

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Competitive sports are an inherent part of the total education program for students in secondary schools. When properly organized and conducted, inter-school athletics provide numerous opportunities for students to participate in activities which promote growth and development, teach social and recreational skills and develop leadership qualities. These values are more really attained when the program is based upon accepted standards and practices developed by professional leaders in education and when association. These regulations for High School Interscholastic Athletics of the Ohio High School Athletic Association are based upon the following principles and policies.

1. The major emphasis on interscholastic athletics should be upon skilled play and good sportsmanship. Competition should be equitable in order that full learning and enjoyment may be realized from game participation.
2. Every attempt should be made to provide favorable playing conditions in order that the competitive experiences of the students may be wholesome and result in the attainment of desirable conduct.
3. The interscholastic program should be offered in conjunction with a comprehensive instructional physical education and intramural program. It should encompass a variety of activities.
4. The program should be financed by budgeted organizational and school funds rather solely by admission charges.
5. The contest rules, regulations and supervision of the program should insure the maximum protection of the health and safety of the players.
6. Limitations should be placed upon the length of the sport season, the number of practice periods and the number of interscholastic contest played.
7. It is recommended that a student be a member of no more than one interscholastic team at any one time.
8. Athletic events shall be played according to the contest rules and regulations approved and adopted by the Board of Control.

PHILOSOPHY AND CODE OF ETHICS

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that the basic purpose of interscholastic athletics at Riverside Junior and Senior High School is to provide rich and meaningful experiences in athletics

Our athletic program should develop proper attitudes, instill an appreciation of values, build character, promote cooperation and team work, aid in the acquisition of skills, develop good habits, and increase the understanding and appreciation of sports of each of the participants.

CODE OF ETHICS

It is the duty of all concerned with the athletic program at Riverside Junior and Senior High School to:

1. Emphasize the proper ideals of ethical conduct, fair play, sportsmanship, and cooperation.
2. Instill in each athlete the value derived from playing the game fairly.
3. Eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
4. Show proper courtesy to visiting teams, spectators, officials, and coaches.
5. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote proper attitudes, the appreciation of moral and social values, the building of character, the physical well-being, and understanding and appreciation of sports of each individual participant.
6. Encourage leadership, good judgment, and the use of initiative by the player on the team.
7. Understand and emphasize to the participants the standards of eligibility.
8. Remember that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life or death.

DEFINITION OF AN ATHLETE

A student is considered to be an athlete from the first day he/she starts practice with any interscholastic team in school until he/she completes the season as defined by the OHSSA state tournament for that sport or resigns his/her position from that team through a written letter to the coach and/or Athletic Director. That student must meet all Riverside Athletic Code of Conduct standards in season.

EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES

Athletes representing Riverside Schools must realize their conduct reflects on themselves, their school and their community. Therefore, all Riverside School Athletes shall:

- *Have high standards of social behavior.
- *Display proper sportsmanship in defeat, as well as in victory.
- *Respect authority, parents, officials, teachers, coaches, and others.
- *Have a proper spirit of cooperation.
- *Be dedicated to hard work and training.
- *Display proper behavior in school.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

The board of education believes that interscholastic sports are an integral part of the school program.

The board will recognize the exceptional athletic performance of all eligible students who are members of a championship team or group in interscholastic competition. Individual awards may include: certificate of participation, class numbers, varsity letter, emblem, bars, and plaques.

Upon the recommendation by the Head Coach and approval of the Athletic Director, a student who has fulfilled the requirements and having finished the season in good standing, shall be awarded a letter in each sport in which he/she has participated.

Seniors may be awarded a letter for constant attendance at practice even though they fail to play the required time or score in meets.

Injured players, by recommendation of the Coach and or the Athletic Director, may also receive awards.

AWARDS

***All High School athletes will receive one set of Numerals**

Varsity Awards

- 1st Award: 8 inch "R" with a gold emblem signifying the sport and a Pirate Certificate
- 2nd Award: Gold emblem and a Pirate Certificate
- 3rd Award: Gold emblem and a Pirate Certificate
- 4th Award Gold emblem and a Pirate Certificate

4-Year Varsity Letter

Any senior who has lettered in a sport for four (4) consecutive years will receive a plaque that recognizes the sport they were participating. A cheerleader must be in the same season (either basketball or football) all four (4) years to receive the award.

Senior Awards

Any senior who completes the season will automatically receive a Varsity award.

