletes are provided ample opportunities to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful within the framework of common sense.