Reserve Awards

- 1st Award: 6 inch "R" and Reserve Certificate
- 2nd Award: Gold Bar and Reserve Certificate
- 3rd Award: Gold Bar and Reserve Certificate

Jr. High Awards

- 1st Award: 4 inch "R" and JH Certificate
- 2nd Award: Gold bar and JH Certificate

Varsity Letter Requirements

| <u>SPORT</u> | <u>BOYS</u> | <u>GIRLS</u> |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Football | ½ Total Quarters | n/a |
| Golf | ½ Total Matches | ½ Total Matches |
| Volleyball | n/a | ½ Total Matches |
| Cross Country | ½ Total Meets | ½ Total Meets |
| Basketball | ½ Total Quarters | ½ Total Quarters |
| Baseball | ½ Total Games | n/a |
| Softball | n/a | ½ Total Games |
| Track | 15 Total Points | 15 Total Points |

*These requirements may be waived if any athletic violation takes place during the season, or before the athletic banquet.

*If one does not letter on a varsity squad, the athlete will receive a Junior Varsity Award.

SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR EACH SPORT

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <u>FOOTBALL</u> *Most Valuable Player *Most Improved Player *Best Offensive Player *Best Lineman | <u>VOLLEYBALL</u> *Most Valuable Player *Most Improved Player **Best Offensive Player **Best Defensive Player | <u>GOLF</u> *Most Improved Player **Lowest Average |
| <u>CROSS COUNTRY</u> | <u>BASKETBALL</u> *Most Valuable Player *Most Improved Player *Hustle Award **Most Rebounds **Best Free Throw % | <u>CHEERLEADING</u> *Most Spirited *Most Improved |
| <u>BASEBALL/SOFTBALL</u> *Most Valuable Player *Most Improved Player **Highest Batting Average **Highest Fielding % | <u>TRACK</u> **MVP Running Events: 1 Boy & 1 Girl (Points) **MVP Field Events: 1 Boy & 1 Girl (Points) | |

*TEAM VOTE

**AWARD BASED ON STATS

RULES FOR COACHES

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS CLUB

The Athletic Boosters is an independent group with sole purpose of promoting interest in giving financial aid to all sports. They sponsor many worthwhile events that benefit our school.

All sports are expected to have a representative of their coaching staff attend all Booster meetings. The Boosters meet the second Wednesday of every month except July.

Only the Athletic Director shall ask for funds from the organization. Individual coaches shall consult with Athletic Director concerning requests for their program.

BANQUETS

There shall be an Awards Banquet following the conclusion of each sport for the presentation of awards.

BUDGETS

Budgets for each sport will be prepared by the Athletic Director with input from the head coach. Items needed by the head coach shall be listed in order priority.

CANCELLATION OF AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Superintendent has the final authority to cancel school and athletic activities. The Superintendent also has the authority to allow practices to be held or games to be played when school has been cancelled if conditions improve.

CERTIFICATION OF COACHES

All coaches will be required to have a current Pupil Activity Supervisor Permit, issued by the State of Ohio Department of Education, on file with the Athletic Director. The coach will be responsible for all fees incurred in securing this permit.

All coaches will be required to have a current CPR card on file with Athletic Director. Coaches will also be required to complete the OHSAA online course "Fundamentals of Coaching."

COACHES CLINICS

The Athletic Director and the building Principal must approve all coaching clinics. No coach will receive reimbursement for a clinic without prior approval from the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

EJECTION FOR UNSPORTING CONDUCT OR FLAGRANT VIOLATION

Any coach ejected or disqualified from an interscholastic contest for unsporting conduct shall be suspended from coaching in all contests for the remainder of the day. In addition, the coach shall be suspended from coaching for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification. (Ref: OHSAA general Sports Regulations 10.2)

Any coach ejected or disqualified from an interscholastic contest for unsporting conduct shall also be required to adhere to any sanctions ordered by the OHSAA including: attending coaching clinics, participation in additional coaches training classes, and/or paying any fines. All fees for required clinics and/or classes will be the responsibility of the coach.

FINANCES

The athletic fund is maintained and accounted for by the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director makes all requisitions and under no circumstances shall a coach purchase any equipment without the authorization of the Athletic Director. Request will be directed to the central office for approval.

MANDATORY COACHES MEETING

Mandatory meetings will be held for Coaches, Parents, and Student-athletes at the beginning of each season. **The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with coaches, parents, and students the Athletic Code of Conduct, OHSAA/Riverside eligibility rules, collect fees, sign all required documents, and meet with the coaches. Parents and students will only be required to attend one OHSAA/Riverside eligibility rules meeting per year. Parents and students will be required to attend ALL Coaches meeting.**

NEWS MEDIA

It is policy of the Athletic Department of the Riverside Schools to maintain good working relationship with press. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director to issue schedules, coaching changes, and all new pertinent information to the press. Head coaches and junior high coaches are required to report all events to our local media. The Athletic Director will issue a list of news media to be contacted by both middle school coaches and the head coach of each high school sport.

PRACTICE TIMES

1. There shall be no practices of any type on Sunday or Wednesday evenings after 6:30 p.m. without the approval of the Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Superintendent.
2. Recommend that all athletes be given a minimum of three days to try out for a sport. However the head coach has the final say in who makes the team.
3. There shall be supervision at all times when the students are in locker rooms, showers, weight room, on the field, or on the court.
4. Practice sessions starting and ending times are authorized by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
5. It is recommended that all coaches concentrate practice time to 1 ½ to 2 hours.
6. No practice will be allowed on the following holidays: Labor Day (voluntary), Thanksgivings, Christmas, New Years Day, Good Friday (voluntary) and Easter.
7. On calamity days practices will only be allowed on a volunteer basis and must be approved by the A.D and Superintendent.
8. The coach is responsible for supervision of all athletes until they leave school grounds.
9. The coach is responsible for building security before leaving school grounds.

SCHEDULING

The Athletic Director will confer with head coaches and the Principal in determining the schedules in all sports. The master schedule for high school and junior high school will be developed and distributed by the Athletic Director.

SCRIMMAGES

Scrimmages will be under the rules of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. All scrimmages must be approved by the Athletic Director with input from the head coaches. Regulations on scrimmages are set by the OHSAA.

SCOUTING

The head coach is responsible for all scouting of opposing teams.

STAFF MEETINGS

Coaches are part of the building staff and are required to attend all scheduled staff meetings. During their season, if it is completely impossible to attend a meeting, coaches must make arrangements with the Principal.

STATS/RATING OF OFFICIALS

Coaches are expected to report game stats and rate officials within 24 hours of each contest to the approved website. The AD is responsible for assigning logins and passwords.

1. Stats should be reported to maxpreps.com and MyOHSAA.
2. Officials should be rated on MyOHSAA.

TRAINING RULES

Each coach will set their training rules for sport season. A copy of these will be given to each athlete and the Athletic Director. A copy signed by the parent and athlete is to be kept on file by the AD.

TRANSPORTATION OF TEAMS

1. The transportation of all athletic teams will be the responsibility of the Athletic Director working with the Transportation Director.
2. All travel by athletic teams will be approved by the Athletic Director.
3. Private vehicles shall not be used for any scholastic sports unless approved by the Athletic Director and/or Principal.
4. The head coach assumes all responsibility for conduct and discipline on all trips.
5. Dress must be suitable and appropriate. If athletes misbehave on athletic trips, appropriate measures will be taken in accordance with Athletic Code of Conduct.

UNIFORM CARE

Team uniforms and accessories should only be worn by team members during their assigned contests. Uniforms or parts thereof should not be worn by friends or family or by the athlete except in an assigned contest. Athletes are expected to properly maintain their assigned uniforms. Uniforms should always be washed in cold water without fabric softener. If put in dryer, use low or no heat.

Coaches at the high school level: It is highly recommend that you collect uniforms after each contest and wash and dry them yourselves; especially football, volleyball, girls' basketball and boys' basketball. This will save a lot of wear and tear of uniforms and assure all uniforms are being cleaned in the same manner.

All coaches should collect all uniforms after the last contest it is to be worn. The Athletic Director will not collect your inventory.

All uniforms and equipment will be collected and inventoried by the coach before your check will be issued. Head coaches must have evaluations of their staff done also before the check will be issued.

VACANCIES and SELECTIONS OF COACHES

Coaches are hired upon the recommendation of the Superintendent by the Board of Education. The person hired should have the endorsement of the Athletic Director and Principal.

All vacancies and new positions shall be posted for three (3) working days in house following the opening. After the three (3) days, if there is no one in house who has applied, the position will then be posted to the public.

VISITING TEAMS

Visiting teams will be treated with courtesy. The Athletic Director will assume all responsibility for all needs of the visiting teams. Medical assistance will be provided when possible and an ambulance will be at all home football games.

WEIGHT ROOM

The weight room will be under the control of the Weight Room Coordinator. His/Her responsibility will consist of coordinating workouts for the various athletes. He/she will maintain equipment and keep the weight room neat and clean. He/she will also inventory the weight room. Athletes in the weight room shall be under the Weight Room Coordinator or coach's supervision at all times.

RIVERSIDE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC
CODE OF CONDUCT

All athletes should conduct themselves with pride and decorum at all times so as not to reflect discredit upon themselves, their coaches, or the school they represent. They should strive to live within the guidelines of the regulations of each sport and those of the school.

PARTICIPATION RULES

- A. An athlete may not possess, or use any alcoholic beverage or illegal drug, or be involved in stealing or vandalism in or out of school. A violation of these rules will result in the suspension from that athletic sporting season and forfeiture of all awards. A second violation of these rules during the same school year will result in a suspension from all athletic teams until the beginning of the sporting season the following year in which the athlete received the suspension.

NOTE: A violation of this rule will consist of guilt by admission, or observed by the following: any coach, administration, faculty, staff, law enforcement office, and/or athlete's parent.

- B. An athlete may not possess or use tobacco products. Any violation of this rule will result in the suspension for that athletic sporting season and forfeiture of all awards.

NOTE: A violation of this rule will consist of guilt by admission, or observed by the following: any coach, administration, faculty, staff, law enforcement office, and/or athlete's parent.

- C. Athletes are expected to participate in all athletic events, including banquets. An unexcused absence from events could result in loss of athletic awards. Upon recommendation of the head coach and the approval of the athletic director, a student has fulfilled the requirements and having FINISHED THE SEASON IN GOOD STANDING, shall receive his/her athletic awards. All uniforms and school issued equipment must be returned to receive athletic awards. (The athletic department reserves the right to deny awards to athletes.)
- D. Any athletic dismissed from or who quits a team after the first scheduled contest may not participate in any other extra curricular sport during that season. (Intramural, weight training, open gym, etc.)
- E. Any other negative school conduct may result in athletic suspension.
- F. Additional participation rules by each individual coach will be on file in the athletic director's office. Violation of these rules could lead to suspension by the coach.
- G. All athletes must ride to and from athletic contest in the vehicle(s) provided by the school. At the conclusion of the contest there will be a sign-out sheet with each players name on it. A parent or guardian will sign the student-athlete at that time.

H. An athlete must be in attendance at school for at least 3 1/2 hours to be eligible for practices and games. For unusual circumstances, when the 3 1/2 hours can not be met, the athlete must receive special permission to participate from athletic director or in the absence of the athletic director, the principal. Official attendance will be determined by use of the attendance bulletin, sign in and sign out sheets located in the main office. Athletes attendance will be checked at the end of the day for participation.

I. Two Sports: Participation in two sports during the same sports season:

TWO SPORT PARTICIPATION:

Participation in two sports during the same sports season:

To participate on two (2) athletic teams during the same sports season, the following guidelines shall be followed:

Athletes must declare a (1) sport, as their major:

- Both coaches of the sports to be participated in shall give their approval.
- The Athletic Director shall approve the participation.
- The participant shall attend practices of both teams on regular basics on a plan approved by the Athletic Director and coaches involved.
- The athlete shall participate (or be available to participate) in 50% of the regular season games, meets matches, etc., to be eligible in state tournament play..
- The athlete will be required to pay participation and transportation fees for both sports.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility will be based on the following:

All athletes must meet the standards set by the OHSAA. They must also have a 1.5 GPA and no more than 1 F for the nine weeks prior to the participation in the athletic season. Coaches may require study tables at mid-terms if athlete's grades are not meeting established requirement. If the athletes grades do not meet the established requirement by the end of the grading period they will be removed from the team.

PARTICIPATION FEES

1. High School Fees Grades 9-12 will be **\$95.00** (\$65.00 participation/\$30.00 transportation) per sport.
2. Junior High Fees will be **\$65.00** (\$35.00 participation/\$30.00 transportation) per sport.
3. No Family limit.
4. All fees must be paid or payment plan established no later than one week from the start date of mandatory practice. Failure to pay the fees may result in denial of participation and or transporting to athletic events
5. An athlete may have their participation fee reimbursed provided said athlete provides a physician's written declaration that the athlete is unable to perform for the remainder of the season and that the physician declaration is provided within seven (7) days of that sport's official start date as set by the OHSAA.

DUE PROCESS

Coaches are responsible for student behavior and handling discipline problems that occur with their range responsibility. Athletes may be referred to the Athletic Discipline Committee (ADC) for further disciplinary action.

- A. The committee will consist of the Athletic Director, and two (2) head coaches, not directly involved in the referral.
- B. The Athletic Discipline committee will hold an informal hearing with the student to discuss his/her alleged violation of a rule and to permit the student to explain his/her action.
- C. The parents and student will be notified in writing the decision of the ADC.
- D. The parent and student have a right to request an appeal hearing with Principal to discuss the action taken by the ADC.

MANDATORY PRE-SEASON MEETING

Mandatory meetings will be held for Coaches, Parents, and Student-athletes at the beginning of each season. **The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with coaches, parents, and students the Athletic Code of Conduct, OHSAA/Riverside eligibility rules, collect fees, sign all required documents, and meet with the coaches. Parents and students will only be required to attend one OHSAA/Riverside eligibility rules meeting per year. Parents and students will be required to attend ALL Coaches meeting.**